

Winter Wonderland
SATURDAY, DEC. 5
5-8PM
Downtown Franklin See Pg.4



The Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment led off the Franklin Christmas Celebration 2020 Sunday afternoon donning masks and “ugly” Christmas sweaters for one of their first public performances for this school year. An assortment of floats, classic vehicles, horses and more followed the band, finishing up with old saint Nick at the rear. For more, see page 12. Photo by Ellen Randall

Court reverses block of voter ID law in N.C.

The North Carolina U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit unanimously reversed a lower-court decision to enjoin North Carolina’s voter ID law and a constitutional amendment on Wednesday. The three-judge panel of the court rules that “the district court’s opinion devotes little analysis” to its ruling, the federal appeals court said that “we reverse because of the fundamental legal errors that permeate the opinion.”

The implementation of Voter ID was blocked by U.S. District Court Judge Loretta Biggs a year ago, pointing in part to past evidence of racial discrimination in North Carolina and a previous federal court decision to block a 2013 voter ID law as discriminatory. In the ruling on Wednesday, the 4th Circuit judges acknowledged that while there is “a long and shameful history of race-based voter suppression in North Carolina,” they said courts must presume legislatures act in good faith when laws are passed.

This federal case was argued before the 4th Circuit in September before three judges: Pamela Harris, Julius Richardson, and Marvin Quattlebaum. Richardson wrote Wednesday’s opinion, and the other two judges signed on. Quattlebaum and Richardson were appointed to the court by President Donald Trump and Harris by President Barack

See VOTER ID page 5

Carol Arnold to fill seat of departing Fred Goldsmith

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

When Fred Goldsmith announced his resignation from the Macon County Board of Education, Macon County School District asked those interested in the vacant seat to contact the board to let them know of their interest in filling the seat. The board scheduled a meeting on Nov. 30 to fill the seat and asked that anyone interested notify the board before the meeting.

The Macon County School System received four letters of interest for the seat and on Monday morning, the board voted to appoint Carol Arnold to serve the remainder two years of Goldsmith’s term.

“I have worked with Carol and honestly she probably deserves a seat on the board for her knowledge more than I do,” said Board member Melissa Evans. “I think all of those who showed interest in the open seat are great people and I think Carol will do a good job.”

Arnold has 38 years of experience in education, including serving as a member of the Macon County Board of Education from 1998-2002. Arnold came off of the board in 2002 due to her mother’s terminal illness.

Arnold has built a career in education, working as a teacher in Swain County as well as at Macon Middle School. She has served as the Exceptional Children’s Director for Macon County Schools as well as the Assistant Superintendent of Clay County Schools. Since retiring, she has worked as a con-

tract consultant for Macon County Schools Federal Programs. She resigned from her position in order to serve on the Board of Education.

Board member Tommy Cabe nominated Arnold out of the four individuals who submitted their request. Both Board member Melissa Evans and Jim Breedlove voted to accept Cabe’s nomination.

Board member Stephanie McCall, whose last meeting on the board was the special called meeting on Monday, voted against Arnold’s nomination. According to McCall, it wasn’t a question of Arnold’s qualification, but McCall noted that people on social media had asked that Matt Mason be appointed to the open seat.

Mason ran for the Macon County Board of Education during the November General Election, but he lost to incumbent Jim Breedlove. McCall said that she knows Mason was not one of the four people who submitted a letter of interest and she did not know why he didn’t, but believed he should be appointed nonetheless.

The last time a board member was replaced due to a resignation was when McCall was selected to serve on the board to represent Highlands in 2009. McCall was selected out of a pool of seven candidates submitted for consideration.

Although McCall voted against Arnold being appointed, the vote passed 3-1, with Arnold being appointed to fill Goldsmith’s seat. Arnold will serve the remaining term and will be able to seek election for the position in two years.

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Adopt-an-Animal at Grandfather Mountain

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Deadline approaching for families to apply for \$335 extra credit grant

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

On Sept. 4, Governor Roy Cooper signed into law the Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0, which was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. The law includes the Extra Credit Grant program to be administered by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

According to the law, the purpose of the program is to “use funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to help families with qualifying children in North Carolina by providing economic support to assist with virtual schooling and child-care costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The grant amount is \$335 total for each eligible individual, even if the individual has two or more qualifying children.

NCDOR will award a grant to eligible individuals who report at least one qualifying child (age 16 or younger) on their 2019 state individual income tax return; spouses who file a joint state return count as one individual.

Eligible individuals who have filed their state return and reported at least one qualifying child do not need to take any action to receive the grant.

An individual who did not file a 2019 state tax return solely because the individual’s gross income for the 2019 taxable year did not exceed the state filing requirements for the individual’s filing status (generally \$10,000 per year if single and \$20,000 per year if married) could apply for the grant

through Oct. 15, 2020, under the legislation. Under a Nov. 6, 2020, court order, the deadline to apply was extended to Dec. 7, 2020.

An applicant must have met all requirements referenced in the law, including having at least one qualifying child age 16 or younger for the 2019 calendar year, to apply for the grant.

The NCDOR will send grants as soon as possible, but no later than Dec. 30, 2020.

Thanks to the effective advocacy of the nonprofit Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, many low-income families in North Carolina will get a second chance to apply for the Extra Credit Grant Program. In September, the NC General Assembly approved the Extra Credit Grant Program, which provides \$335 payments to help taxpaying families with children pay for virtual schooling and child-care costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While most taxpayers received these payments automatically, low-income families that did not file a 2019 state tax return had to apply to the NC Department of Revenue (DOR) to receive their \$335 payments. The original deadline for applications was Oct. 15, but low-income families now have a second chance to apply through Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Families can check their eligibility and apply for grants at www.335fornc.com. Applications are relatively simple, only requiring taxpayers to list their names, SSNs, contact information, and their children’s names, ages, and SSNs.

Vaccine on the horizon for N.C.

Laura Lee – Carolina Public Press

With hospitalizations hitting record levels and the coronavirus pandemic dragging into its ninth month, the prospect of a vaccine on the horizon gives many North Carolinians hope.

Gov. Roy Cooper told Tar Heels to cling to that hope as the state expects a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk health care workers as early as mid-December.

The initial doses of the vaccine will come from Pfizer, Cooper said, and are required to be stored at temperatures of minus 70 degrees or lower. The ultralow temperature requirements mean only a few facilities have the necessary equipment to store the vaccine.

Doses of the vaccine will be administered only upon U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. The FDA committee that will consider Pfizer’s request meets Dec. 10.

The state’s first round of vaccines will be administered by hospitals to health care staff and custodial employees who work with and around COVID-19-positive patients. Hospitals will have discretion about whom they deem high risk, N.C. Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy Cohen said.

Long-term care facility patients and staff will also be among the first in the state to receive the immunization.

“Vaccinations at our nursing homes, adult care homes and other long-term care settings are being managed by the federal government,” Cohen said.

“However, the vaccines used in those long-term care settings will come from our state’s vaccine allotment.”

Cohen expects the first shipment of the long-awaited drugs to include about 85,000 doses. Individuals who receive the first dose must receive a second shot 21 days later.

The vaccine will be free for all North Carolinians, regardless of health insurance status, Cooper said. He encouraged residents to

have faith in the scientific and regulatory process.

“I have some concerns about people not wanting to be vaccinated, and if it is authorized by this independent advisory board and approved by the FDA, I have confidence in it,” he said. “I think most of our health care and health experts will have confidence in it. We want people to have confidence in it because in order for this to work, we need to get as many people vaccinated as possible.”

After the initial distribution, the state expects to receive additional batches to be distributed to individuals who are over age 65 with two or more self-reported co-morbidities.

The state will receive weekly allocations from the federal government, Cohen said, with additional vaccines from Moderna and other pharmaceutical companies expected in early 2021. An FDA committee will consider Moderna’s application for Emergency Use Authorization on Dec. 17.

The NC COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee, an independent body convened by the N.C. Institute of Medicine, provided guidance to the Department of Health and Human Services on the distribution priorities.

“Our prioritization plan is based on their guidance, along with guidance from the National Academy of Medicine on equitable distribution of vaccines,” Cohen said. The department submitted its vaccine plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in October.

While the vaccine could offer a path for North Carolinians to return to their normal lives in 2021, widespread distribution is not expected in winter.

“Having a safe vaccine within reach is an extraordinary achievement, but at the same time, it is not a quick fix,” Cohen said.

“It will take several months to have enough supplies so that anyone can readily get a vaccine.”

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A nurse administers a vaccine. State officials expect doses of a coronavirus vaccine to be available to high-risk health care workers and long-term care residents and staff by the end of 2020.



