



Franklin Fire & Rescue, town officials and others gathered on Wednesday morning to break ground for a new fire substation in NP&L Loop just off Sylva Road. The Town of Franklin purchased the property in August 2019 and hired Ritter Architecture to assist with site drawings, plans and formal bid proposals. The contract was awarded to Western Builders for \$399,019 to construct the substation. Construction is set to begin this spring. Pictured (L-R) are Bob Scott, Jack Horton, Joe Collins, Michael Lewis, Dinah Mashburn, Summer Woodard, Tom Ritter, Asst. Chief Ryan Hursey, Max Houston, Captain Justin Setser, Chief Ben Ormond and Chuck Norton.  
 Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Board hires Sylva lawyer as county attorney

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Macon County leaders began the search for a new county attorney last October after Chester Jones announced his retirement after serving the county for more than a decade.

After more than four months utilizing the services of interim county attorney Kim Carpenter, the Macon County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted Tuesday night to appoint Eric Ridenour of Ridenour & Goss in Sylva as the new county attorney. The approved contract states that Ridenour's salary will not exceed \$120,000 a year and allows Macon County Attorney Derek Roland to execute the contract.

The vote to hire Ridenour came after a lengthy closed session meeting during the March meeting of the board of commissioners, which resulted in the unanimous vote.

"I am honored and excited to be joining Macon County as their next county attorney," Ridenour said Wednesday morning. "I have been so impressed with the professionalism and dedication of county staff, the commissioners, and County



**Eric Ridenour**

Manager Derek Roland."

Ridenour began his career by joining the firm of Haire & Bridgers in 1995 upon graduating law school at Washburn University. He made partner in 1998 and while the firm has changed names and faces Ridenour, had been the firm's mainstay. In private practice, Ridenour focuses his practice on civil litigation, real estate, and local government law.

Ridenour has handled thousands of cases, both civil and criminal, in Western North Carolina. His current matters include: right-of-way disputes, condemnation/eminent domain proceedings, breach of contract lawsuits, and employer defense of a wrongful termination lawsuit.

Ridenour also represents local contractors in construction disputes, property owners' associations, and many small business owners. Additionally, while the firm does not generally handle appellate matters, Ridenour has successfully argued a number of cases before the North Carolina Court of

See COUNTY ATTORNEY page 3

### IN THIS ISSUE



Page 2

### GO grant means outdoor classroom for SME

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# Outdoor classroom planned at South Macon courtesy of GO grant

The North Carolina Schools Go Outside (GO) Grant was created to address the main barrier to getting kids outside during the school day – funding. Field trips and outdoor experiences offer students opportunities to explore and learn in hands-on environments. With limited dollars available from local school systems, such engaging and active styles of learning are becoming things of the past.

South Macon Elementary kindergarten teacher Kim Sanders found out last week that after two attempts to receive the grant, the state approved her outdoor classroom project totaling more than \$12,000.

“I am so excited that we will be able to show the students who first came to me with the idea when they were just in kindergarten,” said Sanders. “We had hoped to have it completed before they graduated from South Macon and now with this grant, we will be able to do that.”

A few years ago, Sanders was questioned by her kindergarten class as to why an outdoor trail wasn’t as easy to access as it should be. Inspired by their thoughtfulness, Sanders took the question and turned it into a lesson for the students. The kindergarten class researched, developed several hypotheses, and created — and debated — solutions for the problem. Now, as those same students are in the middle of their third-grade year at South Macon Elementary School, Sanders was able to take the students back to where it all began to show them what their hard work — and their brainwork — accomplished.



Pictured at the beginning of the walking trail in no particular order are South Macon Principal Allison Guynn, STEM coordinator Jennifer Love, N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie, kindergarten teacher Kim Sanders, teacher assistant Kim Ledford and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin.

North Carolina House of Representative member Karl Gillespie presented Sanders with a grant award to fully renovate an outdoor classroom space last Friday.

“I am honored to present South Macon Elementary School with the North Carolina School GO outside Grant,” said Rep. Gillespie. “This is definitely one of the highlights of the job. I am glad to see state dollars com-

ing back to our district and am excited for the students to see this project come full circle.”

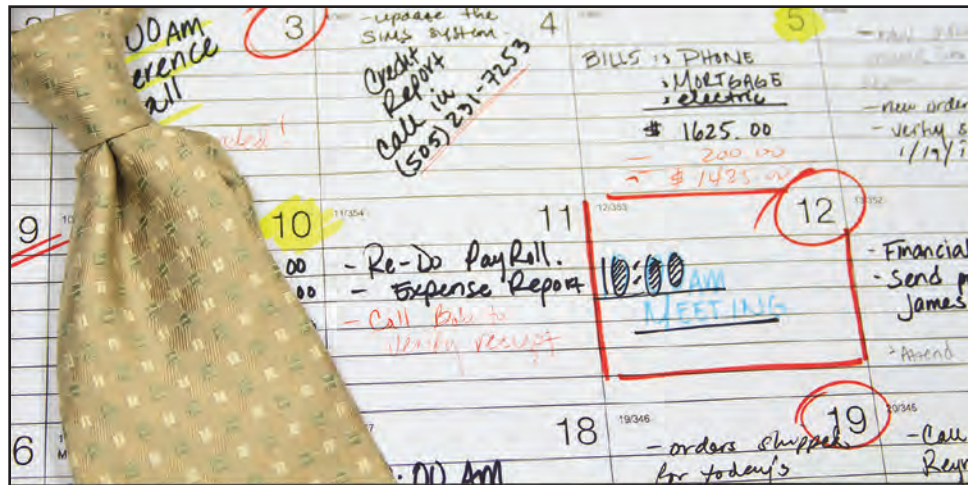
Gillespie was joined by Sanders, South Macon Principal Allison Guynn, Macon County Schools STEM Coordinator Jennifer Love, and Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin on Friday afternoon to tour the project space and hear how the space will be utilized for students.

The project, which will renovate an existing path to be fully handicap accessible will provide students with safe access following the bank of a creek to be able to conduct hands-on learning and experience in science, social studies, math, language arts, STEM, counseling, and career exploration. The project space will be used by all of the more than 500 students at South Macon Elementary School.

The walking trail, which Sanders explained took some creativity and engineering to make ADA accessible, will lead students to an outdoor classroom. Due to the cultural and historical significance of the area where the walking trail is located — concrete and asphalt were not permitted — so Sanders and her students began working on ideas to improve the trail.

