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Spring is set to arrive in 23 days and as usual, the daffodils on Harrison Avenue are the first to put in an appearance. Temperatures are on the rise this week which should bring out more early bloomers. Photo by Betsy Gooder

Three dead Sunday morning in unrelated incidents

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Investigators with the Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) responded to two separate calls Sunday morning involving gunshot wounds.

Both incidents had victims reported as deceased from apparent gunshot wounds. Deputies responded immediately and after securing each of the scenes they requested the assistance of detectives. The MCSO Criminal Investigations Unit responded to both areas. During the course of their investigations, many interviews were conducted. Many of those interviewed included family members of those found deceased. Following those interviews and based on evidence found at each scene, the sheriff's office was able to confirm that the two incidents are in no way connected.

According to Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, during the course of the investigation, MCSO was able to determine that the deceased male at the 64 West overlook was seen by a passing motorist sitting inside his vehicle around 8 a.m. stationary at the overlook area. At 10:11, that same motorist driving towards Clay County saw the vehicle still in the same area at the overlook. The motorist stopped to check on the occupants of the vehicle and then called 911 to report what he saw when he approached the vehicle. Detectives believe that the 24-year-old male found in the

parked vehicle died from a self-inflicted gunshot earlier that morning. One firearm was collected by detectives was found inside the vehicle and in possession of the deceased.

The second incident was reported to have occurred at a Broadleaf Lane residence. That investigation remains active and because of that information that can be released is limited, according to Sheriff Holland.

"We have become aware there is a concern in our community that there may be a connection between the two incidents but more importantly a concern that there may be a threat to public safety following three deaths of members of our community," said Sheriff Holland. "In an effort to ease concerns, we believe there is no need to be concerned about the safety of the community. As part of the investigation, we were able to verify that the male living at the Broadleaf home had communicated with family members and a family friend around 10 a.m. just prior to his death."

"Both of these investigations are ongoing but our preliminary findings are that one is a murder/suicide and the other is a suicide," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "There is nothing that leads us to believe the two cases are connected to one another but both remain very active investigations."

"Both of these incidents ended with men who for unknown

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Franklin couple's 'Snowflake baby' defies the odds



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30-Hour Famine continues in its 30th year



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Local architect leaves mark on Macon landscape

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STEM program making strides in Macon County Schools

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met for its monthly session on Tuesday, Feb. 22, to discuss several issues. STEM was at the front and center of the discussion. In a presentation given by Jennifer Love, Macon Schools STEM Coordinator, and K-12 Academically/Intellectually Gifted Coordinator, several achievements were highlighted.

STEM elective class educators serve 1,300 students in grades 5-8. Some of the areas of achievement were mentioned.

Craig Kurimay at Mountain View Intermediate School – 5th/6th teaches students about robotics in his Introduction to robotics class, through Sphero robots. He also teaches Introduction to computer science with code.org, STEM problem-solving activities/Project Based Learning, Curriculum connections through application of skills (motion/forces, astronomy, weather) and career and higher education connections.

Bryan Wilkinson another STEM elective teacher, at Macon Middle School 7th/8th teaches Development of robotics skills through EV3 robotics and Sphero, Introduction to Drones and Aviation, STEM problem-solving activities/Project Based Learning, Curriculum connections through application of skills (physical science, application of mathematics), Career and higher education connections with CTE emphasis.

STEM-E is a WNC collaborative grant that has been funded through the Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPF) for the past 7

years. CPF will not fund the program after this school year.

“We are currently seeking funding/grants to continue this program,” said Love. “STEM-E Clubs continue at 10 of our schools. These funds are for county use plus additional funds for professional development, conferences, and clubs through WRESA (Western Region Education Service Alliance) Virtual Conference for students held in the fall and another will be held this Spring 2021. STEM Technology Conference for teachers (Spring 2021), Professional Development (Breakout EDU, Literacy in STEM, STEM to your Doorstep), SMART Tank competition currently being held virtually, and Duke Science Kits will be used in April as part of the NC Science Festival at all elementary schools.”

Some of the STEM initiatives through grant funding included, PARI (Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute) which is a former NASA facility that is now an active center for research and STEM education. Year five for this grant through NASA and SCC and has been renewed for an additional five years. This past summer, PARI provided summer activity kits, for students. Grant money is also used for Smoky Mountain STEM Collaborative for Middle and High School students. Astronomy curriculum kits with three activities each were provided to support 6th grade teachers with in-person or virtual instruction. PARI will be helping with the future coding club for 5th – 8th grade and with the roll out of the NEW K-12

Computer Science Standards. A onetime Dogwood Health Trust ION Grant (Immediate Opportunities and Needs) for \$16,600 supported technology and updated robotics materials for 5th-8th grade STEM classes, purchased competition sets for Macon Bots Robotics Team (High School), and helped purchase eight grow towers for school garden programs. In addition to Dogwood funds, these donors contributed to purchase the grow towers: A private Go Fund Me donation, STEM-E Funds, Kids Garden Grant for \$500, and a Franklin Daybreak Rotary donation.

Some upcoming initiatives will include a Go Grant through NC Outdoor Heritage Council; a onetime Kids in the Creek Event spread out over 5 days; SUTEP (School University Teacher Education Partnership) Grant through WCU (Western Carolina University); a Onetime Field Science/Biodiversity Day Event at South Macon Elementary; NC Solar Schools Grant, Installation of 5KWh panel, professional development and equipment.

A summer camp program is being offered for AIG (Academically or Intellectually Gifted) students, but if the 15 spots in the camp are not filled, it will open up to all other students. The Macon Youth Corps/YCC summer positions are for students age 16-18. Applications are due March 1 and anyone with questions can contact Jennifer Love at 828-524-3314 Ext. 1015

“I would like to say that none of these initiatives could be done without our amazing teachers. There are so many other wonderful things happening in our county related to STEM from South Macon, Mrs. Dryman's STEM Geology experiments to Mrs. Painter's Climate Change podcast challenge at MEC (Macon Early College) to Mrs. Huscusson's Boy Who Harnessed the Wind project at MVI (Mountain View Intermediate),”

said Love.

School board chairman Jim Breedlove expressed his respect for Love.

“I am humbled by your commitment,” he said.

Other business

No changes were made to the school's weekly schedule during the meeting, but Dr Baldwin did note that the numbers of COVID cases are coming down. He also announced that beginning Feb. 24, teachers and staff will be eligible to get the COVID vaccine. He hopes to be able to get between 25 - 30 staff vaccinated, daily.

Emily Ritter, Public Information Office with Macon County Public Health on Wednesday revealed a plan to vaccinate teachers.

“MCPH's vaccination plan for teachers will be to use so called ‘Bonus Doses’ and the vaccines of cancelled or no-show appointments. In addition, we have ‘no shows’ from individuals that have received their vaccine from another location. Towards the end of the day, we typically have 10-20 extra doses, depending on the number of vials we open that day and the number of no shows. Obviously, we cannot guarantee the number of extra doses we will have in any given day. Starting Feb. 24, we will begin using the extra doses to vaccinate school and childcare provider staff that want to receive the vaccine,” said Ritter.

The School board approved a measure to increase substitute teacher pay for the remainder of the school year. A non-certified sub will see an increase of \$19 per day and certified subs will receive an increase of \$14 day bringing the daily salary to \$100 day for non-certified and \$120 for certified subs. This temporary increase was prompted by the shortage of substitutes needed due to the pandemic.

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INCIDENTS

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reasons committed suicide,” said Sheriff Holland. “One included a man shooting his wife and two dogs prior to taking his own life. Two firearms were seized and one was still in possession of the deceased male. We may never know exactly why this occurred but I can find no reason to release additional information that only adds more heartache to the families and friends. While we are trying to be as transparent as possible, I feel there is no benefit to publicly sharing additional details into these incidents moving forward. We will instead only share information with representatives of the immediate family or when we deem it necessary. There is no reason for anyone

to feel there is any threat to the community related to either of these cases. Due to the thorough investigation conducted by our CID Unit, many unanswered questions have been answered but we also recognize that there may be questions that will never be answered.”

This investigation will remain active until the CID Unit [Criminal Investigation Division] concludes their investigation. Autopsies are scheduled to be performed this week.

“We extend our condolences to the family and friends for their losses and all will remain in our thoughts and prayers,” said Holland.

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'Snowflake baby' survives months-long battle to finally come home

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Tanya Dula is the mother of a “snowflake baby.”

She and her husband, Randy, who were married in 2016, could not become pregnant naturally or through infertility treatments, so they decided to adopt. However, the adoption route for the Dulas proved to be the road less traveled.

“We began thinking about and exploring traditional adoption,” said Tanya, “but then a friend who had been through infertility for eight years told us about embryo adoption.”

According to a Medical News Today March report, “A person may decide to store an embryo if they hope to become pregnant in the future, to donate to others, for medical research, or for training purposes.” Embryos are stored for an indefinite amount of time through cryopreservation, which involves safely freezing them. Although the exact numbers are unknown, it is estimated that more than a half million embryos have been frozen and are stored.

“We started learning about it through sites and books,” said Tanya. “When a couple who has had infertility and done IVF [In vitro fertilization] ends up with too many embryos, they can let them die, donate them to science, or freeze them indefinitely and pay storage for that process. Or, they can allow them to be adopted. I thought, wow! Personally and for my husband, we view embryos as a life. And we learned that NEDC, the National Embryo Donation Center in Knoxville, Tenn., values the life of embryos and feel they should have the best chance at life.”

Embryos implanted into a woman’s uterus for a chance at birth are unofficially referred to as “snowflake babies” because, as Tanya explained, “they are frozen and each one is

unique, just like snowflakes.”

Because Tanya was diagnosed with unexplained fertility and physicians could not determine whether or not her body could carry a child through to birth, she had to undergo a “mock trial” procedure “to see if my body would even accept and carry an embryo.”

She passed the protocol and the next step involved an arrangement with the embryo donor.

“It’s up to parents and the donors as to what kind of contract needs to be drawn up regarding the embryo adoption,” she said. “A mediator goes between the donor and the adoptive family. We chose an open situation. It has been a blessing to know the donors. They’ve been such a support to us. They had boy and girl twins out of these embryos. Technically, those children are our daughter’s brother and sister.”

The first “transfer” of two thawed embryos to Tanya took place in January 2020. However, neither thrived. The couple tried a second time; in April, at six weeks gestation, Tanya and Randy could hear two heart beats. At 10 weeks, however, only one heart beat was heard.

When they learned they would have a girl, the couple chose the name Raylen, “because I found one of the meanings was ‘protecting hands,’ and her middle as Grace because of



Tanya Dula holds her baby, Raylen, whose unique birth journey involved adoption of her embryo, which had been frozen for at least three years.

God’s grace that she was able to live.”

Survival of their daughter became a hyper-focused endeavor when, at 16 weeks, Tanya and Randy learned there was relatively no fluid surrounding and protecting the baby. “Doctors explained basically that PPROM – preterm premature rupture of the membrane – means the water broke too early. And the baby couldn’t be born and live outside the womb that early. They told me I could go into labor at any time, and the risk to me was infection because the membrane was ruptured.”

The Dulas said that their prayer life be-

came more intense and they focused on the fact that Raylen’s “heart beat was strong through the entire pregnancy.”