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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
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	52,137
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	3,987
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
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	9,986
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	93,061
2018	Chevrolet	Impala	8,465
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	41,816
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
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	71,489
2007	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD Classic	182,851
2015	Chevrolet	Sonic	67,897
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	29,946
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	61,375
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,551
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	17,683
2018	Chevrolet	Trax	10,745
2020	Chevrolet	Trax	1,156
2018	Ford	EcoSport	5,000
2019	Ford	Edge	45,478
2018	Ford	Explorer	49,223
2020	Ford	F-150	23,354
2016	Ford	F-150	73,912
2018	Ford	F-150	27,491
2018	Ford	F-150	25,711
2016	Ford	F-250	190,904
1999	Ford	F-250	237,120
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
2016	GMC	Terrain	45,573
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2004	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	9,778
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36,506
2019	Hyundai	Tucson	36,252
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	9,020
2013	Jeep	Patriot	121,206
2017	Jeep	Renegade	48,579
2015	Jeep	Wrangler	69,479
2017	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2016	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport	55,302
2019	Mazda	CX-5	36,819
2017	Mercedes-Benz	Metris	57,091
2019	Nissan	Frontier	39,039
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	36,059
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,871
2019	Nissan	Sentra	38,658
2012	Nissan	Xterra	98,439
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2016	RAM	1500	92,193
2020	RAM	1500 Classic	18,621
2017	Subaru	Forester	44,665
2019	Toyota	Corolla	35,775
2019	Toyota	Corolla	27,529
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	35,770
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	13,859
2020	Toyota	Tacoma	26,549

¹ Available toward the purchase or lease of most 2020/2021 Blazer, Equinox, Malibu, Traverse, Trax and 2021 Trailblazer models. Excludes select base trims. Visit ChevyCyberSalesEvent.com to claim offer code. Not available with some other offers. Limit one online code per eligible vehicle transaction. Must provide code at time of purchase or lease. Take new retail delivery by 11/30/20. ² Excludes L models. Visit ChevyCyberSalesEvent.com to claim offer code. Limit one online code per eligible vehicle transaction. Must provide code at time of purchase. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 11/30/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

Winter Wonderland continues next Saturday in downtown Franklin

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Town of Franklin transformed into a scene from a movie this weekend with the Christmas Tree designed and decorated for the second year by April Chastain, owner of April Flowers as the centerpiece of it all. With COVID19 restrictions still in place, town leaders wanted to offer residents and visitors something downtown, while adhering to social distancing mandates.

Teaming up with Gwen and Matt Taylor at the Dusty Pallet, the town of Franklin designed beautiful holiday scenes around the Gazebo for picture opportunities. A Christmas tree farm complete with an antique truck, an oversized postcard from Franklin, a beautiful mountain backdrop, and even a cozy fireplace with nutcracker statues are just a few of the backdrops available for folks to stage the picture family Christmas photos.

The first look the public got at this year's completed holiday adornments was Saturday, Nov. 28, for the first night of



The Town of Franklin held its annual tree lighting ceremony last Saturday on a very well appointed town square. Folks took advantage of the many photo opportunities, visited with the strolling Santa and played in the pretend snow bubbles.



Winter Wonderland in Franklin. While the traditional crowd favorites of horse and carriage rides were not possible due to COVID19 restrictions, that didn't stop dozens of families from gathering downtown to experience the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Despite unseasonably warm temperatures, snow was falling around Outdoor 76 — which turned out to be a snow machine using bubbles — which children and adults alike enjoyed. Santa strolled around Main Street, snapping pic-

tures and Main Street merchants displayed beautiful holiday window scenes and special holiday shopping deals.

The Nativity Scene traditionally set up on the Courthouse Plaza was a little delayed this year, however Pine Grove Baptist Church arrived bright and early Monday morning to build the display which will be featured throughout the remainder of the year.

The second and final night of Winter Wonderland will be held this Saturday from 5-8 p.m. in downtown Franklin.

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Photos by Ellen Randall



VOTER ID

Continued from page 1

Obama. The ruling said the lower court made numerous errors and “abused its discretion” in blocking the state from requiring photo ID during the November elections, a requirement voters wrote into the North Carolina constitution in 2018.

North Carolina’s voter ID law applies to absentee ballots as well as in-person voting.

North Carolina House of Representative member Kevin Corbin has been a proponent of Voter ID legislation, voting to include the referendum on the ballot in 2018, and has supported its implementation.

North Carolina’s voter ID law accepts a wide range of IDs, provides for free IDs and says voters can attest that they couldn’t get a qualifying ID and still cast a ballot. The law accommodates religious objectors, provides for free government-issued IDs and accepts drivers’ licenses, passports, military and veteran IDs, student IDs, voter ID cards, as well as state and local government IDs. Drivers’ licenses from other states would even qualify in some circumstances.

Although the court’s ruling dealt with the injunction that blocked the implementation of the state’s Voter ID requirement, the possibility of a reversal remains. There is still a full trial anticipated on the constitutionality of the overall Voter ID requirement pending in Federal Court. A separate lawsuit was also filed targeting this law at the state court level, and there’s a third lawsuit targeting multiple amendments to the state constitution, including voter ID. All three cases remain active.

Seemingly addressing the pending court cases surrounding North Carolina’s Voter ID law, the 4th Circuit judges noted Wednesday that North Carolina’s voter ID law “is more protective of the right to vote than other states’ voter-ID laws that courts have approved.

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High Mountain Squares donate to Toys for Tots

Members of the High Mountain Squares presented a \$645 check to Randy Hughes Toys for Tots coordinator on Wednesday. For the past 13 years at their Toys for Tots Dance, the High Mountain Squares have collected toys to donate. This year they were unable to hold the dance so they collected money. In the past eight years Toys for Tots has helped 14,021 children to have toys to open on Christmas morning who would not otherwise have anything. Applications are still being accepted until Dec. 4. Visit smokymt.toysfortots.org to fill out an application. The need for donations of any kind is critical. Donations can be dropped off at Toys for Tots Headquarters at 2142 Georgia Rd., or designated area stores. Toys for Tots not only serves Macon County, but also Jackson, Swain, Haywood and Rabun counties. Last year alone, 2,100 toys were handed out. Toys for Tots is still in desperate need of a new building if they are to continue to help area children in the future. Hughes, who has been coordinator for the past 15 years said they are to vacate the Georgia location the day after Christmas. He said without another building to move into he will no longer be able to continue to be coordinator. For more information on how you can help, call (828)421-3631. Pictured (L-R) are Virginia Walker, Betty Fisher, Randy Hughes, June Inman, Bob Walker, Harry Wilkin, Gary Bertolin. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Seniors and disabled can get help with heating costs

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today announced it will issue an automated payment to thousands of eligible households to help with winter heating expenses via the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. The automated payment will be issued beginning Dec. 1 and is designed to help eligible seniors and people with disabilities access winter heating assistance in a safe and socially distanced manner during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible households may qualify to receive an automated payment for the 2020-2021 LIEAP season if a member of the household 1) is age 60 or older or a person with a disability receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services, 2) currently receives Food and Nutrition Services and 3) received LIEAP during the 2019-2020 season. These households will be notified of eligibility in November and do not need to apply for this benefit.

Any household with a person age 60 or older or with a disability receiving DAAS services who does not receive notice of an automated payment is encouraged to practice social distancing and submit a paper application for LIEAP assistance through U.S. Mail or fax to their local department of social services. Applications may also be dropped off at the local DSS, and applicants may contact their local DSS for information on how to obtain a paper application.

Beginning Jan. 2, 2021, all other households may apply online through the ePASS portal at epass.nc.gov or submit a paper application through mail, fax or dropping it off at their local DSS, but they do not have to go into the agency to apply. Individuals may also contact their local DSS to apply. All household applications will be accepted from Jan. 2, 2020 to March 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted.

To be eligible for the LIEAP program, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria

- Have income equal to or less than 130% of the federal poverty limit
- Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts and cash on hand, at or below \$2,250
- Be responsible for their heating cost

For more information on the program and eligibility, visit www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance.


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FHS softball player signs with LSU

Franklin High School softball standout Mckenzie Redoutey has signed with the Louisiana State University Tigers to play softball. Having been recruited by colleges since she was a young player, Redoutey's decision to play for LSU was an easy one. Redoutey is among the nation's best softball players with one firm ranking her number 10 player in the nation and the number 4 outfielder in the nation. Pictured above is Redoutey with her mother Deborah and her father Scott. On the iPad in front of Redoutey is Coach Jason Gusaeff, her first coach on the traveling team Georgia Impact Organization, who couldn't be there but wished her well. The signing was held Nov. 17 at Cat Creek Lodge with a small gathering of family and friends.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Alzheimer Association's virtual programs focus on difficult conversations

While the on-going coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic still threatens the health of millions in this country and around the world, it continues to create additional challenges for people living with Alzheimer's and all dementia, their families and caregivers, including 180,000 in North Carolina and their estimated 479,000 caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association, Western North Carolina Chapter and the Alzheimer's Association, Eastern North Carolina Chapter are continuing to offer free virtual education programs and online support groups to help all North Carolina caregivers and their families. Launched in May in response to the impact COVID-19 was having on those affected by dementia, the Alzheimer's Association now offers a number of education programs that can help those living with Alzheimer's and their families understand what to expect so they can be prepared to meet the changes ahead.

"From the health risks of COVID-19 to the social isolation caused by the pandemic, we serve a vulnerable population. We see it as our duty to ensure that all North Carolina caregivers have access to Alzheimer's Association resources," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Western North Carolina Chapter. "The COVID-19 crisis continues to alter

daily lives, but the needs of Alzheimer's caregivers persist. These online programs allow us to connect with caregivers and provide necessary information especially amid the on-going crisis."