GO Grants are grants that are provided to access field study locations and assist with other expenditures that result from taking students outdoors. Qualifying for grants requires instructors to demonstrate how the experience will address topics currently being taught in class and that the experience meets the goals of the Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund plan. The program also allows staff at field study sites to apply on behalf of teachers with their permission.

The NC Go Grant will not only complete the 350 feet long ADA-compliant trail to the outdoor classroom, but it will help fund a safe building for the school to store science equipment that will be used at the classroom all without impacting the archaeological significance of the area.



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## Quilters present ‘patches of comfort’ to DA

Quilters at Sassy Stitches in Franklin recently presented patches of comfort to District Attorney Ashley Welch, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. The gift was their way to offer encouragement and support as she continues her journey. “We want to give back,” said Pauline Luther, one of the quilters. A tearful Welch thanked the group members. She told them, “You have no idea how much this means to me.” Pictures are (L-R) Donna Orford, Christine Leonhardt, Debbie Maund, Pauline Luther, Barbara Macfarlane, Jennie Terry, Margaret Lewis, Karen Stoltz, Welch and Lindy Blanton.

Photo by Quintin Ellison

# Grocery chain Food Lion will not confirm takeover of Franklin BILO

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

With less than a month left before the Franklin BILO was slated to close in lieu of an interested buyer, the grocery store announced over the weekend that the store has been purchased by Food Lion. BILO had announced the closing in the Fall of 2020 casting the future of the Macon Plaza shopping center in uncertainty.

Much speculation had been leveled on what would replace BILO — Food Lion, Publix, an Aldi — but until this weekend, no official confirmation had been forthcoming.

After BILO corporation announced the company was going out of business last year, Food Lion released a statement that said they would be purchasing more than 50 BILO locations across the southeast and transitioning them to Food Lion stores. However, the Franklin location was not on the list.

In fact, the Franklin BILO posted on their social media account last fall saying that Food Lion would not be purchasing the BILO located in Franklin.

Representatives with Food Lion have not confirmed a Franklin location was in the

works, most recently on Saturday.

“At Food Lion, we regularly assess our store footprint to ensure we deliver the products and services our neighbors need at the everyday low prices they expect,” said Matt Harakal with Food Lion’s Public Relations Team. “We have a strong presence in the region and are always looking for opportunities to deepen that connection. If we have anything to share about this specific location we will keep you notified.”

Although Food Lion will not confirm their acquisition of the Highlands Road BILO, the Franklin BILO’s social media account posted over the weekend that Food Lion did, in fact, purchase the grocery store. Employees of the store also commented to share what information they had been provided regarding their continued employment.

Food Lion is also advertising for open positions at a Franklin location on employee recruitment sites such as Indeed.com.

Although an official statement from Food Lion has not been made, one thing that is certain is that the BILO location in Franklin will be closing its doors on April 11.



BILO has been at its current location in Franklin for almost 40 years. A post on social media indicated that Food Lion had bought the local store. Food Lion has declined to confirm that assertion.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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# On the trail again – Hiking activity on the AT still going on

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

Although the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) “continues to advise long-distance hikers to postpone hikes until 2022 or when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has deemed the pandemic under control, and/or a COVID-19 vaccine or effective treatment is widely available and distributed,” many thru- and section hikers are already on the trail and plan in the next few months to stop in Franklin for supplies and respite.

In past pre-COVID-19 years, the Town of Franklin has experienced thousands of Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers stopping, shopping, and resting before heading back to the Winding Stair pass to continue their journey. Most hikers start at the AT trailhead at Springer Mountain, Ga., but some come from the North, having started their hike at Mount Katahdin, Maine. Numbers are



Hikers coming into town often stop by the Franklin sign in front of Town Hall for a selfie marking their visit to Macon County. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

spring is no exception, so the event will be modified as follows to take place from Good Friday on April 2 until April 10 (Easter week), at which time NHC members are encouraged to go out on the AT at any time and provide trail magic during a hike or set up a tailgate from the back of your vehicle at major AT crossings.”

Trail magic can be anything to encourage and sustain hikers – a paper bag filled with fruit, nuts, jerky, baked goods, etc., for example.

Additionally, The First Baptist Church in Franklin has decided to hold its annual hikers’ breakfast. NHC annually makes a financial contribution to this event, and the organization will present a check for \$200 on April 10 to help cover the cost of food. The church will be serving hikers daily from March 15-April 15 from 7:15-8 a.m. The plan is to spread out in the fellowship hall and limit seating at the tables.

“Some of our members are volunteering to shuttle hikers to and from the trail to Franklin,” said Brown.

“Macon County Transit will also be offering shuttle service.”

Yet, because COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, “local businesses are not able to put on the types of events that we’ve all become accustomed to this year but there could be last minute changes depending on whether or not significant changes take place in terms of [COVID-19] restrictions, such as those limiting capacity,” explained Deborah Gedling, Franklin AT Community Council representative and secretary of NHC. “As of now, however, no such events are planned.”

Franklin AT Community Council, however, is working out to-be-announced details and plans to make hikers feel welcome.

## ATTORNEY

Continued from page 1

Appeals.

Ridenour has served as Sylva Town Attorney since December 1998. Prior to law school, he played basketball at the University of Kansas under coaches Roy Williams (UNC) and Mark Turgeon (Maryland).

Ridenour says he plans to continue serving as the Town of Sylva attorney as well as continue in his private practice.

expected to be fewer due to the ATC’s January pronouncement that it will continue to not recognize thru-hikers with an AT trail hangtag until the pandemic is declared “under control.”

However, Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) and other entities in Franklin have made plans to welcome the hikers. According to NHC president Katharine Brown, the annual Easter On The Trail event has been a highlight for club members to be “trail angels” as well as to share camaraderie with one another during the preparation of items to be handed out to hikers over the Easter holiday weekend.

“COVID-19 continues to impact the manner in which we are able to continue providing our treasured events and this

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# Downtown merchants ramp up efforts to welcome back visitors

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association met recently to set a schedule packed with activities and events for upcoming spring months in Franklin. Gwen Taylor, the association's president, said, "This past year with COVID-19 has made 'shopping local' more real for locals. Small businesses began to think outside of the box, offering curbside pickup, ordering online, and delivery. It is important to shop local for the revenue that comes back into our local economy. This keeps more money in our community. Downtown events help bring locals out to enjoy our small town. We love our locals, and we welcome back our visitors."



Upcoming throughout the rest of this month and into April and May include the following:

- Celebrating March, 1-17, some merchants will have tables in their stores with 17% off items until St Patrick's Day.