Although Tanya was forced to remain bedridden through the remainder of the pregnancy, four and a half months, and took all the precautions necessary, the chances of Raylen surviving were slim. Tanya and Randy were given a stuffed bunny equipped with a recorder inside of it to record the baby’s heartbeat emitting from one of the ultrasounds. “If we lost her, we would have that recording of her heartbeat. But as I was bedridden, I would hold that bunny and hear her heartbeat and know she was there and fighting,” said Tanya.

Although some physicians encouraged the couple to terminate the pregnancy, due to possible complications during birth and possible health issues for the baby, “we told them there was no way we were going to terminate the pregnancy,” she said. “As long as her heart was beating, she was fighting and we were going to fight for her. God himself would have to stop her heart.”

Tanya entered the hospital in September for monitored bed rest. There, she developed the shingles virus and suffered migraines. All the while, the couple prayed for the baby to grow to at least 23 weeks so that her lungs would be further developed and she would have a greater chance to live. Tanya also prayed that when the baby was delivered by C-section that she would immediately hear her cry.

On Nov. 24, Raylen was born at 33 weeks. “And when she came out, she immediately cried even before any suction or anything,” said Tanya. “Everyone’s eyes got really big. The doctors and nurses were so surprised.”

Even though Raylen breathed on her own for a few minutes after birth, she began

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experiencing life-threatening medical issues and had to be put on a ventilator. At one point, Raylen was on 12 different IV pumps, the ventilator, and a special light for jaundice. For the first several hours after birth, the baby was near death, and doctors kept telling the couple they needed to say good-bye to her.

But the couple believes prayer sustained their daughter. She stabilized and began improving. "Doctors were so perplexed that she was still surviving," said Randy. "One doctor said I've not seen a baby as sick as yours in a very long time. I

can give no medical explanation for how she's survived. He pointed to the ceiling and said God is the only reason."

Raylen was in the neonatal intensive care unit at Mission Hospital in Asheville for 72 days and was able to go home to Franklin on Feb. 3.

Although Tanya and Randy said that their embryo adoption journey was personally an "emotional, difficult process," Randy admitted, "It's also been the most amazing journey I've ever been on. People who were placed in my life, the

"One doctor said, 'I've not seen a baby as sick as yours in a very long time. I can give no medical explanation for how she's survived.' He pointed to the ceiling and said, 'God is the only reason.'"

— Randy Dula, father



Raylen Dula is considered a "snowflake baby" because her embryo was frozen and because, as her mother Tanya explained, "no snowflakes are alike just as no embryos are alike."



Sleeping peacefully, Raylen holds her embryo photo and is snuggled by the stuffed bunny that contains an interior recording device on which is recorded her ultrasound heartbeat. Her mother, Tanya Dula, held onto the toy and listened to the heartbeat during four and a half months of bed rest during pregnancy with Raylen.

community in Franklin, social media acquaintances, churches, people I don't even know, words of encouragement, financial help, prayers, gifts ... it's just all been so incredible."

"Randy, who works for the Franklin Police Department full time and the Macon County Sheriff's Office part time, said his colleagues and the Highlands Police Department have been "absolutely wonderful," gifting the couple a bassinet, car seat, and multiple gift cards to purchase baby items.

Judy Evans, Tanya's mother, said that al-

though she had never heard of the process of frozen embryo adoption, she hopes that, "sharing this story may introduce other couples to the embryo adoption process and help their dreams come true. This has also made my faith stronger because we and many others have seen miracle after miracle through this tiny baby. I am so thankful and blessed to have little Raylen Grace as a granddaughter."

The Dulas' Go Fund Me, to help cover medical expenses, is <https://gofund.me/3b1f5684>.

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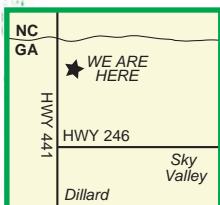
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Harris Regional and Swain Hospital grow interventional pain services

Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital are pleased to continue to expand pain services across western North Carolina by welcoming Austin Albright, MD, Priscilla Agbenyefia, MD, and Widad Alami, PA-C. Dr. Albright, Dr. Agbenyefia, and Alami join Ed Lewis, MD and Leland Berkwits, MD in providing pain services at the hospitals' three locations: Harris Pain Center in Sylva, Swain Pain Center in Bryson City, and Harris Pain Center – Franklin.

Services include diagnosis and treatment of chronic conditions, including neck and back pain, headaches and migraines, fibromyalgia, cancer pain, diabetic and joint pain, arthritis, neuropathic pain, sciatica, and complex regional pain syndrome. Treatments include interventional pain procedures such as spinal cord stimulator implantation and management.

Dr. Albright is a board-certified pain management physician and physiatrist (physical medicine and rehabilitation spe-

cialist). He received his medical degree from East Tennessee State Quillen College of Medicine and completed his physical medicine and rehabilitation residency and pain management fellowship at the University of Virginia.



Austin Albright MD



Widad Alami, PA-C



Priscilla Agbenyefia MD

Dr. Agbenyefia is a fellowship-trained pain physician and anesthesiologist. She completed her fellowship training at Oregon Health and Science University, serving as chief fellow, and residency at The Ohio

State University Wexner Medical Center where she also completed medical school. During residency, Dr. Agbenyefia served as Secretary of the Ohio Society of Anesthesiology-Resident Component.

Alami is a board-certified physician as-

sistant through the National Commission of Physician Assistants. She received a combined bachelor's and master's degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y.

"Our interventional pain service contin-

ues to grow, serving more people in western North Carolina in the communities they call home," said Steve Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "Dr. Albright and Widad Alami join an outstanding team of providers serving patients with the most advanced care."

The Harris Pain Center is located at 81 Medical Park Loop, Suite 202 in Sylva on the campus of Harris Regional Hospital adjacent to the Harris Regional Cancer Center. The Harris Pain Center – Franklin is located at 55 Holly Springs Drive at the Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin. The Swain Pain Center is located at 45 Plateau St. in Bryson City on the campus of Swain Community Hospital. To make an appointment call (828)

586-7366 (Sylva), (828) 349-5057 (Franklin), or (828) 488-4247. Visit www.myharrisregional.com or www.myswaincommunity.com for more information.

Erlanger Health System recruits 65 new providers, add to EWCH staff

Erlanger Health System recruited 65 full-time physicians and advanced practice providers (APP) in 2020.

Of these new providers,

- Thirty-four are physicians and 31 are APPs;

- Fifty-two are adult providers and 13 are pediatric providers;

- Adult providers represent 11 clinical specialties and areas of medicine – women's services, orthopaedics and sports medicine, primary care, behavioral health, critical care, neurology and neurosurgery, gastroenterology, cardiology, endocrinology, bariatrics and hospitalists;

- Pediatric providers represent eight clinical subspecialties and areas of medicine – neonatology, pediatric intensive care, general pediatrics, pediatric pulmonology, pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric cardiology, pediatric neurology and pediatric hospitalists.

"Provider recruitment was one of Erlanger's main goals in 2020," said Erlanger Health System CEO Dr. William Jackson. "Our provider and leadership recruitment team has done a superb job of identifying and onboarding exceptional physicians and APPs to serve our patients throughout the region."

One area of focus for provider recruitment included adding more primary care providers to the team at Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital (EWCH). Six providers were recruited to EWCH – Dr. Brian Mitchell, Dr. Stephen Rubendall, Dr. Stacie Gilmore, Dr. Terry Fokakis, Dr. Jillian Irwin

and physician assistant Samantha Thompson. These providers work in the communities of Murphy, Andrews and Hayesville in Western North Carolina.

Another recruitment win for Erlanger in 2020 was the addition of the region's only adult and pediatric fellowship-trained orthopaedic oncologist, Dr. Ryan Voskuil. As a former Erlanger orthopaedic surgery resident, affiliated with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga, Dr. Voskuil returned to Erlanger to create the region's first dedicated sarcoma team and bring orthopaedic oncology principles to the management of metastatic bone disease and benign conditions of the musculoskeletal system.

"Under Dr. Jackson's leadership, Erlanger Medical Group has welcomed a large number of new providers to our practices," said Erlanger Medical Group Senior Vice President Meridith O'Keefe. "The providers who joined us in 2020 are filling essential roles that will positively impact the health of our community and the greater region."

In preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic, Erlanger's recruitment plans were adapted to accommodate care for those affected by the virus. Five critical care providers were recruited to work in an intensive care setting. Nine hospitalist providers were onboarded to ensure those patients who were hospitalized received the best care possible.

For more information about Erlanger Medical Group's elite providers, visit erlanger.org/DOCS.

Three mental health conditions contribute to violent offenses, published WCU study finds

Western Carolina University researchers find a disproportionate number of inmates with violent offenses suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder and alcohol use disorder, and published their findings in the *Journal of Criminal Psychology*.

Alexa Barrett, clinical psychology master's student at WCU, and Al Kopak, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at WCU, discovered the combination of PTSD, PD and AUD significantly increased the likelihood of violent offenses while conducting research at three county detention centers in North Carolina.

Supported by a Summer Research Assistantship provided by the Graduate School, the purpose of this study was to detail the prevalence of PTSD in combination with PD and AUD to help inform practices designed to address violence in the understudied population of male jail detainees incarcerated in small local detention centers.

"Determining how these conditions interact to exacerbate the propensity for violence can help inform the development of proper prevention and intervention programs in local detention centers as detainees prepare to re-enter the community," said Barrett.

The study sample of male detainees demonstrate less than half showed symptoms consistent with PTSD and about one quarter reported having panic attacks in the past 12-month period. In addition, more than one third of the sample met criteria for

a moderate or severe AUD. These conditions were also frequently observed in conjunction with one another.

"Another important finding relates to the relatively large proportion of detainees who experienced panic attacks and the connection between this condition and violent charges," said Kopak.

The researchers note that one explanation underlying this relationship is the possibility that male detainees who experience panic attacks may become involved in aggressive violent behavior as a response to stressful life events.

"Implementing empirically based screening and assessment procedures could be accomplished with minimal investment and could also generate actionable information," Barrett stated. "Positive indications could be referred for full assessment and those results could be used to inform appropriate community-based interventions following release."

The study provides valuable insight for future research on the combinations of these conditions.

"For example, jail personnel might be interested in developing a rapid screening process where detainees booked for violent charges are automatically identified and evaluated for PTSD, PD and AUD," Kopak says.

Future work will examine the sensitivity and specificity of a proposed process that is primarily based on using violent charges as the indicator of these potentially underlying conditions.

Nantahala Health Foundation announces leadership changes

New for 2021, Nantahala Health Foundation, a recently established regional nonprofit working to enhance health and wellness in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary, has announced changes in leadership at both its board and staff levels.

As of January, David Garrett, director of the Workforce Development Board at Southwestern Commission, has stepped into the chair-

man's role on the organization's 10-person board of directors, while Lisa Leatherman, a long-time Duke Energy employee, has been elevated to vice chair.

"I appreciate the board's trust in me to take on this position," Garrett said. "I'm very fortunate to be taking the reins from (immediate past chair) Jane Kimsey, who has worked hard to build a solid organizational foundation, which has, in turn, facilitated our first transition in the chair role."