Featured topics for December center around the difficult but important conversations that need to occur when someone starts to exhibit signs of dementia:

Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal & Financial Planning

Often, conversations with family about changing behaviors can be challenging and uncomfortable. This program provides tips for breaking the ice with your family so you can address some of the most common issues that are difficult to discuss: going to the doctor for a diagnosis or medical treatment, deciding when to stop driving, and making legal and financial plans for future care. This program will be held on Dec. 15.

Legal and Financial Issues

The diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease makes planning for the future more important than ever. Concerns about care provision and programs that can help offset costs mean that families need accurate information about legal and financial planning spe-

cific to the disease. This is an interactive program where you will have a chance to learn about important legal and financial issues to consider, how to put plans in place, and how to access legal and financial resources near you. This program will be held on Dec. 9.

Other programs in December include:

Caregiving for the Holidays

- Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Healthy Living for your Brain and Body
- Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior

Each virtual education program is approximately one hour and allows the audience to ask questions and engage with others going through the journey.

Attendees are invited to join via video/webinar or through a toll-free number. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required. For a complete list of upcoming virtual programs or to register for a class, visit alz.org/northcarolina/helping_you/virtual-offerings or call 800-272-3900. Participants will be sent conferencing details prior to the date of each virtual program.

More than 16 million family and friends,

including 479,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States. To help family caregivers navigate the current complex and quickly changing environment, the Alzheimer's Association has also offered additional guidance to families at alz.org/covid19help.

For more information, visit alz.org/northcarolina or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

Additional Facts and Figures: (<http://www.alz.org/facts/>)

- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.
- More than five million Americans are living with the disease, including 180,000 North Carolina residents — a number estimated to grow to as many as 210,000 by year 2025.
- More than 16 million family and friends, including 479,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States.
- In 2019, friends and family of those with Alzheimer's in North Carolina provided an estimated 545 million hours of unpaid care, a contribution valued at \$7.15 billion.

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DA Ashley Welch diagnosed with breast cancer

District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch has announced that she has breast cancer and is undergoing medical treatment.

"I wanted to publicly share the information to raise awareness about the importance of early detection," Welch said. "Because of the threat of coronavirus, health officials say many women are delaying or even skipping routine mammograms. I am proof that these basic health checks save lives."

Barring a mammogram, Welch likely would have learned about her cancer later in the process, risking additional spread of the disease.

Welch has stage II breast cancer. Doctors expect her to make a full recovery.

"Going public with private information is tough," Welch said. "But, I believe that it is the right thing to do."

Welch holds elected office as the top prosecutor for the 43rd Prosecutorial District, made up of the state's seven westernmost counties.

The district attorney has continued working, though on a limited basis; meanwhile, day-to-day office functions have been handled by staff members.

"I have a terrific team of people," Welch said. "Their determination to take care of the court's business while I take care of this health issue makes me value them still more."

Welch had surgery last month and was slated to start radiation treatment after Thanksgiving. She will be treated for six weeks, five days a week.

"I am truly grateful for the outpouring of support from colleagues, other lawyers, judges, law enforcement and members of the media, who have known about my diagnosis almost from the



Ashley Welch's husband Michael Nalley organized a send-off for Welch when she travelled to Atlanta, Ga., for surgery last month. Law enforcement officers provided an escort.

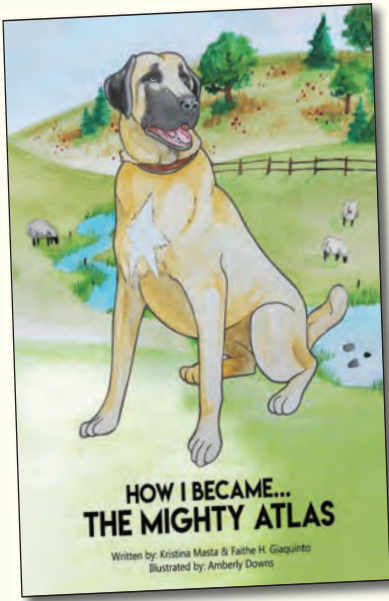


Photos by Vickie Carpenter

beginning," she said. "Cancer is frightening. But the support has made my journey easier than it might have been, otherwise."

The American Cancer Society recommends routine mammography for women starting at age 45; however, doctors are increasingly discussing with their patients the benefits and risks of earlier mammograms.


"Have that conversation," 42-year-old Welch said. "Figure out what's right for you, then follow through."



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Illustrated by Amberly Downs

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Links to access the seminar and Q&A will be provided following registration.
For more information, call 828-698-7333.



What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Thanksgiving was a different holiday with changes and adjustments due to COVID-19. I have looked back at past pandemics and have noticed some parallels.

Boccaccio wrote the Decameron in reaction to the Black Death that swept Europe in 1348. The story is about seven young women and three young men from the upper merchant class of Florence who flee the plague-filled city to a county villa in nearby Fiesole. Their hope was that they could escape the Black Death by retreating to the mountainous country area just outside the city. I am struck by how we are witnessing a similar exodus during the current pandemic.

The Highlands Plateau has been full of visitors this fall, many of them young professionals from surrounding metropolitan areas. Many visit relatives, some stay in hotels and others do VRBO. Some are purchasing homes here. Whether they will live here year around, become seasonal residents or view their new homes as VRBO investments remains to be seen. Nevertheless, major demographic shifts are happening in Western North Carolina and in Highlands. There will be positives, negatives and challenges with these changes.

Sallie and I had our own Decameron moment on Thanksgiving day by backpacking and camping in Panthertown. It was a way of escaping the bustling little town of Highlands for a moment of reflection and meditation. We saw about six hikers on our way to our campsite next to the headwaters of the Tuckasegee River. We pitched our new teepee tent and cooked a great meal of Brunswick stew and sausage.

Similar to the characters in the Decameron, we sat around the campfire that night and recalled family stories, talked about our future and what lies ahead for Highlands, as well as the region. After a surprisingly cold night we broke camp the next morning and hit the trail. As we reached a panoramic peak, I looked over the vast wilderness of Panthertown and thought how much of Western North Carolina is untouched and remains in a natural state. I'm glad we took time to reconnect with what brought us here in the first place.

My concern is that these beautiful natural places will be under growing stress and pressure as folks flock to Western Carolina. I recently read in *The Asheville Citizen-Times* that waterfall areas are being visited by massive

See TAYLOR page 11

Letters to the Editor

Government manipulation is increasing

It's now clear that the government's plan to protect you from COVID-19 is to just keep piling nonsensical rules atop nonsensical rules. These rules distract you from the hypocrisy that's going on with the ruling class. And you must pretend that everything the public health experts told you in the past are correct and true even though we have proof they are wrong. There's nothing else but wash your hands, social distance, wear a mask... Mass compliance is higher than it's ever been. And yet the cases are rising higher than ever... It's not working.

COVID cases keep rising across the country... How did this happen? What's really the plan here? Americans are starting to see and understand that this isn't going to get better until we tell the government enough is enough. This virus has a 99.98% recovery rate, so why are we ruining livelihoods and creating much more strife and chaos from lockdowns?

This incremental tyranny isn't just going to go away... The government is not going to give back your freedom or allow you to live your life again. Now you may say, But what about the vaccine? The vaccine isn't going to be the end of this plandemic because it won't be 100% effective. My friends, lockdowns and restrictions will continue deep into 2021 unless we fight back.

So why are they doing this? It's about control; it is painfully obvious this nonsense is NOT about safety. This is about so much more than just a virus. This is about our relationship with the government; the ways that the state can control people and transform society in the process. They are even bragging about this in the open. It's sad, but there are many ruling elite that views this plandemic as an opportunity. And the demagogues out there use the frightened mob to coerce and threaten and shame free thinkers into compliance. On one hand it is interesting how easily people are manipulated with false information, and the other hand, it is extremely sad for the republic. Land of the free and home of the brave? Not with today's candy-ass, misinformed society.

The solution? Don't listen to the ruling elite who are hypocrites and keep moving the goal posts. Make your own decisions about risk this holiday season. Our government is not a dictatorship of bureaucracy, no matter how many times they try to tell us otherwise or guilt the simple-minded sheep into falsely thinking "we are all in this together."

Dr. Scott Atlas wisely said, "The only way this (Covid lockdowns, etc.) stops is if people rise up. You get what you accept." The people of each state created the 50 sovereign republics known as the united States of America, so we possess the real power to oppose government over-reach. This power is the law of the land, being embodied in the 9th and 10th Amendments. (Sheriff Holland, we are counting on you to uphold your sworn oath to protect and defend the

Constitution of the U.S. by ignoring any and all unconstitutional mandates)! Collectivist groupthink is a dangerous thing. The world-wide communism being imposed by the World Economic Forum and other shadow agencies will be defeated only when the people of the world peacefully and nonviolently withdraw their consent to be governed by this tyranny. So go ahead, enjoy the holidays, don't believe the inconsistent propaganda from the MSM, educate yourself from truthful sources, and take back your liberty!