- Spring Has Sprung in Our Hometown, March 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A DJ will be playing music in front of Wells Fargo, balloons in pretty pastel colors will decorate downtown, and crafters will display wares on the sidewalks.

- Hippy Hoppity on Main, April 3, 10

a.m.-4 p.m., includes music, crafters, balloons as well as some give-away Easter basket prizes. Some merchants may also have surprise-inside Easter egg discounts and candies.

- Blossoms in My Hometown on Main, May 1 – flowers will adorn fronts of shops and plans are for a flower sale to take place, as well as possible other customer incentives.

- Mother's Day Weekend, Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A DJ will play music and crafters will offer handmade items.

"It is very important to have these events," said Linda McKay, owner of NC Mountain Made on Main Street, "and each event that has been held has increased our business. These events have also added to the beauty of our small town, where people are strolling down the sidewalks listening

to the music and for a short time maybe are able to forget the terrible year we have just been through. We see happy faces on both merchants and customers alike."

Added Taylor: "Local businesses are the heartbeat of a community. We hire neighbors, we pay taxes, we support schools and other community organizations. When shopping locally and you come into one of our stores, we may not carry it, but we are all willing to point you into the right direction of someone that might."



The colorful displays at Diva's on Main catch the shopper's eye, drawing them to the store all decked out for spring. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## HAPPY St. Patrick's Day Wednesday, March 17



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## Harris named in *Newsweek's* 'Best Maternity Care Hospitals'

Harris Regional Hospital was recognized nationally as one of the Best Maternity Care Hospitals in the United States by *Newsweek* and The Leapfrog Group for this year. This distinction recognizes facilities that excel in providing care to mothers, newborns and their families as verified by the 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Harris is one of fewer than 220 hospitals across the nation to receive such a high distinction.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent nonprofit that monitors U.S. healthcare organizations. Hospitals named as a Best Maternity Care Hospital fully meet The Leapfrog Group's standards for maternity care using evidence-based, nationally standardized criteria when evaluating hospitals. Some of the metrics include lower rates of early elective delivery, C-section, and episiotomy. Other metrics include hospital compliance with process measures including newborn screenings prior to discharge and blood clot prevention techniques for mothers delivering via C-section. Best Maternity Care Hospitals have also demonstrated a commitment to safety via the fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

"This recognition further highlights the dedication and skill of our providers, nurses and other staff in providing maternity care to the region," said Steve Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "Being recognized in this way for the second year in a row exemplifies a longstanding tradition and commitment to expanding access to high quality care as we preserve this important service in rural Western North Carolina."

"We are grateful for this recognition and thank the entire team for their outstanding work in providing quality care to families in the area," said chief of staff, Nicholas Jernigan, M.D. said.

Harris Regional Hospital has experienced notable growth the past year. The hospital welcomed Dr. Ja'Pel Sumpter to Harris Women's Care to care for women and families in western North Carolina. In an expansion of services, Dr. Bernd Holler joined the New Generations Family Birthing Center this past October where he now leads inpatient neonatal and pediatric patient care. Harris Regional Hospital is the only facility in the counties west of Jackson providing labor and delivery services. At the beginning of this year, Emilee Lazo, a certified nurse midwife, also joined the Harris Women's Care group.

## Blood drive set for next Friday at Lowe's

March is Red Cross Month, and the Red Cross is celebrating blood, platelet and plasma donors for stepping up to meet the constant need for blood amid the pandemic. In thanks for being a vital part of the organization's lifesaving mission, all who come to give March 15-26 will receive an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

For patients in the emergency room, fighting cancer or coping with a life-threatening illness, help can't wait. Their health is reliant on the selfless generosity of blood donors. However, the blood supply continues to face challenges from the ongoing pandemic and extreme winter weather that impacted much of the U.S. last month.

The next opportunity to donate blood in Franklin will be Friday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lowe's 0717 off Georgia Road.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for high levels of COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients.



Heather Belcher rolled up her sleeve to donate blood at a recent blood drive held at the Franklin Health and Fitness Center. The next local blood drive will be held at Lowe's of Franklin Friday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone donation.

More donors, especially those with type O blood, are needed now to ensure that patients have lifesaving blood products available for emergencies and everyday medical treatments. Schedule a blood donation appointment by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on an Alexa Echo device.

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## News from the Legislature

From the office of  
Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

I. For the week of Feb. 22, 2021, among the many committees that met, the Appropriations, Education Committee, of which I am a member, met jointly with the Senate. The Legislature's Fiscal Research Division provided a budget overview for the committee. During our second committee meeting, overviews of the North Carolina Community College System and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities were discussed.

II. On Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, the House convened to vote on three bills:

HB78: Report on K-12 Computer Science Data

HB79: Student Digital Learning Access

HB82: Summer Learning Choice for NC Families

All three bills passed the House unanimously.

On Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, Gov. Cooper vetoed SB37, In-Person Learning Choice for Families. The Senate attempted to override the veto, but fell one vote shy of the override, 29-20. The State Constitution requires a three-fifths vote to override a Governor's veto.

III. The week of March 1, 2021, began with various appropriations subcommittees meeting as the House and Senate prepare to put forth a budget for the biennium. The full Appropriations Committee met Tuesday and we passed HB196, entitled, 2021 COVID-19 Response and Relief.

HB196 made its way to the House floor on March 3, 2021, where it passed unanimously. The relief legislation provides over \$1.7 billion of funding to North Carolina communities. Highlights of the bill include:

- \$600 million statewide for testing, tracing, and prevention needs

- \$100 million for K-12 public school needs

- \$290 million for higher education emergency relief

- \$40 million to support summer learning programs in addition to education funds approved by the legislature last month

As a co-sponsor of HB 128, Increase Access to Sporting Venues in Schools, I was pleased that the bill passed the House by a vote of 77-42. The Senate will now receive the bill for consideration.

This bill would allow spectators at up to 50% capacity for sporting events, graduation and commencement ceremonies, and other outdoor activities hosted by the qualifying school, public and non-public kindergarten-12 schools, community colleges, and constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. Currently, the governor's executive orders limit capacity to 30%.

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Elected officials spend too much time plugging holes

Long Range Planning is seriously needed for our schools and other publicly owned facilities in Macon County. In light of recent dissension at a meeting of our Macon County Board of Commissioners, it is evident that decisions should have already been made, years ago, about the future of school facilities at Franklin middle and high schools in a transparent manner with taxpayer input. Our elected officials spend far too much time plugging holes rather than setting priorities and carrying out long-range planning.