In her role as NHF's founding chair, Kimsey, a former director of the Macon County Department of Social Services who also served in a leadership role on the Angel Medical Center board of directors, was responsible for establishing the organization in Western North Carolina, from helping to design the logo to recruiting board representation throughout the region, Garrett said.

"It's definitely being noticed inside and outside this region the extent to which our organization is committed to focusing on health and wellness initiatives in all six WNC counties and on the Qualla Boundary," he said. "That notoriety is a direct result of Jane's efforts."

Born and raised in Georgia, Garrett moved



David Garrett



Lisa Leatherman



Jane Kimsey



Lisa Duff

to Jackson County in 2002 after falling in love with this region as an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker. Garrett joined the Employment Security Commission (now NCWorks) in 2009, where he worked as an employment counselor before becoming the business service representative for the Southwestern Commission in 2014. In 2018 he was named the Southwestern Workforce Development Board director, a role from which he supports workforce initiatives and projects throughout the region. He also currently serves as secretary of the North Carolina Association of Workforce Development Board.

Garrett says he believes that Nantahala Health Foundation can help Western North Carolina maximize the health potential of our community by reducing health disparities and promoting access to quality healthcare and other wellness resources.

"A healthy community translates to a healthy workforce, which, in turn, allows us to grow and prosper," he said.

Leatherman, Duke Energy's Local Government Community Relationship Manager, stepped into the board's vice chair leadership role left vacant by Garrett's ascension to chair.

A Duke employee for more than 30 years, Leatherman has held various customer-facing positions at the utility company, including lake services, hydro relicensing, hydro operations, engineering and vegetation management.

A member of the Sylva Rotary Club, she serves on boards for the Southwestern Community College Foundation, Mainspring Conservation Trust, Macon County Department of Social Services, Macon County Community Foundation, Macon County Recreation Commission, Smoky Mountain Host and Western Carolina University's College of Engineering and Technology Dean's Advisory Board.

She has also served on the board for Macon County Habitat for Humanity, Macon County CareNet, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce and WCU's Academic Community Engagement Board.

"It is an honor to serve as a founding member, and now vice chair, of Nantahala Health Foundation," she said. "The opportunity to partner with nonprofit agencies, local governments, and community leaders in the six westernmost counties in Western North Carolina to influence the health and well-being of fellow citizens is humbling and motivating."

Additional NHF board leadership roles are held by Secretary Sonya Wachacha of Cherokee, Nursing Division executive director at the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Hospital, and Treasurer Roger Plemens, a retired banker living in Franklin.

Rounding out Nantahala Health Foundation's 10-member board are Angie Knight, superintendent of Graham County Schools; Kelly Brown, Chancellor

of Western Carolina University; Debbie Mauney, Clay County manager and its health and human services director; Tom O'Brien, president and CEO of Industrial Opportunities Inc. in Andrews; and Alison Cochran, Swain County Health Department director.

On the organization's staff level, Advancement Officer Lisa Duff was promoted in January to Associate Director. A resident of Whittier, Duff joined Executive Director Lori Bailey in Nantahala Health Foundation's Franklin office a little over a year ago after serving as the marketing and membership director of a nonprofit supporting Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Prior to that work, she served as a community organizer for the American Cancer Society with responsibilities for fundraising and mission delivery throughout Western North Carolina.

For more information about Nantahala Health Foundation's mission to collaborate with nonprofit service providers and governmental agencies committed to improving social determinants of health throughout the region, please visit them at nantahalahealth-foundation.org or connect with them on Facebook and Instagram.

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News from the Legislature

From the office of
Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

I. For the week of Feb. 8, 2021, the state legislature held various committee meetings, including Education, Community Colleges and Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House. The most notable legislation to come before the House was Senate Bill 37, entitled, In-Person Learning Choice for Families. SB37 would provide parents with the option of choosing in-person or remote learning for their child.

I voted in favor of SB37, and the bill passed the House with a vote of 74-44. However, the Senate failed to concur with the changes that the House made to the bill. Therefore, a conference committee was appointed consisting of Senate and House Members in an attempt to reach a compromise.

II. As the week of Feb. 15, 2021, got under way, a flurry of House committees met. On Wednesday, after Senate and House Members reached a compromise, SB37 returned to the House floor. Both legislative chambers voted to approve the bill and send it to the Governor. We now await the Governor's decision.

House Bill 82, entitled, Summer Learning Choice for NC Families, was introduced. The bill requires local school administrative units to offer a six-week school extension learning recovery and enrichment program outside of the instructional calendar, following the 2020-21 school year. The bill provides parents with the option to send their child to the six-week summer learning program. HB82 is expected to receive a committee hearing in the near future.

III. The House Appropriations Committee met jointly with our Senate counterparts and we were provided a consensus revenue forecast. The report indicates that tax collections are expected to exceed original estimates by \$4.1 billion or 17.6%. Compared to many other states that are in dire straits financially, North Carolina is on solid ground due to years of responsible economic policies. Reforming the tax code, lowering the sales, income and corporate tax, balancing the budget, and strong savings has positioned us to come out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

Looking Forward

As the legislature's work continues, I remain optimistic that various bills I have either introduced or co-sponsored will be considered in committee and ultimately, make its way to the House floor for a vote. Here are a few of the bills I have introduced/co-sponsored:

- HB100: Highway Cleanup Act of 2021
- HB94: Graham County Occupancy Tax
- HB82: Summer Learning Choice for Families
- HB81: In-State Tuition Pilot Program
- HB31: Detected Heartbeat/Prohibit Abortion
- HB29: Verification of Immigration Status-SAVE

Letters to the Editor

Trust in our sacred institution of democratic elections

I am alarmed by the variety and sheer numbers of claims of election fraud we still see, claims that change or evolve over time to fit a multitude of narratives of mistrust this country has never seen. The fraud was allegedly plotted by thousands of election officials across nine states, by electronic voting vendors with alleged nefarious ties to failed authoritarian states, and by the 80-plus courts and judges that have adjudicated civil lawsuits filed against multiple states and counties.

The former President has won only one "fraud" lawsuit related to the results of the 2020 election, and that case did not prove any widespread voter fraud had any effect on the outcome. Judges across the political spectrum have rejected scores of other cases filed before and after Nov. 3 that sought to overturn the election.

Almost all cases were dismissed on procedural grounds, which does not mean they weren't duly considered. These cases were dismissed because the Plaintiffs:

- Were unable to demonstrate a sufficient connection to and harm from the law or action challenged. (standing).
 - Had no credible evidence (without merit).
 - Had no regard for the merit of their own arguments (frivolous).
- There are currently still 21 civil lawsuits pending across the country today. These lawsuits argue:
- Against extended state the vote-by-mail deadlines to no more than 7 days (10).
 - More than one drop box per county is illegal (5).
 - For additional, punitive, and highly restrictive vote-by-mail requirements (4).
 - Against allowing 5 days to remedy vote-by-mail signatures problems (1).
 - Against allowing vote-by-mail for first time voters (1)
 - Against action taken by the USPS just prior to elections which restricted vote-by-mail (1).
 - Against allowing voters over the age of 65 from using vote-by-mail without a "valid excuse" (1)
 - Against mail votes not notarized or countersigned by 2 adults either not living in the same household or by people who are immediate family (1).
 - Against ranked voting (1).

None of these pending lawsuits make any claim that election fraud was committed.

There are web sites where there are compilations of alleged 2020 election law violations. None of these alleged violations were presented to law enforcement. No state, county or federal law enforcement have indicted any person, organization or corporation for voter fraud. None of these alleged violations have evidence acceptable by any county, state, or federal court. None of the affidavits from witnesses to the alleged election law violations were given under oath of law, with criminal penalties for lying.

This letter will not change the minds of most readers. Events and speech leading up to and after the 2020 election have fueled an intense emotional investment many people have made in their candidate. I get it. I have felt that same fervent enthusiasm for other candidates in the past, some of whom lost. But we must all find a way to trust in our sacred institution of democratic elections, to trust in God as the authors of the Constitution did, so that our democratic republic will continue to flourish.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

We all fought for right to enjoy free speech

To our veteran Mr. David,

Sir, I've read many of your many letters and I've come to the conclusion you are not a Trump fan. I can respect that as we all enjoy free speech. We all fought for that American right. Why I am writing, is your statement about the American Legion, VFW and DAV which I am a member of all three.

By the way, I went in the U.S. Navy at 16, thanks to a kind, Brooklyn judge. Spent almost 10 years, became a corpsman, in the old days we were called something else. Served in Korea with the Marines at the very beginning.

Well sir, the bylaws of all three, forbids any of them to be involved in any political actions. They can not recommend any person running for office to their members or be involved in any political problems. I respect your opinion. They are yours as Americans. It's all our right to agree or disagree.

Wm Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

What's on your mind?

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected based on content. Letters must be signed and contact information provided. Views expressed are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of publisher, editor or staff. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Email letters to:

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

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Pay attention to what goes on in your child's school

I have often been critical of our educational system for being more enamored of trendy fashions than common sense. Except for specialized fields, a degree from a university may be a net negative for a student. The higher up the prestige ladder one goes, the more this applies. I consider a graduate of a community college to contribute more to society and have a chance at a happier life than a Harvard graduate because there is less exposure to anthropological errors such as Critical Race Theory and transgenderism. This infection is reaching down from universities into even kindergartens and elementary schools in some areas. With the Biden administration in charge we can expect this trend to accelerate. We cannot afford to be unaware of what is going on.

What I want to focus on is Critical Race Theory which is promoted in such books as "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi (born Ibram Henry Rogers) and "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. Want to know where the systemic racism is? There it is. Anti-racism is just repackaged racism; don't fall for it. Institutional racism? It comes from institutions in government, academia, corporations and media that have been corrupted by this societal poison. By their lights, Martin Luther King was a racist because he believed in a colorblind society. MLK believed in equality, integration, and racial harmony and much progress was made along those lines but is now being threatened by the neo-racists and neo-segregationists espousing Critical Race Theory.

What is so disturbing also is its origin. This anti-intellectual movement was born and developed in what is supposed to be our centers of higher learning. The task of passing on our civilizational inheritance has been abandoned in favor of denigrating our past, and rejecting our ancestors' accomplishments. What is replacing the classical liberal education is a regime in which people are judged on the basis of superficial characteristics, and a hostile work and student life environment ensues as fear, suspicion, intolerance, bullying and unforgiveness abound. It is instructive to read the resignation letter of Jodi Shaw from Smith University that goes into great detail. It is easy to find on the internet. Math is even considered racist by some as it stresses getting the right answer. It places too much stress on objectivity and it is asking too much to ask students to show their work. This is big time bigotry of low expectations. I used to think that math, science, and engineering would be immune, but even they are being compromised. What then, I ask, is even the point in education if this is where we are going? Parents, please don't assume that your children will not be taught things that will destroy or greatly hinder their chances of a flourishing life. Pay attention to what goes on in your school, even down to the kindergarten level. No age level is safe from this toxic totalitarian philosophy. Dare I say religion?

David Parker – Sylva, N.C.

Well read, sensible fact-gatherer knows better

Citing the continuing and never ending spewing of misinformation and hatred from our "frequent" contributor to this paper's Letters To The Editor I felt it was time to engage.

This "writer" tries to make it clear that he is the ABSOLUTE authority on everything from politics to human behavior to political systems, religion and even advertising.