Jim Gaston - Franklin, N.C.

Sacrifices must be made to save lives

Doctors across America are literally begging people to mask, maintain safe distances, avoid large and small gatherings, earnestly pleading with us to follow preventive measures to keep ourselves and our fellow citizens as safe as humanly possible from the deadly virus infecting our planet.

However, even as deaths in the United States soar past 262,000, many Americans continue to minimize and even deny the danger COVID19 poses, refusing to mask or otherwise avoid the risks of exposure and infection, determined to prove we are indeed "our own worst enemy,"

One gentleman was quoted in a local newspaper as going so far as to state, "While I think avoiding spreading disease is an admirable goal, there comes a point where you're giving up more than you're gaining for your efforts."

I beg to differ. Giving up (temporarily) conveniences and luxuries we once enjoyed and took for granted before the virus; the loss of human contact, going out to eat with friends, to travel, to explore, etc., seem a small price to pay for a better chance to continue living.

Some people believe that accepting health institution's attempts to safeguard the quality (indeed the continuance of our lives) is somehow an infringement of our basic rights as Americans. That is incongruous with plain logic.

Yes, to properly combat the coronavirus, sacrifices will be made; financial, economic, personal, emotional, that's very true. Had this president acted quickly and appropriately when knowledge of COVID19 was initially known, the situation would not be as severe as it is today and certainly fewer of our citizens would have died.

There are proven ways to gain control over this virus, several nations and world leaders have clearly demonstrated and affirmed that. As a start, I will be more apt to patronize businesses that emphatically state, "No Masks - No Service" and adhere strictly to that and other preventive measures.

We have tolerated the naysayers and antagonists too long already. Here's a narrative and a concept you may have to get used to. Your perceived "rights" do not cancel or supersede my right to live.

David Snell - Franklin, N.C.

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Trump continues to assault right to freely vote

Throughout the past few days Americans have again witnessed Mr. Trump's assault on a fundamental democratic institution – the right to freely vote for candidates of one's choice.

In order to make clear my use of the verb assault, reference is made and credit given to the HuffPostPlus for its reporting.

A Reuters White House reporter at a Thanksgiving Eve press conference pushed back against Trump's false claims of election fraud. Thereafter, Trump lashed out at the reporter calling him a "lightweight" and further admonishing him thusly: "Don't talk to me that way. I'm the president of the United States."

The reporter, Jeff Mason, asked Mr. Trump if he would concede (defeat) when the Electoral College votes for president-elect Joe Biden. Trump's response: "Well if they do, they made a mistake because this election was a fraud."

Approximately 37 court cases, challenging the presidential election result have been filed by lawyers representing Trump. To my knowledge, all but one case have been unsuccessful, withdrawn or summarily dismissed.

A federal court of appeals in Pennsylvania, in dismissing a Trump case (lawsuit) stated: "Calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof."

Finally, Chris Krebs, our country's top cybersecurity official eloquently defended the integrity of the federal election in a "60 Minutes" interview on Sunday evening, 29 Nov. 2020. Further, Krebs disputed unsubstantiated claims of fraud advanced by Trump.

The declarations of recent days are extremely important. For this reason, I have made an attempt to preserve the transactions, the verbal exchanges, within the editorial pages of respected newspapers.

Milo R. Beran – Franklin, N.C.

Hopefully Biden will do well for America

As an Independent I am in a better position to judge how things are going along simply because the politically inclined folks are stuck in a different world.

Probably the most logical and reasonable of our recent presidents has been Donald Trump and although he made a lot of folks mad, the results have been excellent.

What we're going to have with Joe Biden taking over control of America will become obvious only after he's been in office for a while.

My personal impression is that he will be soft and tend to bend with the prevailing political winds. I hope I'm wrong and that he stands tall and follows President Trump's example. But, we'll see.

Will AOC and her "Squad" put enough pressure on him to jam the Green New Deal down our throats?

Certainly the stupidest idea in recent years will eliminate most all of our manufacturing jobs. For example around

6,000 items are made from petroleum.

Without it we would lose such things as asphalt for roads, slacks, tires, sweaters, CD players, dresses, toilet seats, tooth paste, nylon rope, refrigerator parts and the list goes on and on.

Of course China and India will make this stuff in the future so the net result is that we gave our industry to China who will continue to pollute the world.

AOC and her gang would have to be pretty stupid not to realize all this and makes one wonder whether she simply wants to destroy America or what?

Or, does she honestly think she can somehow force China to give up manufacturing and petroleum too?

If AOC and her squad truly cared about America she would lead a movement to produce our energy using nuclear power which is the cleanest and least polluting of all power sources. And no, she says nothing about China building some 50 coal fired power plants a year and polluting our skies.

By the way, this is the same person who said that "no one should have to work for a living." Hmmm.

The concern we should all have is whether or not Joe Biden is strong enough to do what's right for America and not be controlled by the loonies?

Chinese newspapers pay millions to American newspapers to publish Communist propaganda and would Biden put a stop to that? Would he be afraid to offend the Chinese? Since China and the drug cartels of Mexico poured money into Biden's campaign will he go along with them or will he fight to keep America first?

For that matter, how would he explain the increase in drug deaths if he does open our borders?

One question that hangs in my brain is what would he do to punish the folks who committed election fraud?

Without any doubt, there has been fraud in this election cycle and we are uncovering it daily.

I will be looking for this because it will tell us if Joe Biden is a man of honor or a leftover from our days of being controlled by mobsters. Personally, I hope he proves to be a man of honor.

This is not a criticism yet, just questions and I hope Joe Biden does well for Americans but we must wait and see.

Bob Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Letters are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of the publisher, editor or staff of The Macon County News. Email to maconcountynews@gmail.com

TAYLOR From previous page

numbers of tourists. Experts are concerned that these vast numbers will alter the landscape and ecology that make these waterfalls so beautiful.

We can see one aspect of the problem close at hand on the Franklin Road. There are recurring serious traffic backlogs at the entrance to Dry Falls. The state patrol is aware of the situation, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, but a solution isn't simple, if at all. The Forest Service just received billions of dollars to upgrade and repair their existing venues. I will lobby for funds to go to improvements at Bridal Veil and Dry Falls.

A positive perspective is the economic impact that visitors bring. The negative is the pressure vast numbers of tourist bring to these beautiful, natural areas. The solution to some degree will be in wise planning.

Oh yes, what about that other pandemic, the 1918 Spanish Flu? Health officials back then also encouraged folks to wear masks to curtail the flu. There were even attempts to create a vaccine. As like now there were some who resisted wearing masks. I am glad to see that the vast majority of people in Highlands do wear masks. Mask wearing is a sign that we are a caring community.

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Photos by Ellen Randall & Betsy Gooder



Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests November 13 - 26. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

November 13

Esteban Vasallo Corteguera, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jason Christopher Webster, was issued a warrant for probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Abagayle Jade Solomon, was charged with assault and battery. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Gina Renee Breedlove, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Joseph A Raby made the arrest.

November 14

Levy Malcolm Barry, was charged with assault on a female, assault inflicting serious injury with a minor present, interfere with emergency communication. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Robert Samuel Snyderburn, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, trespass, possession of marijuana. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

November 15

Marc Allen Nolle, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Jason R. Mock, was charged with purchase a firearm violating domestic order, felony probation violation, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin. Parish W. Young made the arrest.

Craig Allen Stevens, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

November 16

Crystal Hayes, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

November 17

Ryan David Finn, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Megan Elizabeth Thomas, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Jonathan Allen Gibson, was charged with domestic physical. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

November 18

Adam Paul Green, was issued a fugitive warrant for out of state felony. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

November 19

Eric Daniel Holland, was charged with third degree sexual exploitation of a minor, second degree sexual exploitation of a minor, failure to inform of new/changes to online identity. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

November 20

Pressley Nicole Cochran, was issued a warrant service for fugitive for out of state felony. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

November 21

Jordan Elizabeth Field, was charged with second degree trespass. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

November 23

John Robert Parker, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Charles Russell Edwards, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

November 24

Casey Wayne McKeehan, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Donald Jared Smith, was charged with stalking. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

November 25

Joseph William-Ferro Grier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated, misdemeanor probation violation. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

November 26

Pamela Morgan Keitt, was charged with simple assault, assault on a government officer/employee. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Gabriel Dominguez, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon on a government official. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

November 14

Stephanie Larson, 27, was charged with simple assault, second degree trespass, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$400 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

November 19

Abisai Federico Carbajal, 27, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, consume on unauthorized premises. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

November 21

Diana France Ray, 62, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set. Sergeant Ashe made the arrest.

November 23

Collin Lewis Mcwhite, 24, was charged with driving under the influence. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

November 16

Daniel Wayne Warren, 38, of Sylva, was charged with assault on a female, resisting a public officer. No bond was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

Travis James Gregg, 43, of Arnold Branch Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for obtain property by false pretense, financial card fraud, financial card theft, misdemeanor larceny, obtaining property by false pretense, extradition/fugitive for other state. A \$70,000 bond was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

Christian Nicole Franks, 23, of Walnut Cove Tuckasee, was charged with failure to appear for breaking or entering. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

Joseph Cain Luker, 22, of Walnut Cove Rd., Tuckasee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond

of \$7,500 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

November 17

Jesse Lonnie Harkins, 30, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of a counterfeit instrument, forgery of instrument, identity theft, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, identity theft, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to half ounce. No bond was set. Tiffany A. Paul made the arrest.