Unfortunately we have consolidated our elementary schools so that the majority of our young children are taken out of their home communities and must commute long weary miles elsewhere. I don't know of many adults who would suffer through such long hours of busing to get to their workplace every day, yet many of our young children are forced to do it, especially those attending our one intermediate level school.

Our county commissioners and school board should consider long-range planning to decentralize our large elementary schools (early childhood and intermediate schools) and return students to smaller community schools, while at the same time planning for reconditioning our middle and high school facilities, bringing them up to standard and expanding them. It would take time to decentralize, but that's what long-range planning is for; and we should really look at restructuring the grade-level offerings at each school level, which is actually not as formidable as it might seem if done in conjunction with countywide facilities planning.

Unfortunately the county's recent "space needs" study was focused too heavily on law enforcement and court system needs and did not include the school district. Setting priorities for educational needs should be an integral part of our county's overall space needs, including planning for a governmental complex housing a law enforcement detention center, an adequate courthouse, and a civic center large enough for school graduations and other civic functions such as arts and crafts shows, entertainment, car and gun shows, trade and employment fairs, and economic development conferences—as well as adequate and reasonable school facilities countywide.

Dr. Betty Cloer Wallace – Franklin, N.C.

### Proposed voting rights act just makes sense

Voting records show that North Carolina and Macon County had the largest voter turnout ever in the last election. That's great, because our democracy depends on citizens voting. And that's why it's important to understand the

proposed voting rights act that is heading to the U.S. Senate for consideration. It was created from well-established voting practices, from both red and blue states.

The proposed law would ensure that registered voters in all states have access to early voting for at least 14 days. Were you one of the 12,813 Maconians who voted early? Both Republican and Democratic voters regularly take advantage of early voting. Currently, 39 states provide for early voting. Why not adopt this for all states?

Do you know someone who registered to vote at the DMV while renewing their license? This was a time saver for me. My friends have also registered to vote online via NC State Board of Election website. Sixteen states already offer this type of voter registration. The proposed law would expand these conveniences to all states. Doesn't that make sense?

More voters cast their ballots by mail in 2020 than ever before including 3,625 in Macon County. And 29 states, from Alaska to Florida currently allow voters to request a mail-in ballot without providing an excuse. This law will standardize procedures for voting by mail to make them secure, easy to navigate, and limit rejections of ballots cast by eligible voters. Why not implement best practices for all states?

Some people say that the federal government shouldn't be involved in elections. Article I, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the authority to enact voting laws. These laws have historically been supported by both Republicans and Democrats. This bill would strengthen existing laws to ensure one person one vote.

Over 60% of Americans across the political spectrum support this law. Now is the time for unity. Republicans and Democrats can come together to strengthen and unify our voting system. Please contact Senators Tillis and Burr and ask them to support this voting rights act.

One last thing. Would you like to see fewer political TV ads? This law will tackle the influence of big money in politics and prohibit foreign money in U.S. elections. Then maybe the political budgets will dry up and we can get back to watching Dancing with the Stars.

Jean Wright – Franklin, N.C.

*The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed by 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: maconcountynews@gmail.com*

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## What directs your values?

Not being sure if my entering a letter makes any difference, but it seems many are locked into one party or outlook, and whatever the party values dictate, we follow. It's somewhat the same outlook as, my family has always been Democrat or Republican so therefore I am. I understand and see this quite often, but yet don't understand fully why this is so.

If our value systems are forever changing then what real value does it have, or another way to look at it is, what value are we? Some say when life is young with no voice and can't contribute it has no value, it only has value if it can contribute to the greater cause of society. What was once of value, now is of no value. As the opinions of today's thinking, my writing, my thinking, is unworthy of being entered into the paper or media and should not be allowed for discussion, for it doesn't conform to our canceled culture which tells you how to think or what has or hasn't value.

I, for one, think the powers that are leading much of this are a corrupt and deviant group which some seem all to anxious to pledge allegiance to. Please tell me, if we are to change our direction and values, what example can you show me that reflects anything close to the betterment of what we've strive as a once unified "We the People?" What country can you point to that we can follow for a shining example of a betterment of what America is or has been? For we are following the same path as all the failed nations both past and present. The taking away of free speech and all opposing views are in need of silence. Even religion is now viewed as radical and dangerous. The cry of racism is now the most popular way to silence those who disagree. It's amazing to me when President Obama was in office this was a sign that racism was mostly done away with. Then all of a sudden it's somehow back where it was 50 years ago? I'm not saying racism is no more, but personally I believe it will never be completely done away with because it in itself has a political life of its own and corrupt leadership will never let it die a death which it needs to. It's a disgusting play on human life which seeks power.

Corrupt leadership only grows by dividing people against each other, the more confusion and disruption, the more need for deviant leaders to step in with what it deems a solution. Sadly, only their solution will do. Russia, China, N. Korea, Venezuela, Hitler's Germany and others are all examples of this type of direction, yet many beg for this. I guess the statement is true, "history repeats itself."

If any lasting value is to be found, uplifting humanity should hold the highest value and a relationship with each other in a common bond of unity and working together no matter who the individual maybe, Dr. Martin Luther King believed this. This value is exactly who and what Christ or the Divine came to show and asks of each of us. What is the greatest value that can be followed? First, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Second, "Love others as well as you love yourself." (Matthew 23:37-39).

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

## Green New Deal or a New Green Scam?

Are you a lemming or a lion?

I have been an engineer and environmental advocate for well over 40 years so I have to look at some claims based on physics and math.

Let's take one claim made by AOC, Schumer, Pelosi, Biden, Harris and the other similarly inclined anti-American "Demonrats" who are advocating for pro-socialism/communism with respect to hating fossil fuels and test their views against sound engineering dictum.

Their claim is that renewable resources such as wind and

solar are the salvation of our world and fossil fuels will destroy us.

It is beyond argument that solar power has not yet achieved the level of efficiency to make the return on investment and overall reliance on that source worthwhile.

Yes, solar cells make power but the best panels can only provide 20% to 22% conversion factor. Without large government subsidies, the initial construction costs are prohibitive except for home owners with substantial disposable income.

If you live in the middle of Death Valley or the Arizona desert area where you get a lot of sun for long daylight hours, full installation payback is typically 17-19 years.

That being said, I would like someone to explain to me the rationale of relying heavily on that source when there is four inches of snow on the panel surface and/or there are clouds obscuring the sun.