Speaking of advertising, McDonald's old commercial touting that you get back change from a dollar for a hamburger, fry and coke meal began in 1969 and ran for a little over a year before prices went up. Thus this ad concluded well before the "writer's" credit to the Reagan administration for keeping prices lower and civil. I guess we were sup-

posed to not challenge this "fact."

Fact check: \$1 in 1969 had the same buying power as \$7.13 does today. Something this "elite, everything-I-say-you-should-note-and-heed writer" skipped over. Oops! Stuff happens!

This "writer" thinks we are just stupid sheep and wants us not to question that all things good in America were at the GOP's hand and everything bad was by the action of those darn Socialistic liberals according to him. Throw in Bible references or quotes and this "writer" is as good as gold.

Trump was in the way of those evil, never to be trusted, lizard-like, Pizzagate Dems so they got rid of him by STEALING THE ELECTION.... and doing harm to babies and small animals. LOL!

Our Franklin Fuhrer obviously doesn't like it that minorities are speaking out for inclusion and fairness in our country and wants to further oppression of them.

Taking facts and twisting them to foster your GOP thrust and know-it-all delivery in your letters may fool or impress some readers, but those of us who are well read, sensible and fact gathering know better.

It's obvious that it is very easy to win over people by being untruthful to fit your own wicked agenda and our previous national administration was evidence of that. Unfortunately many people today still follow that defunct administration and it's erroneous and distorted beliefs.

This newspaper could do it's frequent readers of the opinion page a favor by publishing a wider variety of opinions from different sources instead of the same stale worn out ones.

Robert Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

Thirty days into the government takeover

Matthew 7:15 is instructive i.e., By their acts you shall know them.

In the first 30 days of the Socialists/Communist Democrats' hostile takeover of our nation's government they have:

Stopped the construction on the US/Mexico border wall they say does not work and yet inexplicably surrounded the Capital and a lot of their residences with an expensive wall and in the case of the Capital, thousands of National Guard troops in order to keep Americans out. (What are they afraid of?)

In doing so, sent an open invitation to many millions of people to storm our borders and illegally enter our country including stripping away the requirements to not allow immigration from Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, and other terrorist training countries without thorough background checks, (EO 14013), while revoking President Trump's prior Orders.

Stepped back into the JCPOA with Iran which allows Iran to have a nuclear bomb in three more years yet continue to deny inspectors access to their nuclear sites.

Stepped back into the Paris Climate Accord which strips more of our sovereignty away and sends our billions of our tax dollars to a Globalist organization which allows China, Bangladesh, and other countries to massively pollute with impunity (EO 14008) while revoking President Trump's prior Orders.

Offered amnesty and citizenship to over 22 million criminals who broke the law when they illegally breached our borders.

Requires law abiding American citizens to pay for health care, schooling, medical and other benefits to the over 22 million criminals who broke U.S. law and entered our country illegally (EO 14012) while revoking President Trump's prior Orders.

Began a program to siphon billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayers' money into South and Central American countries' corrupt governments while revoking prior orders which strengthens our security (EO 14010) while revoking Presi-

dent Trump's prior Orders.

Pledged \$4 billion taxpayer dollars to send Covid vaccines to foreign lands, most of which hate America, instead of supplying Americans.

Failed to look back and prosecute all of the violent and criminal Antifa and BLM domestic terrorists who assaulted and killed people, burned and looted our cities throughout last year.

Embarked on an openly stated plan to make all legal gunowners in the country criminals with the stroke of a pen and begin confiscation of guns from them. Don't they understand that criminals do not care about adhering to these laws. They love them because it makes the general public less able to protect themselves and easier prey.

Re-engaged with the WHO, a corrupt organization controlled by the Chinese Communist Party which concealed China's complicity in spreading the Wuhan Virus throughout the world.

Ramped up a broad reaching concerted program to destroy 1st Amendment Rights and label any American who dissents against government tyranny a Domestic Terrorist.

Putting into place plans to drive all Americans deeper into a program of the Obamacare Socialist medical system (EO 14009) while revoking President Trump's prior Orders.

Put a heel on the throat of the 1st Amendment (EO14015) by establishing government control over religion and churches in America while revoking President Trump's prior Orders.

Ripped away any and all oversight over unions in government civil service and allowing the unions to gain further control and expand their reach in an already exorbitantly expensive bureaucracy. (EO 14003)

Stripped away any fiscal control barriers which restrict how taxpayers' money is funneled to State and local governments, many of whom are bankrupt due to Progressive/Democratic mis-management. (EO 14002)

Instituted a Revocation of President Trump's Executive Order 13768 of Jan. 25, 2017, (Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States) deliberately making our nation less safe. (EO 13993)

Instituted a Revocation of President Trump's Orders. Executive Order 13771 of Jan. 30, 2017, (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs); Executive Order 13777 of Feb. 24, 2017, (Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda); Executive Order 13875 of June 14, 2019 (Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees); Executive Order 13891 of Oct. 9, 2019, (Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents); Executive Order 13892 of Oct. 9, 2019, (Promoting the Rule of Law Through Transparency and Fairness in Civil Administrative Enforcement and Adjudication); and Executive Order 13893 of Oct. 10, 2019, (Increasing Government Accountability for Administrative Actions by Reinvigorating Administrative PAYGO thereby unleashing more bureaucratic corruption. (EO 13992).

Took steps to place crushing regulations on energy production and working to decrease oil and gas exploration and development in a large number of areas (EO 13990) which threatens our energy freedom from foreign influence and will cause higher prices.

Stripped away protections which prevent the Census count and voting rights of law abiding Americans to be diluted by adding in criminal illegal aliens. (EO 13986)

While this is just a partial list of the abhorrent and unconscionable Socialist/Communist behavior of Comrade Beijing Biden's administration, the question to all of those Fellow Travelers who voted for this anti-American cabal is "How's that working for you?"

Jeremiah 5:21 Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not.

Pete Stern USAF Retired – Franklin, N.C.

Nominations are now being accepted for SCC's Distinguished Alumni Award through March 15

Southwestern Community College is now accepting nominations for the SCC Foundation's third-annual Distinguished Alumni Award.

To be considered for the award, nominees must have graduated with either a certificate, diploma, or degree from the institution known today as Southwestern Community College and previously as Southwestern Technical College (1979-1988), Southwestern Technical Institute (1967-1979) or Jackson County Industrial Education Center, a satellite of A-B Tech (1964-67).

"We are looking for candidates who are truly exceptional in their fields," said Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation. "Our distinguished alumni recipient will receive this award at our graduation ceremony in May, and will serve as an inspiration of what new graduates can aspire to become."

Past winners include Kyle Dowling and Dustin Wilson. A 2003 graduate of SCC's Outdoor Leadership program, Wilson later earned his Ph.D. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from Clemson University. Now he holds the title of Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. Dowling was a 2013 graduate of SCC's Emergency Medical Science program before receiving his bachelor's degree at WCU. Within two years of graduating, he became a supervisor and training officer for Harris Regional Hospital's EMS Department, and now he has a list of credentials under his belt.

In addition to being recognized at graduation, this year's recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award will be recognized on SCC's website, social media, and receive an award plaque along with \$250 from the SCC Foundation.

The SCC Foundation partnered with the SCC Foundation Faculty & Staff Advisory Council to create the award.

Nominations for the award can be sub-



2020 Award recipient Dustin Wilson outside of his office building. Learn more about the Award at www.southwesterncc.edu/award.

mitted in writing by someone other than a member of the potential candidate's family.

The form for nominations can be found at <https://bit.ly/39rhVul>. Nominations will be accepted through March 15.

Upon completion, forms can be emailed to Kathy Posey, SCC's Institutional Development Associate, at k_posey@southwesterncc.edu, along with any supporting information. Forms can also be sent in by mail, addressed to: Southwestern Community College Foundation, 447 College Drive, Sylva, NC 28779.

Nomination forms will remain on file for three years for future award consideration. After three years, nominations must be re-submitted.

For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Award, contact Posey at 828.339.4227.

Annual 'Famine' event March 13

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

One in nine people in the world don't get enough to eat. Many poor farmers can't grow enough food to feed their own families, much less raise enough income for essentials like education and healthcare. That's why World Vision partners with communities to address the immediate food needs - but also to equip them to grow food for the long term. Thousands of groups are coming together to raise funds for those who are hungry around the world, many of whom have been made more vulnerable by the lasting effects of COVID-19.

Since 1992, millions of students in the U.S. and around the world unite to participate in a 30-Hour Famine. This year, First United Methodist Church (FUMC) will be participating once again, but due to the pandemic it will be an abbreviated event. Instead of beginning their fast on Friday evening and camping out at church overnight, students will be meeting at church the morning of Saturday, March 13, to offer assistance at the outreach center. Younger children will offer assistance at Care Net filling backpacks with

food. No groups will be collecting money curbside and no buffet will be served at the church after fasting for 30 hours. Instead, collection boxes have been distributed at various businesses throughout town for folks to safely drop off their non-perishables and monetary donations.

The businesses that will be aiding in the Famine include, Ace Hardware, BiLo, Crabtree General Store, Drake Enterprises main building, First Citizens Bank (food only), Fishing Tails, Fox Mercantile, Franklin Office Supply, The Franklin Press, Jones Key & Melvin and Patton, Kavod Fitness, McAllister Insurance, Macon County News, Motor Company Grill, My Favorite Things, Nantahala Physical Therapy, Noah's Ark, Outdoor 76, Radio Shack, Rockin Rollie Pollies, Select Bank (food only), Silver N Stuff/Merle Norman, TekTone, Three Eagles



Now in its 30th year, the 30-Hour Famine sponsored by First United Methodist Church, has placed donation boxes in various businesses in lieu of in-person donation collections.

Outfitters, and Wells Fargo Bank.

FUMC Assistant Pastor Vickie Lawrence urges folks to stop into any of these businesses and donate to this worthy cause or drop off donations on Saturday, March 13, at the Outreach Center, just below FUMC, from 9 a.m. to 5pm.

"Although this year will be different, it was very important to find a way to participate in the 30 Hour Famine. The youth and I love the event and love participating in service projects. This is so important because, as it says in Matthew 25:35-36: 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' We are not only helping those who are experiencing food insecurity, but we are helping Jesus."

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OCC organizers grateful for local participation

Despite a global pandemic, millions of shoebox gifts for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child were collected at more than 4,000 locations nationwide.

Creativity, determination, and faith inspired many individuals, families, churches, and groups to persevere in their efforts to pack shoeboxes amidst unprecedented challenges.

Generosity throughout Western North Carolina resulted in over 15,600 shoebox gifts collected at curbside drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Here in Macon County 4,739 shoeboxes were dropped off at our Collection Centers. Across the U.S., the project collected more than 7.8 million such gifts in 2020. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2020, the ministry is now sending more than 9.1 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

"Shoebox packers overcame the challenges of this unprecedented year to generously donate gift-filled shoeboxes for children in need," said Operation Christmas Child senior director Randy Riddle. "Now more than ever, boys and girls around the world need hope. We are excited to deliver millions of shoeboxes to children in Jesus' Name—sharing God's love and reminding them that they are not alone." Through the continued generosity



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are delivered to more than nine million children in more than 160 countries and territories.

of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 186 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories

Across Western North Carolina, shoebox packers shop for shoebox gift deals year-round, and many serve at a deeper level. Information about ways Macon County participants can get involved year-round can also be found online at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

For many local residents that chose to Build a Shoebox Online, it was a record year, a total of 415,403 online shoeboxes were built. Because of your partnership in communities across the U.S., more people than ever chose to participate in this way. What an amazing example of God's faithfulness—His work continues in every season! Although local drop-off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 15–22, 2021, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in

just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Submitted by Brenda Hackett, Media Relations Support, Operation Christmas Child, Franklin.