Daniel Ward Owen, 35, of Rainbo Dr., was issued an order for arrest for child support purge. A \$5,000 bond was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

James Derrick Jenkins, 26, of Red Tail Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

Kimberly Crowe Juarez, 37, of Watson Branch, Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. James A. Brown made the arrest.

Christopher Brooks Gammon, 43, of N. County Club Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

November 18

Heather Nicole Steele, 27, of Lands End Dr., was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Dana Jeanette Boarders, 42, of East Main St., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, fail to heed light or Siren, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.

Amanda Dawn Clawson, 39, Hallie Manor Ct., was charged with possession of stolen goods or property, attempt to obtain property by false pretenses. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set. Dray E. Holland made the arrest.

Fredrick Earl Stillwell, 21, of Duplin Court Circle, was charged with larceny from the person. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Madison Shay Foster, 20, of Bull Pen Rd., Cashiers, was charged with failure to stop at stop sign, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana less than 1/2 ounce, possession of a schedule I controlled substance. No bond was set.

November 19

Ian Christopher Boger, 19, of Old Cullowhee Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with consume alcohol, intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$250 was set. Conner L. Wilson made the arrest.

November 20

Dustin Lyle Jones, 38, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with Operating a motor vehicle without displaying a registration plate, reckless driving with wanton disregard, speeding 100 mph in a 55 mph zone, driving while license revoked, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Treavor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Colby Taylor Price, 28, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. William K. Davis made the arrest.

November 21

Dante Antonio VanDunk, 47, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was issued a fugitive warrant for parole violation for criminal sex act. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 7.5 mile hike on Saturday, Dec. 5, with an elevation change 600 ft., on the Blackwell Gap Loop in the Standing Indian Recreation Area, hiking on Forest Service road 67 from the Back Country parking lot to Hurricane Creek Rd, then onto Blackwell Gap Trail to Long Branch Trail and back to the parking lot. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 10 am, drive 35 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call leader Katharine Brown, (828)421-4178, for reservations.

Open Music Jam with The Vagabonds Monday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library. Bring a musical instrument and/or your voice, and jam with Jim Hite and Bill Jackson, or just come out to listen to the music. Call the library at (828)524-3600 to reserve a seat; space is limited and masks covering nose and mouth are required to be worn at all times.

The Gem Country Republican Women's Club will hold its Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at The Factory. Bring a friend and a gift for an elementary grade student. For info contact mcrwnc@gmail.com.

Macon Early College (MEC) is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2021-2022 school year. MEC serves grades 9 through 13 and is fully integrated into the Southwestern Community College system. Students have the opportunity to graduate in four or five years with a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's degree with transferable credits to a four-year university. Applications are available on the website at mec.macon.k12.nc.us under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application is Jan. 8, 2021. For additional information, call (828)524-2002.

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 smppcc.org

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

Macon Chips, the Franklin Wood Carving Club will meet on Thurs-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

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 with senior pastor Scott Eichelberger delivering the message. The music presentation will be by the Pinnacle Brass band and also Nathaniel Smith. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane, Franklin (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the office (828)369-7977 or www.franklinma.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email Church Events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

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Tis the Season at Grandfather Mountain; park open year-round

With winter on the way, Grandfather Mountain is decking its halls — and hills — for the holidays.

Visitors are invited to celebrate the season from a mile high, where they'll encounter idyllic winter scenery, invigorating outdoor adventure and more at the Linville, N.C., nature park.

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, the park officially rang in the holiday season with a special delivery — a 12-foot Fraser fir Christmas tree, donated by Larry Smith of Mountain Top Fraser Fir in Avery County.

In previous years, Smith has provided Christmas trees for the N.C. State Capitol in Raleigh, the U.S. Naval Observatory (the residence of the U.S. Vice President), the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the White House itself.

Donating a tree to Grandfather Mountain, however, is a literal high point in Smith's career.

"People come from all over the world to see Grandfather Mountain," he said. "And, of course, this tree is from Avery County. We don't want a tree from outside Avery County to go up on Grandfather Mountain."

Although this particular tree is on display in the Grandfather's Nature Museum, Fraser firs can also be found in the mountain's more natural surroundings.

"The Fraser fir is basically the Cadillac of Christmas trees," Smith said. "There's only a few mountaintops in the world they're native to, and Grandfather Mountain is one of them."

Choose & Cut & Save & Shop

Although Grandfather Mountain's official tree is now on display, guests are welcome to bring their own — to enjoy a festive discount on park admission during the holiday season.

As a gesture of support for local Christ-



Grandfather Mountain welcomes visitors to celebrate the winter and holiday seasons from a mile high. Photo by Skip Sickler | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

mas tree farmers, anyone who arrives at the mountain with a tree atop their vehicle or a receipt from a local tree farm will receive \$2 off each adult admission and \$1 off each child admission.

Located in the Nature Museum and Top Shop, Grandfather Mountain's gift shops carry a variety of artisan crafts and goods, as well as signature Grandfather Mountain souvenirs, from apparel to hiking gear to drinkware and all things in between.

The shops, along with the mountain's Entrance Gate, also offer Grandfather Mountain gift cards, which are applicable toward admission, souvenirs, food, fudge and more.

Adopt-an-Animal

Looking for a gift that's warm and fuzzy? While Grandfather Mountain's resident animals are not for sale, the Adopt-an-Animal

program is the next best thing.

The program allows participants to symbolically adopt any of Grandfather Mountain's furry or feathered residents, including black bears, river otters, cougars, bald eagles, elk and more.

By adopting an animal, individually or on behalf of a friend, family member or loved one, the sponsor will receive a special gift package. Gifts vary, depending on the donation level, and can include photographs, plush toys, plaster footprint castings, day passes and more. Visit <https://bit.ly/gfm-adopt> to learn more.

You can also make our animals' season merry and bright by treating them to gift items and enrichment treats.

To see what the animals are wanting this holiday season, visit their Amazon.com wish list at <https://bit.ly/gfm-wishlist>. For

more information, email habitats@grandfather.com.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Treat your favorite animal lover to an up-close-and-personal experience with Grandfather's resident animals.

Hosted by Grandfather's knowledgeable and experienced keepers, Behind-the-Scenes Tours show guests where the park's resident animals sleep overnight, while sharing the ins and outs of what it takes to care for the animals year-round.

To reserve a tour, email habitats@grandfather.com.

Season Passes

For a gift that keeps on giving, shoppers can purchase an annual membership to Grandfather Mountain's Bridge Club.

Bridge Club membership offers unlimited, free admission to Grandfather Mountain for a year, exclusive discounts on and off the mountain, invitations to special member programs, a Bridge Club car decal and more. Group passes are also available.

To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/gfm-bridgeclub>.

Expanding the park

Grandfather Mountain is owned and operated by the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain.

All of the park's funding is derived from admission, souvenir sales, food and beverage sales and donations, 100 percent of which goes right back into the mountain, ensuring its pristine beauty is preserved for generations to come.

The foundation's Fulfilling Promises

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campaign is underway, and funds raised through donations will help create a new Conservation Campus to share the wonders of Grandfather to more visitors more broadly and deeply than ever before.

Through these new facilities, which will nearly double the size of the park's current nature museum, guests will gain an even greater appreciation of nature and become even more passionate about protecting and preserving it.

Charitable giving also benefits the park's many educational programs and initiatives, such as the Field Trip Scholarship Fund in Memory of Nathan Pribble, which helps groups from underfunded schools come to Grandfather Mountain's "classroom in the clouds."

Those hoping to contribute in their or



Grandfather Mountain's Adopt-an-Animal program allows animal lovers to sponsor one of the mountain's resident animals, including river otters. Since the mountain is open year-round, weather permitting, guests can also see most of the park's resident animals in winter settings.

Photo by Frank Ruggiero | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

someone else's name may do so by visiting www.grandfather.com/donate, which allows them to sponsor a particular project, such as

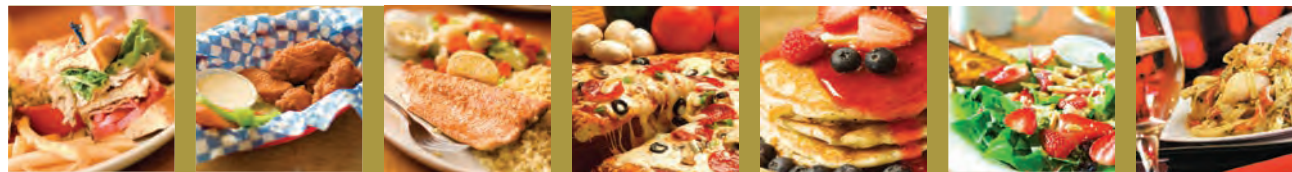
the Fulfilling Promises campaign, or donate to a cause of their choosing.