No solar rays on the panel surface means no power generation. Battery storage technology and costs are not commercially viable for the foreseeable future so no sun, no power generation.

Wind power is another renewable resource, but that has pitfalls.

Wind powered generators do not work well at wind speed below 7 MPH and do not typically reach full commercially viable potential until the wind speeds reach continual 26 to 30 MPH. At speeds in the range of 50 MPH, they have to be idled to prevent damage.

For those sensitive to the environment, do some research on how many birds windmills kill and the long term effects of the low frequency sonic vibrations of the blade pass frequencies on animals and humans. Not a pretty picture.

Windmills do not work well or at all when their blades are coated with ice during frigid winter conditions. If there is no electricity available coming back to the generator to heat the lube oil in the gearbox in cold weather, running the windmill will damage the entire rotating element and puts it out of business for a long and expensive repair time.

For those who think the radical Greenies have this right, just remember that once you generate the energy, how do you get it to where you can use it and how much energy does that take?

Someone has to mine the ore and smelter the steel or copper to make the towers and other components. It takes energy (trucks or rail roads) to move the ore from the mines to the smelter, to move the ingots of steel or copper to the plants that convert it to a useable product, and energy to truck the raw materials to the plants that make the towers, generators, gear boxes, rotor hubs, bolts and nuts, etc., to put one of these wind-powered generators together.

Please note the largest feasible wind-powered generators can produce only 1.5 megawatts under the best conditions. The slower the wind, the less energy they generate.

Hey, you Greenies, what is the net effect of all of the chemicals needed to make the resins glass and carbon fibers used to make the rotor blades and how much off-gassing of volatile organic compounds and flammable vapors and fumes occur when they cure the blade in the molds?

Electricity is moved through copper wires.

How much energy will be needed to make the wire and insulation for the wires and how much pollution will be the result?

How much energy does it take to dig the trenches everywhere that you want to run wires for charging stations for electric cars and trucks, and what is the environmental damage from the access roads to wind mill sites and to bury transmission lines. What, bury the lines? Well yeah, how much more overhead magnetic radiation from high voltage transmission cables or outages from storm damage on overhead transmission wires are you willing to accept?

All the trucks, railroad engines, and construction machinery (with the exception of a few huge electrically powered draglines in the open pit iron mines) operate on gasoline or

# LEGISLATURE

From previous page

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, my first bill as a primary sponsor, HB81, In-State Tuition Pilot Program, passed the North Carolina House. The bill would allow residents of certain border counties in Georgia to receive in-state tuition to Tri-County Community College. Colleges in Georgia are offering in-state tuition to residents of North Carolina. This bill will allow Tri-County Community College to compete in attracting students. No North Carolina resident will be displaced as a result of the legislation.

## Sponsored Legislation

Below are a few of the most recent bills that I have either introduced or co-sponsored:

H100: Highway Cleanup Act of 2021

H126: Community College System Salary Increases

H128: Increase Access to Sporting Venues in Schools

H141: Promote North Carolina Sawmills

H182: Increasing Meat Production and Capacity

diesel fuel because there is no viable electrical alternative.

What the radical and technologically challenged Greenies have not thought about or have and did not tell you is the broader impact of their game on the world.

Solar and wind power are at this time not reliable nor cost effective. In order to ensure that when you want a cup of coffee or to see at night to read, and have all the critical goods and services we depend upon for quality of life, we have to be sure of a broad array of energy resources making up the supply. Hydroelectric works when you have large rivers and lakes, but not where there are none. Properly designed and operated coal-fired and gas-fired generation are a major producer of electricity and the best viable base load source. Nuclear is expensive to build, expensive to operate and has a very long lead time to bring on line. Yes, I recognize the downside nuclear energy of having to deal with depleted reactor rods and waste materials, but it is, none the less, a viable part of the whole fabric of our foundational energy supply.

I suggest that the "Green" in the radical Green New Deal advocates' improbable pipe dreams narrative is the color of your food in the refrigerator and freezer when the power goes out.

The reality of that entire bogus scheme is that people who benefit most are the shills in Congress getting the big lobby contribution payoffs from the industries who make solar panels, wind-powered generators, etc., and who get huge government subsidies to enrich their company officers, boards of directors and stock holders.

The people who will get hurt most are you, me, our families and neighbors who will pay exponentially higher costs for electricity, fuel for our vehicles, and food (transport costs) and many other essentials goods and services.

Remember what Ronald Reagan tried to teach us; The most terrifying words in the English language are, "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help you!"

Peter K. Stern

USAF Retired – Franklin, N.C.

## What's on your mind?

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

# Get on the PATH to health and wellbeing at N.C. parks, museums and historic sites

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is launching a new online campaign to encourage North Carolinians to get moving and get outside.

Parks and Trails for Health (PATH) is an initiative designed to encourage physical activity in parks, trails, greenways, and other outdoor spaces in North Carolina.

The online campaign will highlight places and programs that can help North Carolinians improve their health and wellbeing by connecting with nature. It will also feature vir-

Carolina Trails Program originated in 1973 with the North Carolina Trails System Act and is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to paddle trails and off-road vehicle trails.

To achieve these goals, the department is focused on adding and improving trails and other outdoor facilities at state-owned sites and in partnership with local governments,



tual activities and educational series focused on diverse voices in the outdoors, and careers in recreation and natural resource protection.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has led North Carolinians to spend more time outdoors as a healthy and safe option for recreation, physical fitness and entertainment,” said Reid Wilson, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. “PATH — Parks and Trails for Health — aims to help connect all people to parks and outdoor spaces across the state.”

The campaign is part of a broader agency initiative to expand outdoor recreation opportunities that improve physical and mental health, use state and local parks for outdoor learning experiences, and provide open space resources to diverse communities.

From Manteo to Murphy, North Carolina has so many beautiful trails for everyone to enjoy. The North Carolina Trails Program oversees the creation and maintenance of this wide system of trails that we have in our state. The North

providing outdoor educational opportunities for all North Carolina children, investing in maintenance and staffing at state parks and trails to ensure a high-quality visitor experience, and supporting the outdoor recreation industry.

North Carolina is currently nationally ranked in the bottom third of many health measures and 35th in the country for overall health status according to America's Health Rankings. Over the past two decades, North Carolina has ranked in, or close to, the bottom third of all states for many major health indicators, including but not limited to obesity, smoking, premature death, infant mortality, and cardiovascular death.

By promoting parks and trails as a health resource, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources aims to bring about lasting change in North Carolinians' lifestyle choices and their relationship with nature and the outdoors.