More than 780 shoeboxes were collected through Holly Springs Baptist Church. Across Macon County, 4,739 shoeboxes were dropped off at Collection Centers.

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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 8 - 21. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 15

Lisa Denise Crisp, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, breaking and entering. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Jeffery Michael Miller, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, breaking and entering. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

February 16

Ronald Edward Swafford, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Jason Christopher Webster, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Candace Brooke Cole, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substance, possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Michael Christopher Ferguson, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substance, possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Dwayne Vitalino, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

February 18

Dakota Mathis, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Dwayne Vitalino, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Steven Chase Stanley, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell or deliver, maintaining a place for controlled substance, obstructing justice. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Samantha Elisabeth McCoy, was charged with conspire to sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, obstructing justice. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

February 19

Dakota Charles Mathis, was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods/property. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Haley Morgan McCall, was charged with drug/narcotic violations. Emleigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Jessy Dakota Beaver, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

February 20

Byron Robert Bule, was issued warrant service for failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Lacy Anne Bryson, was charged with larceny. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Danny Fowler Jr., was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

February 21

Richard Steven Willis, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

John Clayton Debrowski, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 11

Ashton Denver Rylee Stiwinter, 20, was charged with injury to personal property. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

February 14

Dustin Cole Estevez, 32, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Officer Cabe made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 8

Samuel Lee Bair, 47, of Moss Hill Lane, Clyde, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, resisting a public officer, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Samuel Lee Bair, 47, of Moss Hill Lane, Clyde, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, resisting a public officer, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Anthony Brian Robinson, 44, of Jones Cove Rd., Clyde, was issued a true bill of indictment for sexual battery, second degree force sex offense. A secured bond of \$52,000 was set.

Kenneth David Groat, 39, of Sylva, was charged with attempted first degree kidnapping. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

February 9

Christopher Michael Bullock, 46, of Webster Estates, Webster, was charged with misdemeanor stalking. No bond was set.

Stephanie Ann Taylor, 43, of Sylva, was charged with cyberstalking. No bond was set.

February 11

Jamie Keith Buchanan, 52, of Dalton Rd., was issued a warrant for arrest for unlicensed set-up contractor, attempted to obtain property by false pretenses, exploit disable/elder trust, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond was set.

Monique Laverne Smith, 29, of Ledbetter Lane, Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for rear lamp violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set.

February 12

Garrett McKae Hoyle, 24, of Canter Lane, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond was set.

Fredrick Earl Stillwell, 21, of Duplin Court Circle, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, larceny from the person. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

February 13

Buford William Smith, 48, of Beck Branch, Whittier, was charged with defrauding a drug test. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Justin Ray Queen, 19, of Stillhouse Branch Rd., Bryson

City, was charged with injury to personal property, second degree trespass, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Keshaun Demonte Able, 22, of North Future St., Cullowhee, was charged with first degree trespassing. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Lily Marie Webster, 34, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with possession of stolen goods, misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

February 14

Charissa Ann Newman, 36, of Holly Forest Lane, Whittier, was issued an order for arrest for driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$1,200 was set.

Richard Calvin Jay Teesatuskie, 34, of Fisher Branch, Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering, misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

February 15

Kyle Warren Broom, 26, of Springwood Trail, Cullowhee, was charged with child abuse. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

William Leonard Parris, 48, of Dark Ridge Rd., was charged with second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

February 16

Tazman Richardo Byfield, 43, of Whittier was issued a warrant for arrest for domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Brandon Lee McQuillan, 27, of BB Long Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of less than 1/2 oz of marijuana, disorderly conduct. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Dennis Lewis Bumgarner, 41, of Cullowhee Mountain Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a dwelling place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 29, of Calendar Court, was charged with first degree trespass. No bond was set.

Mario Dewayne Mcgee, 47, of Lymont Dr., Charlotte, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, speeding. No bond was set.

February 17

Richard W. Merzlake, 26, of Marshall, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement, drive while license revoked, failure to heed blue light and siren, felony speed to elude, reckless driving. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Garrett Kelly Nations, 25, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was issued an order for arrest for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Lane Elizabeth Stocker, 40, of Bended Knee Dr., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Kenneth Christopher Potts, 47, of Huntington Ridge, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Billy Jack Gage, 37, of Eagle Ridge Rd., Sapphire, was charged with driving while license revoked, carrying a concealed weapon, felony possession of cocaine. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

February 18

Melinda Earlene Murphy Howell, 49, of Wright Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, maintain a vehicle/dwelling place for a controlled substance, felony possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share some their skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is your time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

Franklin Covenant Church Curbside Hot Lunch and Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 265 Belleview Rd. Warm coats and blankets will be given away as needed.

Franklin First Baptist Church Drive by for February Sunshine Treats every Saturday in February between 2 to 3:30 p.m. Remain in your car as you receive hot chocolate, homemade cookies plus a bag of fruit per car.

Macon County Republican Party 2021 Virtual Convention will be held on Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Delegates will participate by phone. The convention is open to all Macon County voters who were registered as Republicans as of Jan. 31, 2021. Pre-registration is required no later than March 5, at 5 p.m., to receive dial-in instructions. The registration form is at www.macongop.com. For more information or questions, email delegate@macongop.com, or leave message at (828)347-2877.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Community Bible Church, 3645 Cashiers Rd., Highlands. Make appointments to donate by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling (800)733-2767.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In Person Meetings with Covid 19 Preventive Measures are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin. On Line Meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org, or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

Macon County Public Health is currently vaccinating those eligible under Group 2. This group includes those who are 65 years of age or older, regardless of health status. Those who are eligible under this phase, to receive a vaccination, can call (828)349-2517 to schedule an appointment. Vaccine appointments will be at Macon County Public Health located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin, and will be conducted through a drive-thru clinic.

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.

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

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

Uptown Gallery on Main Street new hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 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.

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.

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 to volunteer.

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Grace Baptist Church meets on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Gary Moore invites everyone to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

First Alliance Church Service for Sunday, March 7, will be held in-person and on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will deliver the message, as part of the series on Genesis. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Mask wearing and social distancing are requested. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

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

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church is on Facebook at Sundays at 9:30 a.m., or watch later on recorded video while they are social distancing due to COVID19. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; 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 calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

Visit Us Online:
themaconcountynews.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

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Grandfather Mountain experienced some snowy and blustery weather this January, recording 15.1 inches of snow and a wind gust of 92.9 mph. Photo by Victoria Darlington | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

Grandfather Mountain sees cold, snowy January

2021 is off to a chilly start on Grandfather Mountain. Weather data recorded at the official National Weather Service reporting station at Grandfather Mountain's Mile High Swinging Bridge showed high winds and low wind chills in January.

The lowest temperature observed was 5.9° Fahrenheit on Jan. 29, while a wind chill of -16.3° was recorded on Jan. 28. January's highest wind gust was observed on Jan. 20, clocking in at 92.9 mph, while the highest sustained wind speed was 59.8 mph on Jan. 28.

The lowest temperature ever observed in the month of January was -32° on Jan. 21, 1985, which also holds the distinction of being the lowest recorded temperature in Grandfather Mountain's recorded history.

The warmest day in January 2021 was Jan. 2, which saw a high of 53.4° at the top, about five degrees shy of the mountain's record January high of 58.51°, recorded Jan. 25, 2017.

As observed at the park's nature museum, the mountain saw 15.1 inches of snow and 4.29 inches of precipitation in January. Precipitation is measured at this lower elevation, as high winds make it difficult to record accurate snow and precipitation observations at the top.

The snowiest January on record was in 1977, when 55.06 total inches were recorded.

Weather Reporting
 The Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation records and reports data in two different ways:

- The park maintains an automated weather station at the top of the Mile High Swinging Bridge. The N.C. State Climate Office assists the foundation in calibrating the machines and ensuring overall accuracy of data.
- Grandfather Mountain has been an active member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Cooperative Observer Program since 1955 by reporting daily

temperature, precipitation and weather events from locations near the Mile High Swinging Bridge and the Nature Museum.

For more information on weather at Grandfather Mountain, visit <http://bit.ly/gfmweather>.

The nonprofit 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.



Grandfather Mountain's resident elk — Doc, Merle and Watson — admire the snow in their environmental wildlife habitat on Grandfather Mountain.

Photo by Chloe Brady | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

Local architect leaves his mark on Macon County landscape

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Tom Ritter, a local architect, has worked behind the scenes for two decades helping to craft some of the most utilized and most visible facilities in Macon County. His impact goes far beyond his professional influence and is amplified by his desire to serve the community around him.

“I have known Tom Ritter for 20 years and he has spent a lot of his professional and free time making our community a better place to live,” said Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields. “Working with Tom over the years, assisting with the opening of new businesses, via the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting program, has been fun due to his constant humor. Most recently, he has been instrumental in advising the KIDS Place board of directors on our new building project. Tom has also been a guide on the Macon Middle School project assisting the BOE and county facilities team on designs and suggestions that could be used for enhancing the athletic sports accommodation at MMS.”

Ritter received his Bachelor of Science in 1983 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and then went on to complete his Master of Architecture in May 1985. He worked in Florida prior to moving to North Carolina where he became licensed to practice in Franklin in 2001.

“Tom Ritter and his family are exceptional people,” said Sheriff Robert Holland. “I have known and worked with Tom for many years on various projects including renovation of our Sheriff’s Office Annex building. Tom has always been willing to do whatever needs to be done. I consider him a dear friend and have always appreciated his love and support through the years.”

Ritter’s family is proud of the work he has done and is excited to know his legacy and impact will stand the test of time and help make them feel better connected to Western North Carolina.

“Of my dad, mom, older sister, and younger brother, the only one of us that can say we are from the area is our brother, so to be able to travel around the county and Western North Carolina and see the work of one of your family members on display really makes us feel like we are a part of the community even though we aren’t ‘from here,’” said Tom Ritter’s daughter, Emily Ritter. “Not originally being from this community, I believe we have



Pictured are, from left, Tom Ritter, his wife Nancy, daughter Emily, son, Christian, and in front Ashley.

all been a little surprised and humbled to see the outpouring of love and support for our family, and it makes it that much better to be able to keep seeing what impact my dad can have on the community, for as long as he can. I hope that my dad’s contributions to the community inspire others to do the same.”

Over the ensuing 20 years after moving to Macon County, Ritter not only provided architectural design for facilities residents use daily, but he often donated his time and talent to nonprofits in an advisory capacity to help with their projects and future growth.

Ritter has been a member of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce since 2001 — served as a board member and Vice President in 2004 before serving as Chamber President in 2005. He has also been a member of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary since 2001 and has served the community as an elementary school volunteer/tutor as well as a mentor for

Franklin High School students.