Winter Hours

Grandfather Mountain is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day in winter, weather permitting, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. During times of inclement weather, park opening is delayed until all roads and paths can be cleared of snow and ice. As such, those planning a trip are encouraged to contact the park's entrance gate before visiting to confirm the day's conditions.

The park is requiring guests to book their visit online at www.grandfather.com. To learn more about Grandfather Mountain's COVID-19 operating procedures, visit www.grandfather.com/covid-19-update.

The not-for-profit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, call 800-468-7325, or visit www.grandfather.com.



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Virtual arts and humanities conference for teachers and students Dec. 15-16

All North Carolina teachers and their classes are invited to attend a free two-day online immersive experience for NC educators and their students focused on arts and the humanities.

The Cultural Arts LIVE (Live, Immersive Virtual Experiences) Conference will take place Dec. 15-16. The conference will give students and teachers the opportunity to travel virtually across the state and participate in workshops and activities led by North Carolina artists, musicians, dancers, actors, writers, journalists, historians and educators. To attend the Cultural Arts LIVE Conference, register at ncstudentconnect.com up until Dec. 16. Recordings of all sessions will be available online after the conference for future use.

Among the sessions for educators and their classrooms are:

- Live painting of a mural by Artist Rosalia Torres-Weiner, inspired by students' suggestions

- Writing workshops led by Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green

- Virtual field trips to nine NC Historic Sites with live discussion

- A virtual choral performance of "I Will be Brave," a new composition from NC composer Sally Albrecht, performed by students from across the state

- A dance choreographed and performed by Black Box Dance Theatre based on ideas from students

- Print and broadcast journalism workshops

- Behind the scenes at the Nutcracker with Carolina Ballet

- Workshops and performances with the NC Symphony

- Stop action animation workshop led by Pierce Freelon

- Movement and story program by the Charlotte Ballet

- Performance and seminars by NC bluegrass musicians

- History of African American music from spirituals to hip hop by the group, The Beast

- Drama, voice articulation and history through radio plays

- Interactive seminar on West African dance and drums

All sessions will be recorded and teachers will be able to use the sessions live in class during the conference and/or replay them next semester. Some sessions will ask students and teachers to submit information and ideas in advance.

Professional development sessions for educators will include copyright issues during virtual learning, arts integration for all grade levels, remote resources for music educators, workshop on a personal finance class and more.

The conference is hosted by the North Carolina Business Committee on Education (NCBCE). This conference is in partnership with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Department of Public Instruction.

Educators can also access recordings of all previous NC Student Connect conferences: the REAL Conference, REAL 2.0 Conference and STEM Connect Conference through the NC Student Connect site, <https://www.ncstudentconnect.com/>

Mistletoe: Dung on a stick or symbol of Christmas?

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

Several winters ago, on a foggy morning we looked out of the window towards Wayah and found an owl perched high in a defoliated oak tree. Except it was not a real owl but the outline of one created by a clump of mistletoe. We showed several friends a photograph of it and not everyone could find it. The next day we looked again, the light and fog were so different that we could not find the owl image. Ever since, we have unsuccessfully looked for it even though the mistletoe is still there. Perhaps the clump is slightly bigger or changed shape? Certainly, I have not changed. I began to wonder how the mistletoe became perched so high in a mature oak. Also, I had to admit that I knew very little about this plant so I started reading. This is what I have learned.

Mistletoe is a parasitic evergreen plant that lives on various tree species, oaks, elms, willows, fir, pines and apples. There are many different species all over the world. The American mistletoe is *Phoradendron leucarpum*. "Leu" means "white" and "carp" is a seed. "Phora" is Greek meaning "thief" and "dendron" means "tree." So, this is a parasitic tree-like plant with white berries that grows on host tree branches. Oddly it is listed as a shrub even though it does not grow on the ground. The word mistletoe comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "mistel." Its translation is "dung" and "tel" meaning stick. So, the old English word for mistletoe was misteltan, means dung on a stick.

One report says mistletoe is poisonous to cats and small animals. But it is listed as an "all-heal," meaning it can be used to treat many human conditions. In folk medicine it is used as a digestive aid, heart tonic and sedative. Also, it is used to treat arthritis, hysteria, mental problems and to stimulate glands. But opinions vary on how safe and effective it is as a home remedy.

Mistletoe is a hemiparasitic (half) or semiparasitic plant. It has evergreen leaves that can produce some of its own food by photosynthesis. The berries are eaten by birds and the seeds are deposited as droppings. The seeds have a sticky substance called "viscin" on their surface so they stay in



Dr. Bob Gilbert

place and not roll off a branch. As an aside, my mother used to always tell us "never look up with your mouth open." She was not thinking about mistletoe. As the seed germinates, a specialized root called a haustorium forms that slowly penetrates through the tree bark into the inner layers of wood. It is only when this happens that the plant becomes partially dependent on its host.

Mistletoe blooms in late fall or early winter. The whitish blooms are small and not showy. The white, almost translucent, berries take until the following autumn to mature and are able to germinate.

In England, mistletoe symbolizes the healing power of the Lord. It adorns church altars at Christmas time. It also became a token of goodwill and was hung over doorways. Kissing under the mistletoe became a custom in Europe. A man could kiss any woman who stood under the mistletoe.



Mistletoe Cressler - Science Support

Photo/Alan Cressler

A woman who refused was destined to have bad luck. After each kiss the couple was to remove one berry from the clump. When all the berries had been removed the romantic qualities of the mistletoe were used up. There seems to be some symbolism here.

Although this is a parasitic plant it seldom does enough damage to the host or do serious harm. Many times, when growing high up in a tree, it is collected with a gun. It is easy to find in the winter when the host trees have lost their leaves.

Dr. Bob Gilbert, now living in Franklin is co-founder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga.

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

For the '16 Days of Activism' (Nov. 25th to Dec. 10th), Zonta Clubs worldwide will say **NO** to violence against women. Join us at: ZontaSaysNo.com #ZontaSaysNO #16Days For more info: Zonta.org or ZontaFranklinNC.org. Like us on Facebook



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Deaths & Funerals

Steve Alan Garchow

Steve Alan Garchow, 66, of Franklin, N.C., formerly Prescott, Mich., passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020, to join our Lord in Heaven.

He was born in Saginaw, Mich., to the late Edward L. Garchow and Gladys Agnes Delorme Richard.

He is survived by his wife and best friend for over 30 years, Darlene Kay Gardyszewski Garchow. They were married at their farm, Timber Ghost Gardens, in Prescott, Mich., on July 15, 2000, which turned into an old-fashioned three-day event. Steve and Darlene moved to Franklin to enjoy the beautiful mountains, water and woods of Western North Carolina and surrounding states.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Edward W. Garchow and his wife, Patricia and sister Linda Garchow, Stepfather, William (Bill) Richard and Mother in Law Dolores Gardyszewski.

He is also survived by his brother, Martin D. Garchow and wife Patricia of Saginaw; nieces and nephews, Greg Garchow and wife Andrea and daughter Patricia of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jodi Brady and husband Michael of Carrollton, Mich., Tamara Keysor and husband Kevin and their children Tessa and Andrew of Zilwaukee, Mich., Brett Garchow and wife Tabitha and their children Hunter and Logan of Bridgeport, Mich.; sister-in-law Tina Gardyszewski of Hayesville, N.C., brother-in-law, David Gardyszewski of Saginaw; and father-in-law, William (Bill) Gardyszewski of Saginaw; step brothers and sisters, Kevin Richard, Bryan Richard, Cheryl Lamont and Cindy Greskowiak, their spouses and children; aunts, uncles and many cousins.

He graduated from Carrollton High School in 1972. He proudly served his country in the Army in the Vietnam Era. He was VP of Operations with Walbridge in Detroit, Mich., for 44 years. He traveled extensively for Walbridge all over the United States and the world including Dubai, China, Mexico, Brazil and Qatar. He has many friends in the construction business world. He loved working for Walbridge and loved all his co-workers. He mentored many individuals over his long and very rewarding career. Many thanks to Walbridge, the Haller family and all his Walbridge family for all their prayers and support for Steve and the Garchow family over the years.

He loved and enjoyed life with Darlene and family hunting, fishing, traveling, Nascar, golfing, pulling pranks and joking with everyone, reading, playing cards and board games and games on the internet. His new title in retirement was "event coordinator." He also enjoyed his newfound entertainment on Facebook. He enjoyed reuniting with old friends and new friends. Aka our "social butterfly." Thanks for all the love and prayers from family and friends. Special thanks to the best neighbors ever, Bob and Ilene Fabera in Prescott, Mich. Best friends, Rick and Sandy Meier, Gary and Vicki Hargis, Bobby and Margo Boldt, Keith and Deb Anderson, Dave and Luz Beaty. Special friends Debbie Watson, Mike and Karen Walsh, Chris and Bruce Stephenson and Bobby Ledford.