Visit [www.ncdcr.gov/PATH](http://www.ncdcr.gov/PATH) to learn more about PATH and links to suggested activities at state parks, historic sites, museums, and the zoo.



## Woods celebrates 104 years

Mildred Woods will be 104 on March 18. Due to the pandemic, a big party to celebrate is not planned, but Ms. Woods really enjoys cards. Please help her celebrate by sending 104 birthday cards to 639 Orchard Hill Road, Franklin NC 28734.

## Macon County schools hold Kindergarten orientation days

Cartoogechaye Elementary, 3295 Old Murphy Road - Friday, April 23 & Friday, April 30. Phone (828)524-2845.

East Franklin Elementary, 100 Watauga Street - Friday, May 7. Phone (828)524-3216

Highlands School, 545 Pierson Drive - Friday, March 12 (parents only). Phone (828)526-2147.

Iotla Valley Elementary, 1166 Iotla Church Road - Friday, April 9; Friday, April 16; Friday, April 23 & Friday, April 30. Phone (828)524-2938.

Nantahala School, 213 Winding Stairs Road, Topton - Friday, April 23. Phone (828) 321-4388.

South Macon Elementary, 855 Addington Bridge Road - Friday, April 9 & Friday, April 16. Phone (828)369-0796.

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# Online autism conference set for March 19-20

The Autism Society of North Carolina will host its 2021 conference virtually on March 19 and 20.

The two-day event, titled Bringing Our Community Closer, will feature respected speakers, including Geraldine Dawson, PhD, William Cleland Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Director, Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development; Gregory Hanley, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA, Founder and CEO of FTF Behavioral Consulting; Lisa Guy, PhD, and Lorie Ritschel, PhD, from the TEACCH Autism Program; Sherry Thomas, MEd, Director of the Exceptional Children's Division at the Department of Public Instruction; and professionals from the Autism Society of North Carolina.

Speakers will focus on a wide range of topics of interest to the autism community, including the link between autism and ADHD, picky eating and problem behaviors, emerging therapies for adults, and navigating the school system.

"Our 2020 conference was canceled due to the pandemic, and we couldn't let another year go by without bringing our community together to hear from experts, share experiences, and connect," said David Laxton, Director of Communications at the Autism Society of North Carolina. "While we look forward to the time when we're meeting in person again, we hope that a virtual conference will be more accessible to people who may not have been able to join us before. We'll still be presenting a great pro-

gram, but this year, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy it from the comfort of your home."

The conference also includes virtual connection rooms so that parents of the newly diagnosed, self-advocates, Chapter leaders, Spanish speakers, and professionals working with individuals with autism can meet and connect. The Autism Society of North Carolina's Autism Resource Specialists and Clinical professionals will host Ask an Expert panels. The event also includes a virtual exhibit hall.

The cost of the conference is \$30 for an individual and \$50 for a household. The household cost allows for multiple people to participate in connection rooms at the same time.

The conference is sponsored by SpecialCare, a special needs program developed by MassMutual.

For more information, or to register for this year's conference, visit [www.autismsociety-nc.org/conference](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/conference).



2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**Bringing Our Community Closer**  
MARCH 19 & 20 | ONLINE

### Background

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. As many as 1 in 54 children

may be diagnosed with ASD in the United States, according to a prevalence study by the CDC of 8-year-old schoolchildren. The Autism Society of North Carolina has worked for 50 years to improve the lives of individuals with autism, support their families, and educate communities. For more information, visit [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org).

# Rotary Club, Habitat, build ramp for Macon couple

Rotary Club of Franklin President Bill Swift wrote a \$1000 District grant, which was matched by the club, to partner with Habitat of Humanity of Macon & Jackson Counties to build a wheelchair ramp in Macon County.

Eleven members of the club (some with more advanced skills) gathered on a chilly 29-degree Saturday morning to build a 45-foot ramp and a small porch for a Macon County couple.

John Wert, a member of the Sylva Rotary Club, was Habitat's Outreach Director for the project. Rotary Club members and Habitat personnel who worked on the ramp included Guy Gooder (Satellite Club); Mike White; Elbie Stiles; Laurel Klunkowski, Habitat employee; Tom James (kneeling); Rotary president Bill Swift; Everett Stiles; Debbie Tallent; Jimmy Villiard; John Wert, John Adams, Patsy Parker and Lee Berger.

Submitted by Lee Berger



Members of the Rotary Club of Franklin partnered with Habitat for Humanity recently to build a wheelchair ramp for a Macon County couple. The crew is pictured with the ramp almost done. From left are Guy Gooder (Satellite Club); Mike White; Elbie Stiles; Laurel Klunkowski, Habitat employee; Tom James (kneeling); President Bill Swift; Everett Stiles (hiding with hat); Debbie Tallent; Jimmy Villiard, DVM; Wert and John Adams. Not pictured are Patsy Parker and Lee Berger.

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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 March 1 - 8. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## **Macon County Sheriff's Department**

### **March 1**

Jessy Dakota Beaver, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Michael Anthony Sanders, was issued an order for arrest for possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Steven Chase Stanley, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter, possession of stolen goods/property, possession of firearm by a convicted felon, probation violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

### **March 2**

Dustin Lynn Busby, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation with a deadly weapon, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Steven Cody Moore, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jonathan Wesley Day, was charged with simple assault. Amber L. Wright made the arrest.

Ronnie Queen, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jonathan William Talley, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

### **March 3**

Michael Anthony Passafume, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance of methamphetamine. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

### **March 4**

Tristan Justice Davis, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Dallas Giles Dishman, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

Michala Cheyene Taylor, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. William R. Younce made the arrest.

### **March 5**

Dennis Paul Kramber, was charged with misdemeanor for dangerous drugs. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Joshua Ryan Wiggan, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Juan Louus Garcia, was charged with indecent exposure. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Rebecca Susan Harper, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Martin Allen Brink, was charged with communicating threats. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Tyler Lee Watson, was charged with assault by pointing a gun, first degree kidnapping, communicating threats. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Matthew Mackenzie English, was charged with simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

### **March 6**

Jessica Lee Gerba, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

### **March 7**

Justin David Carver, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

### **March 8**

John Paul McCall, was charged with felony breaking and entering and larceny. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

### **March 1**

Jonathan Wade Hurst, 23, was issued an order for arrest for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

### **March 2**

Steven Cody Moore, 29, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

## **Jackson County Sheriff's Department**

### **March 1**

Travis Lee Jones, 45, of Allman Rd., was issued a child support purge, failure to appear for unauthorized use of motor vehicle. No bond was set.