“Tom Ritter has been a critical piece of the architectural development of Macon County since I became a commissioner,” said Macon County Commission Chairman Jim Tate. “His calm and respectful demeanor is invaluable because it makes him extremely easy to work alongside. When I think of Tom, the first thing that comes to mind is that when doing county projects he is always cognizant of the delicate usage of taxpayer funds. He has a knack for getting the most bang for the buck while respecting the government process.”

Emily said that through her dad’s “lead by example” teachings, she has been instilled with values of respect and a greater sense of community.

“Our parents taught us early on the importance of service and community,” said Emily. “Our dad has shown us throughout his career the importance of that, not just in word but in

deed. My dad has donated countless hours of his work to projects throughout the community including REACH, Habitat for Humanity, Franklin High School, Wounded Warrior Project, etc. There is rarely a time when my dad is not working on a job for a charitable cause that he believes in, and he has instilled that value in all of us. He is someone who believes deeply in serving his community.”

Ritter’s influence can be found in county facilities such as the Parker Meadows Sports Complex, Macon County Animal Control Facility, the Robert C. Carpenter Building, various improvements and additions to Macon County Schools, the Macon County Sheriff’s Annex building and so much more.

Ritter is currently working on several projects for the county such as the Macon Middle School renovation project and just completed the South Macon Elementary expansion.

As evident as his influence in county facilities is, he is just as influential within the Town of Franklin.

“Tom Ritter is a tremendous asset to Franklin,” said Franklin Town Manager Summer Woodard. “His passion and expertise in architectural design have propelled Franklin forward. Mr. Ritter has been instrumental in the design of many Town of Franklin facilities. A few that come to mind are the Town Hall building, Public Works building, Police Department building, and Franklin Fire Departments’ future sub-station. Mr. Ritter’s contributions to our community are remarkable.”

With two decades of influence on the architecture of Western North Carolina, Emily said what she is most proud of her dad’s drive and work ethic.

“Aside from the work that my dad has done, what has been most impressive to me is simply his dedication,” said Emily. “When you get something from my dad, whether it’s his time or his work, he gives you all of it. For the people who are lucky enough to call him a friend, he will be there for you no matter what. For the number of friends my sister, brother, and I brought home over the years, he still remembers their birthdays and has them written out on his calendar so he knows to give them a call. He was in the stands for all of our soccer games, and in the seats for every dance recital and pageant. His dedication to provide exceptional work to the community and to see Macon County thrive is the most meaningful work that he still continues to do every day.”

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Additional EBT benefits provided for eligible families with children

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with NC Department of Public Instruction has announced it has begun issuing additional benefits on Feb. 19, 2021 through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. These benefits will be received over several days for those who already have an EBT card for Food and Nutrition Services or P-EBT benefits.

The P-EBT program helps families purchase food for children whose access to free and reduced-price meals at school has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides a benefit on an EBT card that can be used to buy food at authorized food and grocery retailers, including most major grocery stores.

"Having enough healthy food every day is an essential part of children's health and well-being," said NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Human Services Tara Myers. "The P-EBT program provides families essential help buying groceries for children who would normally have access to free and reduced lunch at school."

Families do not need to apply for P-EBT. Eligibility criteria are based on requirements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



A school-aged child is eligible if their school participates in the National School Lunch Program and the student is eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals during the 2020-21 school year. Also, the student's school must have been closed or has been operating with reduced attendance for at least five consecutive days during the 2020-2021 school year as a result of COVID-19. The student must also be learning in a fully remote (all virtual) and or in a hybrid (combination of virtual and in-person) learning mode during the month. An eligible student can receive one of two distinct benefit amounts depending on if they are identified as being in a remote learning mode or a hybrid learning mode.

P-EBT benefits received in February 2021 will be for the months of August to December 2020 for those students who are eligible. Those who do not have a P-EBT card and are eligible during these months should anticipate receiving their cards in February or March. The total amount of P-EBT benefits put on a card will not be received at one time; benefits will be spread out over several days to avoid overwhelming those stores that accept EBT. P-EBT benefits will be issued retroactively in a monthly issuance starting in March as long as the child is eligible.

Eligible families already receiving FNS benefits can expect to receive the P-EBT benefit on their existing EBT card. Families who already have a P-EBT card from last school year and are eligible under the new criteria can expect to receive the benefit on their original P-EBT card. Eligible families who do not have an FNS or P-EBT card will be mailed a card.

If someone has lost or destroyed their original P-EBT card, they can order a new card at www.ebtedge.com, on the EBT Edge mobile app or by contacting the North Carolina EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141. P-EBT benefits are entirely federally funded. More information about the P-EBT program can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. For the latest information on COVID-19, visit nc.gov/covid19.

Individuals with questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals should contact their children's school for more information.



Janet Eleanor Gillette

Janet Eleanor Gillette, 87, of Franklin, N.C., made her final flight on Feb. 15, 2021, as she left her family and friends to be with her Lord and Savior. Waiting to greet her were her husband, David Anthony Gillette, her brother, Dale William Brown, and her parents, Evelyn Peterson Brown and William Brown. Left behind to give thanks for her life are her son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey William Gillette and Sharon Ruth Ramsey of Franklin; her grandchildren, Jeffrey William Gillette Jr., Anna Marie Gillette Roberts, and Anna Elizabeth Bottcher; and great-grandchildren, Maximus and Juliana Roberts will miss their "gigi ma."



Janet Eleanor Gillette

Three generations of elementary and middle-school students learned history and social studies in her classroom. She taught in Michigan, Virginia and Florida schools. She spent a decade in administration at the Lynchburg Christian Academy in Virginia. She loved to teach the Bible. She wrote textbooks for Christian elementary schools. She was a beloved Sunday School teacher until Covid-19 suspended classes.

She loved to travel, especially with her family. Her knowledge of the Bible came, in part, from her travels in Israel. She wandered across the expanse of this country with her family and a camper during summer vacations. In later years, she accompanied her children and grandchildren on their adventures. In her mid-'70s she insisted on joining her family on the zip line and in the white-water rapids. When asked if her doctor approved of such activity, she curtly replied, "I didn't tell him."

She will be missed by her brothers and sisters at the Cowee Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Cowee church, the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, or a local PTO.

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

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral home will be handling the arrangements.

Reef Gareth Cochran

Reef Gareth Cochran, 19, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Feb. 17, 2021.

He was born in Titusville, Fla., to Ronald and Storme Goldbeck Cochran. He liked fishing, shrimping, and swimming. He was a collector of Pokémon and Magic cards. He enjoyed playing computer games, his favorite being Wizards 101. He was skilled at beadwork and loved spending time with his grandmother.

He is survived by parents, Ronald and Storme Cochran; brother, Zachary Kielbasa, all of Franklin; grandparents, Alan and Trina Christiansen of Crossville, Tenn.; aunt, Serene Russ of Clinton, Wisc.; and several cousins.

Services will be held Sunday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.

Rev. Joel Creasman will officiate.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Memorials can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.



Reef Gareth Cochran

Sidney Brooks Neville

Sidney Brooks Neville, 85, of Rabun Gap, Ga., passed away Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021. Born in Rabun County, he was the son of the late Walter E. and Kate H. Neville. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Martha C. Neville.

He was a retired educator having worked with the Lowndes County and State of Georgia Board of Education. He was a great listener and always provided thoughtful advice.

He was a caring husband and father of four children. He was affectionately known as "Pa" by all of his grandchildren. He loved reading, listening to the radio, going to church, watching Georgia football games with Martha, hosting family at his home, spending money on his trucks, feeding the birds, and pampering his dogs. He loved his dogs! He was kind and giving to so many people. He taught his children to be generous, honest, hard-working, and stubborn.

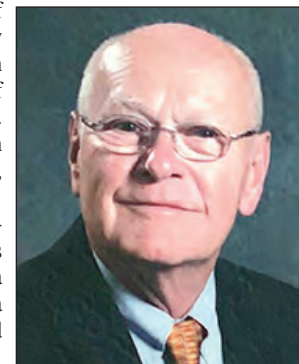
He is survived by three sons, Warren Neville and wife Mary of Prospect, Ky., David Neville and wife Patty of Canton, Ga. and Michael Neville and wife Anita of Waxhaw, N.C.; one daughter, Amy Hood and husband John of Rabun Gap, Ga.; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Rabun Paws 4 Life Inc, PO Box 216, Clayton, GA 30525 or Dillard United Methodist Church, PO Box 463, Dillard, GA 30537.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.



Sidney Brooks Neville

Tamela Cater Jones

Tamela Cater Jones, 59, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.

Born in Seneca, S.C., she was the daughter of Rebecca Adderine Morgan Cater and the late Davis Franklin Cater. In addition to her dad, she was preceded in death by a brother, Kip Cater.

She worked as a hydro operator for many years at the Oconee Nuclear Facility. Her hobbies include needle point, crocheting, hiking, stained glass, shopping, reading, and singing. She loved the beach and looked forward to taking her annual trip there with her family. Another thing she really enjoyed was being a "gourmet cook" and trying new recipes with family and friends; her favorite being Maine Lobster. In addition to lobster, she enjoyed all seafood. She loved spending time with family, friends and her cats. She had a love of music, especially beach music. She was a member of Burningtown Baptist Church.

In addition to her mother, Rebecca Adderine Morgan Cater of Seneca, S.C., she is survived by her husband and best friend of 20 years, Donald Edward Jones; three sisters, Monica Caime of Fountain Inn, S.C., Tanya Denny of Clemson, S.C., and Azenda Thompson of Seneca; and a brother, Steven Cater of Six Mile, S.C.; sisters-in-law, Pam Adams of Haddon Heights, Barbara Williamson of Medford N.J., Alison Jones of Woolwich Me.; four nieces, four nephews and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral service was held Friday, Feb. 19, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Charles Stevens officiated. Burial was in the Finchers Chapel UMC Cemetery in Haywood County.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Care Net, 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Tamela Cater Jones



Deaths & Funerals

Treva Sellers Boortz

Treva Sellers Boortz, 86, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021.

Born in Greensboro, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Isaac and Thelma Roberts Sellers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Libby Jo Aten.

She graduated from Wildwood High School, Wildwood, Fla., in 1953, where she was a cheerleader and worked in the local drug store. She met the love of her life, Earl, during high school and they married on June 29, 1957. He was in the Air Force at the time, stationed at Moody AFB, Valdosta, Ga. They later moved to Tallahassee, Fla., where they began careers and raised a family. She worked for and retired from the State of Florida, Department of Education.

During the spring of 2012, the couple made a permanent move to Franklin. She was an avid, talented quilter and enjoyed being a member of the Smoky Mountain Quilter's Guild and the new friendships it brought her. She was also very involved in the Mill Creek community where she made many treasured friends. She was an active member of Holly Springs Baptist Church. She loved her church and congregation dearly.

To know her was to love her. She was kind and loving and had the biggest heart. She was an amazing mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a loving partner and best friend to Earl being married for 63 years after first meeting in the 7th grade. She will be greatly missed by her family and will leave a legacy of love that will last forever.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her husband of 63 years, Earl Joseph Boortz of Franklin; two sons, Douglas Earl Boortz (Becki Boortz) of Panama City, Fla., and Craig Joseph Boortz (Cathy Boortz) of Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; five grandchildren, Justin Boortz (Diana Boortz) of Indianapolis, Ind., Nikki Hedman (Andrew Hedman) of Nashville, Tenn., Hunter Boortz of Tallahassee, Fla., Thad Boortz of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Courtney Boortz of Kansas City, Mo.; and three great grandchildren, Ezra, Ruby, and James of Nashville, Tenn.; and great grandson, Boortz due March 2021 in Indianapolis, Ind.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Holly Springs Baptist Church, Just One Thing, 336 Holly Springs Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Treva Sellers Boortz

William Blye Fraser Jr.