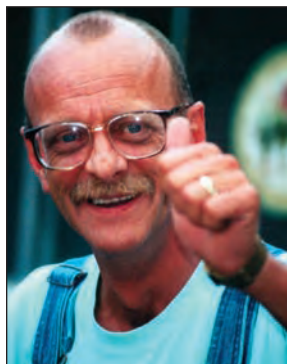
Many thanks to the all the caring staff in the ICU at Harris Regional Hospital, Sylva, N.C., Dr. Todd Davis and staff, Dr. Connaughton and staff and Dr. Conforti.

Cremation will take place according to Steve's wishes. No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the local VVA Chapter 994, C/O Dick Sheenan, 249 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Steve Alan Garchow

Randy Dean Giles

On Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, the Giles family lost their daddy, brother, and grandfather. Randy Dean Giles entered into the presence of the Lord unexpectedly that night.

He was born in Rabun County Hospital on Oct. 19, 1957. His parents were the late Little Willie and late Lulu Belle Giles, of Mountain City, Ga. He graduated in 1974 from Rabun County High School and attended North Georgia Tech. He married Susan Marie Mason on Oct. 19, 1979. He and his family later moved to Habersham County, and then to Franklin, N.C., where he lived the last 24 years. He worked as a technician at Parkdale for most of his life. He was also an ordained minister. He loved Christ the Lord and was a member of Tennesse Baptist Church in Otto, N.C.

He was a man who strongly loved his family, his job, and his church. He had so much family and friends who cared for him. He loved all his family and wanted to spend time with them as much as he could. He loved driving through the Great Smokies and going on hikes. One of his favorite things to do was go to Dollywood with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his six boys, Keith (Lyndie), Matt (Nicki), Adam (Ariel), Jason (Antonia), Justin (Lois), and Randy Jr.; 10 grandchildren, Taylor, Hunter, Cordelia, Nathaniel, Bryson, Madiysn, Suz, Sarah, Nia, and Neveah; sisters, Williene Edwards (Brian), Gussie Heniges (Mike), Lorrie (Lonnie), and brother Jeff (Michelle); and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his precious wife Susan, and grandson Greyson.

Funeral services was held Saturday, Nov. 28, at Taylors Chapel. Rev. Robin Welborn and Rev. Thomas Burrell officiated. Burial was at Taylors Chapel Cemetery at 852 Taylors Chapel Road, Rabun Gap Ga.

Pallbearers were Jeff Giles, Dalton Giles, J.T. Giles, Hunter Giles, Kenneth Coalley, and Buddy Botts. Honorary pallbearers were David and Ricky Coalley, Alex York, and Rev. Carl Carpenter.

His tireless love and devotion were evident in his last moments. May he rest in peace.



Randy Dean Giles

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Deaths & Funerals

Jeffrey Todd Queen

Jeffrey Todd Queen, 47, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020

Born in Lexington, N.C., he was the son of Barbara Waldroop Queen and the late Kenneth Lewis Queen. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a son, David Randall Queen and two brothers, Kenneth "Shane" Queen and David Lewis Queen. He was a member of Burningtown Church of God. He was a carpenter and an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed ginseng hunting and deer hunting. He also enjoyed Nascar, wrestling, history and coin collecting.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Queen; a companion, Selena Lakey; children, Cody Queen (Kimberly Faith), Candice Dale Queen, adopted son, Cadon Justice, step-daughter, Sara Mathis; sister, Sherri Queen Cloud; six grandchildren, Zayiden, Adelyn, Peyton, Evelyn, Malaki and Konner.

A memorial service was held Monday, Nov. 23, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Michael Stephens officiating. A brief time of fellowship followed the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Margaret Dills Parrish

Margaret Dills Parrish, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020.

A native of Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Challie and Iva Jean Crisp Dills. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Ronald "Ronnie" Parrish in 1995; brother, Tommy Dills; and stepbrother, Billy Dills. She was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church. She spent much of her time being involved with her church, watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved spending weekends at the lake.

She is survived by her sons, James Michael Parrish (Tara) of Leesville, La. and Ronald Gregory Parrish (Delle) of Franklin; sisters, Frances McCoy and Carol Ann Ervin both of Franklin; six grandchildren, James, Aaron, Veronica, Zane, Dawson, and Pacie Parrish; along with two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Kenzie all of Franklin.

Memorial service was Monday, Nov. 30, at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Rev. Tom Nahlen will officiate.

Private burial will be in the Oak Grove Baptist church cemetery at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Walter E. Furr Jr. M.D.

Walter E. Furr Jr. M.D., 98, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Nov. 20, 2020. He was born in Macon County, North Carolina on April 11, 1922, the son of the late Dr. Walter Eugene Furr and Burdell Williams Furr. He attended the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill for undergraduate studies and Northwestern University School of Medicine. He completed his medical residencies at Northwestern and the Cleveland Clinic and served in the United States Navy in Pensacola, Fla., for four years before moving to Miami-Dade County and beginning his successful medical practice in 1955.

Dr. Furr was a well-known general surgeon in South Florida with privileges at several hospitals, including Hialeah Hospital, Palmetto General Hospital, North Miami Hospital and North Shore Hospital. A true trailblazer in surgical medicine, Dr. Furr was an expert in gas infections and one of the first to work on the transplantation of the liver, developing several innovations that are still used in surgery today. He served on staff and in medical leadership positions at Hialeah Hospital for more than 25 years and helped design Miami Dade's medical disaster/trauma response coordination in the 1960s. In 1972, he was one of the doctors who tended to multiple victims of Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, which crashed in the Everglades.

An avid reader, photographer, fisherman and botanist, he told stories of Miami from the 1950s and 1960s including fishing off Brickell Key when it was a sandbar and clam digging on Key Biscayne. He was particularly fond of attractions in South Dade including Fruit and Spice Park, Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens and The Kampong. A man of few words and deep thought, he was happiest when on the water, in his garden or workshop. When not in the operating room or seeing patients, he could be found on the bay boating and fishing, in the garden tending to his plants and orchids, tinkering in the garage, cooking, reading or fixing things around the house.

Walter, fondly known as "Gene" to his friends and family, retired in 1989 and moved back to his beloved mountains in Cashiers, N.C., where he maintained residence with his wife, Mary O'Keefe, and also spent time in Crystal River, Fla. Mary preceded him in death in February 2008 and Gene then moved to the Vi in Aventura, where he was a favorite of the nurses and staff.

He is survived by his sister, Katherine Furr Reid of Wilmington, N.C., and brother, James Franklin Furr (Annette) of Burlington, N.C. His sister, Frances Furr Putnam, predeceased him earlier this year.

He is also survived by his first wife, Alice Ethelyn Alexander of Miami Shores, Fla.; and his loving children, Walter "Terry" Furr (Cynthia) of Tampa, Fla., Jane Furr Davis (Todd McLin) of Rincon, Puerto Rico and Doylestown, Pa., William Furr (Janice) of Bella Vista, Ark., James Furr of Miami Shores, Fla., Katherine Honey and Karyn Cunningham of Palmetto Bay, Fla., Kenneth W. O'Keefe (Jason Stephens) of Miami, Fla.; his loving grandchildren, Hamilton Davis (Colleen Smith) of Newtown, Pa., Elliot Davis (Jessie Holder) of Tampa, Fla., Frances Davis (fiancé Greg Hastain) of Portland, Ore., and Claire Davis Kaage (Irv) of Whitefish Bay, Wisc., Jennifer Steele (Carl) of Naperville, Ill., Arthur Golk (Jeanette) of Naperville, Ill., Alexander Furr (Sarah) of Aurora, Ill., Megan Cunningham (Russell Handler) of Boston, Cameron and Brennan Honey of Palmetto Bay, Fla.; and 15 great grandchildren.

Celebration of Life will be on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m., at Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel. Dr. Furr will be laid to rest next to his wife, Mary, near his home in Franklin, N.C., on Friday, Dec. 4, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 W. Main St., Franklin, N.C., followed by burial at 2 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Flowers can be sent to Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in memory of Dr. Walter E. Furr, Jr. To become a member, visit the website at <https://fairchildgarden.org/membership/>.



Walter E. Furr Jr.

Bruce Frederick Knecht

Bruce Frederick Knecht, 90, passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020, into the loving arms of Jesus.

He leaves behind a devoted wife of 66 years, Yvonne Knecht; a daughter, Eva Marie Mills and her husband, Roger; and son, Bruce Allen Knecht and his wife, Robin Renee Knecht; five grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

He proudly served his country in the Air Force. He was an iron worker for 50 years and then a Real Estate broker. He also built a gym and boys dormitory for Clearwater Christian College in Clearwater, Fla. He was also instrumental in starting Keystone Bible Church in Florida that met in their home with a handful of people. Today, Keystone has its own building with about 500 members. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and working.

In addition to loving his wife, children and family, he loved the Lord Jesus, his church, Victory Baptist, pastor Rusty Wolfrey, all of the wonderful church members and his many friends and neighbors.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 28, at Victory Baptist Church, with Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiating. Interment followed in the Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Victory Baptist Church, 278 Victory Baptist Church Road, Sylva, NC 28779

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Jane Crawford Riddle

Jane Crawford Riddle, 87, of Franklin, N.C., died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

A native of Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Laddie H. Crawford and the late Dorothy Snyder Crawford Waldroop. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Max L. Riddle Sr.; a sister, Sarah Niven and a daughter-in-law, Rhonda Riddle. She was a member of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, where she had been very active for many years. She was the last surviving founding member of the church. In past years, she could often be found working in her gardens, growing roses, vegetables and numerous other flowers. She loved taking hikes, being outdoors, working crosswords and completing word searches.