Charles Thomas McCall, 53, of Zeb Alley Rd., Cashiers, was issued a child support purge, resist/delay/obstruct a public officer. No bond was set.

### **March 2**

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 25, of Pyramid Place, was charged with motor vehicle theft, possession of goods/property, felony larceny, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Nicole Dominique Bradley, 28, of Sim Taylor Rd., Cherokee, was charged with second degree trespass, misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

### **March 3**

Dylan Scott Williams, 21, of Connley Springs Rd., Lenoir, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Stephaine Renee Watson, 41, of Skyland Dr., was charged with intoxicated and disruptive, resisting a public officer. A

secured bond of \$250 was set.

Carolyn Rachel Reed, 23, of Webster Estates, was charged with violation of court order, stalking. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Brittany Jade Matheson, 39, of Pincushion Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Darlena Carol Austin, 52, of Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, was charged with driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Jason James Burchick, 47, of Pampass Way, Fair Oaks, Calif., was charged with resisting a public officer. No bond was set.

### **March 4**

Brittany Jade Moose, 32, of Ferguson Rd., was issued a child support purge. A bond of \$1,188.46 was set.

Kenneth Lee Maney, 44, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, issued a true bill of indictment for possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, felony possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$18,000 was set.

Michael Leonard Norman, 34, of Windy Hill Hollow, Morganton, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon for Buncombe County. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

### **March 5**

Travis Keith Mathis, 43, of Frosty Ridge Rd., was issued a child support purge. A bond of \$1,330 was set.

Chaz James Brian Hodgins, 30, of Laurel Branch, was issued a child support purge. A \$3,000 bond was set.

Melissa Dawn Burrell, 30, of Parrish Field Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for maintaining a vehicle/selling place for a controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Selena Leeanne Burchfield, 18, of Middlesboro, Ky., was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, felony possession of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Avey Lamar Whitsett, 30, of Cope Creek Rd., was charged with cyberstalking. No bond was set.

### **March 6**

Jessica Lynn Holiday, 32, of Country Club Dr., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation for out of county, defrauding drug/alcohol screen tests. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Craig Stan Wildcatt, 40, of Whittier, was issued warrant service for possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

### **March 7**

Matthew Paul Leonard, 41, of Serendipity Lane, Tuckasegee, was charged with driving while license revoked, child support purge. A \$6,516 bond was set.

Dakota Jordan Watty, 29, of Tradewinds Lane, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Brad Steven Ohlson, 56, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

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# Southwestern launches Heritage Arts Endowed Fund scholarship

Over the past decade at Southwestern Community College, serving as Heritage Arts Department Chair has become much more than a fun job for Jeff Marley.

It's a passion.

Marley's desire to see the program continue to flourish is the main reason he recently took steps to create the Heritage Arts Endowed Fund through the SCC Foundation. The scholarship will be used to financially support visiting artists, equipment, travel and salaries associated with the Heritage Arts program, which is housed at the SCC Swain Center.

"Unlike a scholarship for an individual student, this fund will benefit all students and the community through events and classes we offer," Marley said. "I wanted to begin developing this fund to ensure the Heritage Arts program would have the fiscal means to be able to provide a wide variety of events well into the future. I want to sustain our program and provide many more opportunities to our students."

The new fund will be sustained by a series of ongoing fundraising events Marley conducts each year at the SCC Swain Center. These events include special courses and the sales of handmade items created by students and artists enrolled at SCC.

Brett Woods, who oversees the SCC Foundation, helped Marley set up the new scholarship.

"Southwestern is fortunate to have dedicated, visionary, philanthropic employees like Jeff Marley," Woods said. "He's obviously talented as an artist and as an instructor, and he passes along to his students a



Jeff Marley, Heritage Arts Department Chair at Southwestern Community College, recently endowed a new scholarship to financially support the program.

tremendous understanding of – and passion for – Cherokee culture."

For more information about the Heritage Arts Endowed Fund at SCC, or to make a donation, contact Woods at 828.339.4241 or [b\\_woods@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:b_woods@southwesterncc.edu).

To learn more about Heritage Arts classes at Southwestern, contact Marley at 828.366.2005 or [j\\_marley@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:j_marley@southwesterncc.edu).



## It's Youth Art Month at Uptown Gallery

The month of March is Youth Art Month at The Uptown Gallery. The gallery will be showcasing the artwork of talented students of Macon County, in part thanks to the efforts of local art educators and Macon County Art Association member Carol Conti for curating the art show. This community show will be exhibited from March 1 through March 29. The Uptown Gallery is located at 30 E Main St, Franklin and is open Monday, Thursday- Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## WCU professor chronicles the adventures of globe-trotting women in 'The Girl Explorers'

When Jayne Zanglein came back from an excursion with Western Carolina University students to China a few years ago, she had the usual memorable and fun experiences – and an idea.

Then a WCU professor of business law, she envisioned a book about explorers and their discoveries. And not just any explorers. Zanglein wanted to tell about women from a time when female meant the "fairer sex" and, in the words of Roy Chapman Andrews, president of the men-only Explorers Club in 1932, were "not adapted to exploration."

Now a professor emeritus, Zanglein has written "The Girl Explorers: The Untold Story of the Globetrotting Women Who Treked, Flew and Fought Their Way Around the World," set to be published in March by Sourcebooks.

"The women featured in the book proved that women were as capable explorers as men," said Zanglein. "They broke a barrier so

women today can travel and explore without discrimination."

"The Girl Explorers" reveals the founding of the Society of Women Geographers, an organization of adventurous female world explorers, and how key members served as early advocates for human rights paving the way for future women scientists by scaling mountains, exploring the high seas, flying across the Atlantic, and recording the world through film, sculpture and literature.

Along the way, Zanglein discovered some favorites. "Blair Niles (an American novelist, expeditionist and travel writer) is my favorite, because she wrote about the people she met while traveling with compassion," she said. "Annie Peck, who became a mountaineer later in life and was successful on her fifth attempt to climb Mount Huascarán in Peru, is also a favorite. She spoke whatever was on her mind and had no filter. I enjoyed that."



Jayne Zanglein

## State giving away 11,850 bike helmets

A record number of children, 11,850 total, across the state will be receiving lifesaving bicycle helmets through the N.C. Department of Transportation's Bicycle Helmet Initiative, part of ongoing efforts to reduce bicycle injuries and deaths in North Carolina.