William Blye Fraser Jr., 66, better known as Billy, passed away on Friday Feb. 19, 2021, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1954, and spent his childhood in Lynn, Mass. He later moved to the Atlanta, Ga., area eventually settling in McDonough, Ga., where he lived most of his life. He moved to Franklin, N.C., in 2012 where he later retired and enjoyed his time working and gardening at his home, hiking and motorcycling in the Western North Carolina mountains. He was a protector and a provider until his last courageous breath.

He had an appetite for life and adventure like no other. He enjoyed skiing in Tahoe with the lifelong friendships he so diligently fostered. He was a talented carpenter who taught his two sons everything he knew. While his oldest son was living in Colorado, he, along with his youngest, drove across the country to help him build his first tiny house and have some fun in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. He truly embodied the phrase "work hard, play hard." His family and friends were everything to him. Perhaps the most notable aspect about the way he lived his life was the way he loved. He loved life and the people in his life. He lit up every room with his smile and the quiet compassion he radiated. His infectious laugh attracted people to him and brought joy to everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his four children, Christy Cifreo and her husband Matt, William Fraser III and Emma Boddery, Hannah Fraser, and Brich Fraser; his two grandchildren, Brayden Cifreo and Ronah Fraser; his father, William Fraser Sr.; his siblings, Kathy Cirincione and husband Mark, Joann Rainwater and husband Phil, and Warren Fraser; his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Norma Harrie Fraser.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, at 1 p.m. at Pinecrest Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga. The family will receive friends beginning at 12 p.m.

Robert Louis McCray

Robert Louis McCray, 44, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Feb. 16, 2021.

He was born in Orlando, Fla., to Mary Buckridge Palguta and the late David McCray. He enjoyed working with wood and was considered a very talented carpenter.

He is survived by parents, Mary Palguta (David) of Florida; children, Brianna Taylor McCray of Merritt Island Fla., Robert 'Neil' McCray of Melbourne, Fla., and Robin McCray of Orlando; brothers, David McCray II of Orlando and David Palguta Jr. of Daytona Beach, Fla.; sisters, Catherine 'Nichole' McCray of Franklin and Angel Marie Palguta of Orlando; grandchild, Vance; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Robert Louis McCray

Martin Clinton Poole Jr.

Martin Clinton Poole Jr., 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.

Born in Albuquerque, N.M., and was raised in Columbia, S.C., until he made Franklin his home 41 years ago. He was the son of the late Martin Clinton Poole Sr. and Rachel Cooper Poole. He taught carpentry for 21 years at LBJ Job Corps, before going to work as a Business Representative for Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council in Atlanta, Ga. He was a member of the Masonic Broad River Lodge #377 and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda Browder Poole; daughter, Beth P. Miller (Shawn Keener) of Franklin; two sons, Martin C. Poole III (Holly) of Greenville, S.C., and Alan Poole of Franklin, NC; two sisters, Rachel P. Rosbach (Phil) of Aiken, S.C., and Jane Wiles (Anthony) of Salley, S.C.; three grandchildren, Johnathan (Cassie) Poole, Jordan Poole, and Melinda Miller; along with several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 20, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Mark Brown officiated with special remembrances being brought by other family members. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Martin Poole III, Alan Poole, Johnathan Poole, Jordan Poole, Philip Poole, and Shawn Keener.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Martin Clinton Poole Jr.

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Christopher Bell gets first NASCAR Cup win at DAYTONA Road Course

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – For the second consecutive week, Daytona International Speedway crowned a first time NASCAR Cup Series race winner. Joe Gibbs Racing driver, Christopher Bell, earned the honor Sunday on the track's road course, taking the lead from Joey Logano with two laps to go and pulling away to a comfortable 2.119-second victory over the former series champion.

Bell, 26, is the 2017 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series champion and this is his second season at the premier level – his first driving for the championship Gibbs organization. His work Sunday, however, was more reminiscent of a veteran. There were eight caution flags, eight race leaders and a whole lot of action in the waning laps to contend with.

He pulled around Logano in the chicane just yards before the white flag and easily stretched the lead to earn his first career NASCAR Cup Series trophy. Bell's Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin finished third, followed by Kurt Busch and Brad Keselowski.

Kevin Harvick, A.J. Allmendinger, last week's Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell – also a first-time winner - Ryan Preece and Alex Bowman rounded out the top 10. This is just third season in NASCAR Cup Series history to start the season with two first-time winners; joining 1949 and 1950.

"This is definitely one of the highlights of my life so far," a smiling Bell said after climbing off the roof of his No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, where he flashed the No. 1 sign to the grandstands.

"Just so incredibly thankful to be here with Joe Gibbs Racing and all our partners. This feels like I prepared my whole life for this moment to race in the Cup Series. Last year was a huge learning curve for me and I'm very grateful I got the opportunity to run in Cup and it definitely prepared me to move to Joe Gibbs Racing."

Bell's pass for the win capped an exciting and suspenseful final dozen laps. Defending race winner and reigning series champion Chase Elliott led a race best 45 laps but was caught up in heavy traffic after his final pit stop with 15 laps remaining. He won Stage 1 and was running fifth – rallying back to the front with six laps to go when he spun out in the infield – a victim of a chain reaction collision in the fender-to-fender racing at the time. He ultimately came home 21st – snapping a five-race road racing victory streak.

"Man, we had those late race cautions like that and a mixed bag of who stays and who goes," said Elliott, driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

"It's a bit of a gamble either way I felt like. I think [pitting for] tires was the right move. Tires won the race. So it was the right move. You get back in traffic and gets to be so chaotic.

"Who gets through and who doesn't just kinda determines how it's going to shake out."

For much of the 70-lap race Elliott paced the field, making up ground when needed and often putting on a road course tutorial. Hamlin stayed close and kept him honest, ultimately coming home third. Logano ran among the top five



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Rheem Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series O'Reilly Auto Parts 253 at Daytona International Speedway on February 21, 2021 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)



With his maiden win, Bell is now ranked fourth in the NASCAR Cup Series standings. Hamlin, who won Stage 2, leads the championship by 12-points over Logano heading to the Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway next Sunday (3:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

"I just kept doing what I was doing all day long," Bell said of the career milestone.

"Whenever we took the green flag, I felt like I was really patient. Kyle (Busch) tried to go three-wide around me at the start. I knew that I was okay. Adam (Stevens, crew chief) kept asking what I needed in the car and I didn't really need anything. Just took my time to get going, get up to speed and really proud to be here."

Ty Gibbs gets first win in Xfinity debut at the Daytona Road Course

Ty Gibbs turned in a historic NASCAR Xfinity Series debut Saturday night, the 18-year-old won in his first series start – holding off reigning champion Austin Cindric on the Daytona International Speedway Road Course.

Gibbs took the lead on a restart in double overtime and held off the field by a comfortable 1.726-seconds at the finish line, dropping to his knees to reflect after climbing out of his No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota – a car owned by his grandfather, NASCAR Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs.

With his win in the Super Start Batteries 188 at Daytona Presented by O'Reilly, Gibbs becomes only the sixth driver to win in his first series start – matching a feat achieved by NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt in 1982 and most recently, Kurt Busch, 15 years ago.

Gibbs becomes the youngest driver to win an NASCAR Xfinity Series road course event. At 18 years, four months, 16 days, he breaks the record held – ironically – by Cindric (20 years old).

By all measures, it was an emotional victory following an intense, exciting race on the 14-turn, 3.61-mile road course. Cindric led the most laps 29 of the 56 – but could not catch Gibbs in the end.

"I just cannot thank everybody right now, really this is like a dream come true for me, it's just awesome," said an emotional Gibbs, who turned his first ever laps in the car and made his first career pit stop Saturday evening.

"I really didn't think I had it there," he said of the intense racing at the end. "I fought back and we won."

Gibbs teammates Daniel Hemric and Brandon Jones finished third and fourth, followed by Jeb Burton and another of the JGR family, Harrison Burton. Miguel Paludo, Brandon Brown, Justin Haley, and Jeremy Clements rounded out the top 10.

A victory for Cindric would have been his second in as many races in 2021 and he turned in an inspired drive back to the front to contend for the win. He and A.J. Allmendinger – another road course racing star – collided while running first and second heading to the Stage 1 checkered flag. Allmendinger's car was badly damaged and he ran laps down the remainder of the race.

Cindric's No. 22 Team Penske Ford was damaged as well,

but the team made repairs and Cindric went to work. He returned to the race after multiple pit stops in 33rd place, but still on the lead lap. His road racing skills and the team's strategy calls ultimately put him in position to contend for the win.

"Obviously I don't want to be racing to a stage that aggressively, I'd love to see a replay and hopefully we can avoid something like that because obviously A.J. and I were going to be fighting for a win later," Cindric said.

"I hated having that much damage to our PPG Ford Mustang that early. Just seemed like he was trying to block there, don't know if he knew I was there or not. Sucks it's over with and we salvaged a good finish. Congratulations to Ty."

Gibbs grandfather, who owns the team, climbed down from the pit box and stood behind it to watch the final mo-



Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, celebrates with a burnout after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Super Start Batteries 188 At Daytona Presented by O'Reilly at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 20, 2021 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

ments of the race. Clearly Ty Gibbs win was an emotional achievement for the entire family.

During a late race pit stop, the teenager Ty was asking his team for peanut butter crackers. An hour later, he was hoisting the biggest trophy of his young career.

"I don't even know how to feel," Gibbs said. "This is really hard for me to explain. After my uncle [JGR President JD Gibbs] passed away, it's been hard for me. It's just a dream come true. I'm just rambling. I'm excited. Mixed emotions for sure. This is just awesome."

Of his tight-knit family, Gibbs again wiped tears.

"The family is everything to me, they do so much for me," Gibbs said. "I just can't thank them enough, this is just amazing; this is a dream come true. It's all the man above, I'm sorry I'm a wreck I didn't think this was going to happen at all. This is awesome, I can't thank everybody enough watching and last week I had a terrible interview. I want to apologize for everybody, I just can't thank everybody enough. This is just amazing."