She is survived by a son, Max L. Riddle Jr. of Franklin; a daughter, Sandy Walker (Kirk) of Kernersville, N.C.; a sister, Martha Rickman of Asheville; and brothers, Lonnie Crawford (Karen) and Mark Crawford (Marcia) both of Franklin and Sam Crawford (Laverne) of Somerset, Ky.; five grandchildren, Brian Riddle, Amber Rowland (Ryan), Matthew Walker (Heather), Ian Walker, and Scott Walker; six great grandchildren, Nicole Riddle, Hailey Riddle, Gavin Riddle, Olivia Rowland, Asher Rowland and Betty Walker; and one great great daughter, Allison.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Dr. Tommy Jordan will officiate. Burial will be in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Bruce Frederick Knecht



Jane Crawford Riddle



Jeffrey Todd Queen



Margaret Dills Parrish



Deaths & Funerals

James Lewis Miller

James Lewis Miller, 90, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020.

Born in Persimmon, Ga., he was the son of the late Frank and Cora Octa Miller. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his twin sister, Daisy Miller Brown; siblings, Helen Miller Brown, Mae Miller, John Flavis Miller, Janie Louise Miller Dockery, Margaret Lorane Miller, Ruth Miller Corpening, Esther Miller Garrett Hill; half siblings, Ruby Jeanette Miller Mason, William David Arrie Miller and Anna Bell Miller Mason. He was a member of Scaly Mountain Church of God and enjoyed Blue Grass and Gospel Music. He was a farmer and enjoyed time spent outdoors with his livestock and working the land. He was a gentle giant and loved his family immensely.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Hazel Wood Miller; sister, Naomi Miller Johnston and niece that was more like a sister, Loretta Norris; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Nov. 25, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Bates officiating.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Michael Jackson Dailey

Michael Jackson Dailey, 73, passed away Saturday Nov. 28, 2020, at his home surrounded by his family who loved him deeply.

He was born Jan. 10, 1947, in Fort Dodge, Iowa, to the late Marion "Jack" and Bertha Dailey.

He was a passionate man, all through his life he kept in contact with his many friends and cared for them as if they were his own family. He had a heart for community service, enjoyed watching his children play sports and their many other activities as they grew. He enjoyed playing golf, attending Iowa and Iowa State sporting events, and taking trips with his family brought him great joy. He owned and operated Humboldt Motor Sales for 28 years.

Surviving is his wife, Sharon Dailey; daughter, Emily (Trevor) Waldroup; son, Chris (Manda) Dailey; grandchildren, Addison and Jackson Waldroup, Brooks and Collins Dailey; brother, Timothy (Dency) Dailey; and aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time

Condolences may be made to www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



James Lewis Miller

Francye Eich Farley

Francye Eich Farley, 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020, after a brief illness due to an autoimmune disease. She was born May 28, 1943, to the late Henry Eich and Lorah Smith Eich. She worked and retired as a special education teacher and later as a teacher of needle arts, traveling around the country and into Canada teaching classes. She enjoyed knitting with her friends at the Silver Threads and Golden Needles She could knit and watch TV at the same time. She loved cats, gardening, and basket weaving.



Francye Eich Farley

She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Franklin where she was member of the choir and bell choir.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Paul Farley of Franklin; a son, Evan Farley of Lakeland, Fla.; and a daughter, Lorah Elizabeth Hauf married to Jason and their children, Corinne, and Ember.

No services are planned until conditions improve for a gathering of friends and family.

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

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

Harris Lee 'Buddy' Elmore

Harris Lee "Buddy" Elmore, 77, passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020. He was born June 23, 1943, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late John Theodore Elmore and Margie Lee Hurst Elmore. He worked in the early years for Rhodes Superette (Dusty's), later for Alvin C. Crowe & Co. and worked as a tile and brick mason in construction. He was a member of Highlands Central Baptist Church. He was dedicated to family, work, church and his many dogs.



Harris Lee Elmore

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Jo Ann Dendy Elmore; sister, Jean E. Farmer; niece, Lynn Farmer Talley and husband, Bud Talley; great niece, Rebekah Schofield and husband, Chris Schofield; great nephew, Jordan Talley and wife, Danielle Talley; and great-great niece, Annabelle Schofield.

A graveside service was held Monday, Nov. 30, at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery with the Rev. Dan Robinson officiating. Pallbearers were Chris Schofield, Jordan Talley, Bud Talley, and Bruce Mason.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC P.O. Box 815 Franklin, NC 28744.

Online condolences can be left www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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

Nancy L. Hicks

Nancy L. Hicks, 75, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Nov. 21, 2020.

Born May 31, 1945, 2020-19 in St. Louis Mo., she grew and completed her collegiate career with a Master of Education and then completed her Registered Nursing degree 10 years later. She became an ordained minister in 1997. She moved to Macon County in 1998. She created a home here serving citizens in Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, and Canada in spiritual counselling dealing with addictions and PTSD from child/adult abuse.

She travelled the U.S., including Hawaii to discover her "Return of the Dove" for the New Religion. She was one of the five ministers who founded "Sunday Celebration" in 1997.

Later in life, she participated in Macon County Senior Games. She served the community and surrounding communities in a quiet, personal manner, by working with pets as a medical intuitive to balance health, speaking at the Mountain Light Network, Adult Sunday Class at First Presbyterian Church and the Spiritual Light Center.

She was living in Franklin House when she completed her life journey upon this Earth.

She is survived by a granddaughter, Marigan Moon DeClive; former husband, Ted Hicks; two brothers, Don and Tom Howell in St. Louis, Mo.; and by many personal friends in Franklin.

A memorial will be announced at a later date.

Sweet journey, our friend.

Phyllis Ann Hudson Warden

Phyllis Ann Hudson Warden, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away the evening of Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020, in a local hospital.

She was born Feb. 19, 1933, in Alamo, Ind., to the late J. Roscoe and Iva Doris (McSpadden) Hudson. She is also preceded in death by her husband, Thedford Lee Warden; daughter, Sharon Staton Raikes; brothers, Jack, Mack, Gene and Paul Hudson; sisters, Madge and husband Earl Luzader, Rosemary and husband Robert Lynch and Ruhama and husband William Riggs.



Phyllis Ann Warden

She is survived by her two grandchildren, Jessica and Bryan Rikes; two great-granddaughters, Lexia and Avery Raikes; brother, Cyler and wife Mary Hudson; and many nieces and nephews.

She graduated from Alamo High School in 1951. She was employed by Indiana Bell Telephone, McClendon Drug Store in Immoklee, Fla., and Lemon Bay Drugs in Englewood, Fla. She was first married to Howard Staton and later married Thedford Lee Warden in 1966 who passed away in 2019. She was a longtime member of the Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority. She had a great love for her family, friends, dogs and the great outdoors.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Tony Drinnon officiating, and special music by Tammy Drinnon.

Serving as pallbearers were James Lynch, Jeff Hudson, Richard Luzader, Bobby Douglas, Gary Douglas, Bobby Holt and Morlan Bowman.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: DISNEY

- ACROSS
- *Bambi and others like him
 - Nail a criminal
 - Use a paring knife
 - Comucopia's shape
 - Lawyers' org.
 - Interior designer's focus
 - *Gibson Girl Ice Cream Parlor's draw
 - 1/100 of afghani
 - Tapestry
 - *Minnie Mouse's full first name
 - *"Be Our Guest" performer
 - Kukui nut necklace
 - #22 Down competitor
 - Dojo pad
 - Pillow filler
 - Detected
 - Burden of proof
 - Ness' domain
 - Vernacular
 - Poker amount
 - Divvy up
 - U.S. freshwater invader
 - Relating to nose
 - Golfer's warning
 - "The Three Musketeers" dueling sword
 - Isaac of science fiction fame
 - *"The Princess Diaries" leading actress
 - Pigpen
 - Candle bumer
 - Greek letters on campus
 - *Remy's idol Auguste

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- Homesteader's measure
- *Shere Khan's cry
- Highland tongue
- Woman in trouble?
- Actress Davis
- Package delivery service
- Reveal the true nature
- *"How Far I'll Go" performer
- *___ of Arendelle, pl.
- Hutu's opponents, 1994
- *Raksha or Rama
- Cote d'Azur locale
- Ginger cookies
- Kind of heron
- *Beardless dwarf
- Clothing line
- Honker
- It may be perfect
- Moves down
- Itinerary word
- Cap attachment
- Part of a sleeve, pl.
- Organ swelling
- Loads
- Military group
- Sarah, alt. sp.
- Not a slob
- ___ Piper
- Object of worship
- Tear, past tense
- *"A Bug's Life" characters
- *Human child in Monstropolis

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

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

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NEED SOMEONE TO CUT & Remove 3 Trees for reasonable price. Call (828)369-2693.

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

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