Following the second race of the season, Team Penske's Austin Cindric holds the points lead by 24 markers over Joe Gibbs Racing's Harrison Burton in second.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series races next Saturday at Homestead-Miami Speedway in the Contender Boats 250 (4:30 p.m. ET on FS1 MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



Ty Gibbs, 18, is the youngest driver to win a NASCAR Xfinity Series road course event, breaking the record held by Austin Cindric, who is 20 years old. He is also only the sixth driver to win in his first series start. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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ACROSS

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- Westminster broadcaster
- Lamb's momma
- Depression drifter
- Alternative to truth
- Like a Druid, e.g.
- Verify
- Flair
- Avoid paying taxes
- *Same as power in math
- Surrender territory
- Mini, midi or maxi
- Longnosed fish
- *Round #23 Down
- Adverb derived from zone
- Miner's bounty
- Curved like a foot
- Mother Earth to Ancient Greeks
- Truck amounts
- "_____ the land of the free..."
- Hitler's Third
- Capri, e.g.
- Walked
- Grande, e.g.
- Remove scales
- Accustomed, two words
- Like arctic air
- More capable
- Tibetan priest
- *Part of a whole number
- Grinding tooth
- Stare amorously
- Hoofbeat sound
- Garlic mayo
- Kick out
- Gossamer
- *Pi's second digit

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 - One who denies
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 - Not poetry
 - Mends
 - *Whole number between -1 and 1
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 - Set to zero
 - Cunning
 - Pleasing to the ear
 - Ticks and mites, taxonomically speaking
 - Short for Fredericas
 - Lock horns
 - Popular craft wood
 - Under a fig leaf?
 - Gel producing plant
 - *0.3048 meters
 - Pasta with _____ and alio
 - "Cheers" regular
 - Cultural Revolution leader
 - Money in Myanmar

SALE OR RENT \$800/ or buy \$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, bonus room. New windows, etc. 3 BR/2.5BA with 2 Fireplaces and 3 BEDROOM PLUS ROOM decks. Fully furnished, many appliances, fully equipped. Need room? This home has plenty! \$259,900. On the web DOUBLEWIDE 4BR/3.5BA, 3000sf. MUST SELL 3BR/2BA/2000sqft. factured Home, HO \$129,900. For more please contact. Ow

The Classifieds

Help Wanted

MELTON'S ROOFING Looking for Experienced Roofers and Subcontractors. Excellent Pay. Cell# (828)421-6712.

REAL ESTATE PARALEGAL Applicants should have two years of experience assisting attorney with closing real estate transactions. Proficiency with SoftPro software a must. We believe in excellent client service, and our ideal candidate should have a positive attitude, pay attention to detail, and have strong organizational and time management skills. Excellent telephone, writing skills and computer literacy are required. We offer paid health insurance, 401-k, paid time off and annual bonus. Paid bi-monthly; competitive salary to be determined based on experience. Send resume and cover letter to info@gillet-telawnc.com.

SEEKING PERSON FOR Lawn Maintenance crew. Drivers license and transportation to work required. Ability to follow directions, able to use weed eaters, etc. Pay discussed at interview. Applications available at 29 Lickskilllet Road, Franklin.

LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED Finish Carpenters also Window and Door Installers. Must Have Transportation. Call Jim (828)371-7792.

THE SUMMER HOUSE by Reeves furniture store in Highlands is looking for full and part time sales and administrative positions. Sales—must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and customer service experience preferred. Design Assistant—must be attentive to detail, have computer and organizational skills. Duties include placing and following up on Purchase Orders, managing accounts, and working closely with our in-house Designer and design clients. Apply in person at 2089 Dillard Road, Highlands, NC 28741

PART-TIME SOCIAL MEDIA Expert, Skills-Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, ebay, Craigslist, networking. Sarah at Diva's (770)757-7500.

HAMPTON INN FRANKLIN Front Desk Person Fri thru Sunday 8am-4pm \$9.45 Personable & Reliable, Housekeepers full and part-time \$9.25. Applications at front desk. 244 Cunningham Rd., No phone calls.

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

THE SUMMER HOUSE by Reeves furniture store in Highlands is looking for dependable personnel for warehouse & delivery. Positions available in multiple locations. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands.

HIGHLANDS COVE is Looking for a Part-time/Full-time Security Guard/Gate Attendant. Third Shift. Call (828)526-9026 to schedule on appointment.

SEEKING HARDSCAPE/LANDSCAPE Crew leader. 2+ years experience with pavers, retaining walls, etc. Must have drivers license and transportation. Pay discussed at interview. Applications available at 29 Lickskilllet Road, Franklin.

Real Estate

FOR SALE BY OWNER 4 Lots in Gated Community. Long Range Views, Good Roads, 6 Miles From Town. (828)421-4582.

FIXER UPPER BY OWNER 3BD/2BA doublewide manufactured home on .61-acre lot. Owner Financing. Great potential for handy homeowner. Drive by at 1337 Hidden Hills Road, Franklin then call or text your email address for details. \$55,000. (828)346-1200.

Commercial Rentals

OFFICE SPACE High Speed Internet, Convenient In-town Location. Ample Parking, Waiting Area/Bathroom. \$275/monthly. Plus Utilities. Call (828)421-7013.

Community Fundraisers

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

4-H PLANT SALE Macon County 4-H. Orders will be taken through Thursday, March 12. Apple Trees, Cherry Trees, Pear Trees, Plum Trees, Blackberry, Blueberry, Raspberry, Elderberry and Strawberry plants (828)349-2046.

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.

Motor Vehicles

WANTED 1960s-'70s Land Rovers - Whole or Parts - Especially interested in vehicles sold from Harrell's Motor Sales in Waynesville. Wanted to restore to keep local. (828)506-5733.

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

Services

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

MOUNTAIN AREA PROPERTY Services, Cleaning Packing Organizing & Other Household Services. Great References. (828)550-4585.

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

DAVID CHEEK'S WELL PUMPS Sales Service & Installation of Pumps and Iron Removal Systems. For All Your Water Needs. (828)369-5176.

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

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

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

Misc. For Sale

MILITARY SURPLUS W/C Pants/Shirts, Jackets. Military Boots On Sale. Cold Weather Clothing, Field Gear, Sleep Bags, Packs, Bags. (828)349-3140.

FARMERS MARKET Winter Season 10-12, every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Winter Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Large Assortment of Cookies. 200 Block East Palmer.

Notices

NOTICE OF ASSERTION of Lien Snappy Storage 190 Depot St, Franklin NC 28734 has possessory lien on all of the goods stored in the units listed below. All of these items of personal property are being disposed of pursuant to the assertion of lien for non-payment of rent at the self storage facility as provided by Article 4, Chapter 44A-43 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Austin Connally A-2

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

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

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

HANDYMAN HOME REPAIRS Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Decks, Drywall, Painting, Electrical/Plumbing, Repairs of any kind. 40 Years, Fast/Reasonable/Reliable. (828)332-7247.

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

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

Garage & Yard Sales

HUGE MOVING SALE! Everything must go! Too many items to list. No early birds. 1162 Ray Cove Rd., Thursday, 2/25, 8am.

INDOOR YARD SALE Feb. 26, 27, 9:30am-2pm, 1060 Lake Emory Rd., Ladies Clothes, Kitchen, Bedding, Some Antiques, Furniture, Odds & Ends.

Animals

FREE ROOSTERS to good homes. Various colors & breeds. Polish, Cochin, Millie Fleur & mixes. Please call (828)200-5101.

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

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3 Months - \$11.00
(includes tax)

The Macon County
NEWS
& Shopping Guide

26 W. Main Street
Franklin, NC 28734
maconcountynews@gmail.com

ADD ANOTHER CHEVY TO YOUR DRIVEWAY.



2021 TRAX



FOR CURRENT CHEVY OWNERS WITH AN ELIGIBLE GM CREDIT CARD

\$2,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,000 GM CARD BONUS EARNINGS

\$3,000 TOTAL ALLOWANCE¹

2021 EQUINOX



FOR CURRENT CHEVY OWNERS WITH AN ELIGIBLE GM CREDIT CARD

\$4,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,000 GM CARD BONUS EARNINGS

\$5,000 TOTAL ALLOWANCE

ON MOST MODELS¹

2021 BLAZER



FOR CURRENT CHEVY OWNERS WITH AN ELIGIBLE GM CREDIT CARD

\$2,750 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,000 GM CARD BONUS EARNINGS

\$3,750 TOTAL ALLOWANCE

ON MOST MODELS¹

2021 TRAVERSE



FOR CURRENT CHEVY OWNERS WITH AN ELIGIBLE GM CREDIT CARD

\$2,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,000 GM CARD BONUS EARNINGS

\$3,000 TOTAL ALLOWANCE

ON MOST MODELS¹

2021 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB



FOR ELIGIBLE GM CARDMEMBERS

\$4,250 CASH ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,000 GM CARD BONUS EARNINGS

\$5,250 TOTAL ALLOWANCE²

ELIGIBLE GM CARDMEMBERS CAN USE BONUS EARNINGS ON TOP OF MOST OTHER OFFERS.



1 Excludes L models. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 3/1/21. 2 Excludes L models. Must be a current owner of a 2007 model year or newer non-GM vehicle for at least 30 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Residential restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 3/1/21. 3 Must be a GM Rewards Cardmember as of 1/4/21 to receive Bonus Earnings. Bonus Earnings can be used on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2021 or 2020 GM vehicle and can be used above applicable GM Rewards Card program limits. Bonus Earnings may not be used on the 2021 Chevrolet Corvette. Bonus Earnings expire 3/1/21. Cannot be combined with certain other GM offers. Nontransferable. Only one Bonus Earnings offer per Account. ©2021 General Motors. All rights reserved.



FIND NEW ROADSSM

YOUR
HOMETOWN DEALER

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2017	Buick	Encore	43,236
1997	Chevrolet	Camaro	16,606
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	29,783
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	22,488
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado	13,389
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	3,987
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	6,928
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	62,058
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	14,078
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	26,234
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	21,036
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	48,398
2016	Chevrolet	Equinox	107,191
2018	Chevrolet	Impala	8,465
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	41,816
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,584
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,705
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,141
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	6,147
2013	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	201,568
2016	Chevrolet	Suburban	112,779
2017	Chevrolet	Tahoe	74,241
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	121,174
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	91,874
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	17,683
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	37,692
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,449
2016	Dodge	Grand Caravan	102,307
2019	Dodge	Journey	16,576
2019	Ford	Edge	45,478
2012	Ford	Edge	136,822
2018	Ford	Explorer	49,476
2013	Ford	Explorer	135,416
2012	Ford	Explorer	104,587
2018	Ford	F-150	27,491
2018	Ford	F-150	25,711
2017	Ford	F-150	45,495
2013	Ford	F-150	109,025
2014	Ford	F-150	133,960
2016	Ford	F-250	190,904
2011	GMC	Sierra 1500	208,162
2014	GMC	Terrain	82,762
2020	GMC	Yukon	40,952
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2020	GMC	Yukon XL	25,411
2002	Honda	Accord	217,842
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36,506
2019	Jaguar	XE	22,558
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	9,020
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	38,039
2004	Jeep	Liberty	130,097
2016	Jeep	Renegade	85,600
2019	Jeep	Wrangler	6,867
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK	47,132
2017	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2018	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited	52,471
2019	KAUFMAN	TRAILER	
2016	Kia	Sorento	73,270
2019	Kia	Sorento	21,976
2016	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport	55,302
2016	Lexus	GX 460	81,717
2017	Lexus	GX 460	39,179
2015	Mercedes-Benz	GLA 45 AMG	36,859
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	49,318
2020	Nissan	Altima	38,911
2019	Nissan	Frontier	39,039
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,871
2019	POLARIS	SLINGSHOT SL	
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	163,739
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2020	RAM	1500 Classic	18,621
2016	Ram	3500	86,402
2019	Toyota	Corolla	27,529
2018	Toyota	Tacoma	35,770
2018	Volkswagen	Tiguan	19,002