NCDOT uses funds from the sale of "Share the Road" specialty license plates to pay for bike helmets that are distributed at bicycle safety events for underprivileged children by government and non-government agencies. A record 163 organizations applied to participate in the program this year. Helmets will be delivered by April 30.

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

Locally, Safe Kids Macon County was one organization that will receive helmets to give away along with Jackson County Parks & Recreation Department.



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# Craft Your Commerce announces spring series

Craft Your Commerce, a Mountain BizWorks entrepreneurial program in partnership with Center for Craft and UNC Asheville, has announced dates for their spring workshop series, March 15 - April 12. The spring series will feature workshops focusing on the Craft of Selling and will explore a variety of skill development to help artists, makers and creative businesses understand how to create sales strategies and develop diverse revenue streams.

The series consists of five interactive workshops, which can be taken separately, as well as a five-week business-development course beginning on March 17. Presenters include Casey Nifong, CEO of Mountain Laurel Digital; Julio Chavez, Strategic Executive at Copy Identity; Sarah Benoit, co-founder of Asheville-based JB Media Group; Derrick Duplessy, the founder of Duplessy Foundation; and Alyssa Phillips, owner of the Asheville-based branding and graphic design firm Amp'd Designs.

"The spring series of Craft Your Commerce workshops focuses on the Craft of Selling as our sales techniques, channels, and focus has changed because our world has changed," said Gwynne Rukenbrod Smith, Craft Your Commerce Project Manager. "These five workshops intentionally teach you to stand out in all of the noise, sell with authenticity, and grow your customer loyalty."

Recognizing that the economic realities of the pandemic has put a financial strain on households, Mountain BizWorks is offering the spring series as a Pay What You Wish (PWYW) option.



"We do not want price to be a limiting factor in order for creative entrepreneurs to benefit from our programs," said Kareen Boncales, Entrepreneurship Program Manager at Mountain BizWorks. "In effect, we are trusting attendees to pay what they consider to be a fair price given their economic situation." Mountain BizWorks is requesting a minimum donation of \$5.

In preparation for the workshop series, Craft Your Commerce is inviting interested creative businesses and craft artists to attend the Makers Mixer on Friday, March 12. This informal virtual gathering will serve as a networking event and will begin with a brief introduction and presentation that will provide a glimpse of the upcoming workshop series. The event will also feature a guest presenter, Emma Churchman, on Selling from Soul without Selling Your Soul. After the presentation, Churchman will "hotseat" four volunteers about how to increase sales in your business.

For more information about the workshops and to reserve a spot, visit [CraftYourCommerce.com](http://CraftYourCommerce.com).

### About Craft Your Commerce

Craft Your Commerce is a Mountain BizWorks entrepreneurial program designed to connect, elevate and advance creative and craft-centered companies through a series of business training workshops and classes designed by makers for makers. The program is offered in partnership with Center for Craft, UNC Asheville, and area creative entrepreneurs.

# Dogwood Crafters gives to SCC Foundation

For more than a quarter of a century, Dogwood Crafters has been supporting Southwestern Community College students through annual contributions to scholarship funds – typically to students interested in studying the arts.

This fall, the Dillsboro-based artists' co-op extended its longstanding support by giving its largest gift yet and designating it to support the next wave of frontline healthcare workers.

Dogwood Crafters' \$1,500 contribution will allow the SCC Foundation to present \$750 scholarships to two Nursing students.

"This year in particular, it was natural to think outside the box and to do something that was more significant and more meaningful," said Joyce Lantz, who presented the check to SCC officials last month.

The co-op made its first donation to the SCC Foundation in 1995.

"Consistent gifts from generous, community-minded organizations such as Dogwood Crafters are vital to helping our students succeed," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President. "Without scholarships, many of our students wouldn't be able to complete their degrees at Southwestern. On behalf of our students, I'm extremely grateful to Joyce and all our friends at Dogwood Crafters."

Established in 1973, the SCC Foundation exists solely to support the mission of SCC through its annual fund, endowed scholarships, estate planning and more.

In the current academic year, the SCC Foundation set all-time records by awarding support of more than \$200,000 to 142 students.



Joyce Lantz (left) recently presented a \$1,500 donation to the SCC Foundation on behalf of Dogwood Crafters to support scholarships for Nursing students. She's pictured here with Dr. Don Tomas (right), SCC's President, and Brett Woods (center), Director of the SCC Foundation.

"Even during some challenging economic times, our communities are rallying together to support our students," said Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation. "Dogwood Crafters Co-op is a great example of how generous individuals and organizations can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students."

To support students or learn more about the SCC Foundation, visit [www.SouthwesternCC.edu/Foundation](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu/Foundation).

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# Plum Yew a hardy evergreen that likes shade

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

One of the great things about winter is that our evergreen trees and shrubs become more evident. In this article I want to describe a group of evergreens that have been unfamiliar for some time.

Large sections of my woodland garden in Kennesaw were in the shade with smaller areas of partial shade. So, I began in earnest looking for evergreen plants that did not need full sun. To my surprise I found a family of evergreen conifers called *Cephalotaxus* (sef-a-lo-tak-sus) that were reportedly happy in the shade. At the time all the conifers I knew about required almost full sun. Also, plants like junipers were thought to be intolerant of very hot and dry southern environments. In southern Ohio where I grew up *Taxus* (Japanese Yew) evergreens were used everywhere. As a result of their popularity huge numbers of *Taxus* cultivars were available. I found them to be boring. I incorrectly assumed *Cephaloraxus* was a variety of *taxus*. Curious that



Dr. Bob Gilbert

bath of these conifers does not have cones.

*Cephalotaxus* is a separate species from *Taxus* and is commonly called Plum Yew. They are far easier to grow than to find. I obsessively struggled to find 22 different types presented by five species. One commercial nursery claims they have 45 varieties. The most common species is *Harringtonia*, named in honor of an English Duke who probably never saw the plant. All forms have dark green needles except for “Korean Gold.” There are numerous forms that vary in height and width. The most popular cultivar “Duke Gardens” was developed at the Sarah Duke Gardens in Raleigh. It only gets 2-3 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. All *Cephalotaxus* seem to tolerate any soil type. The fruits that appear only on female plants are actually a naked seed. It is cherry red and turns an olive brown when mature. The fruit looks like a miniature ripe plum.



*Cephalotaxus Harringtonia*

Looking for something easy to grow that likes shade, hardy from zones 6-9, with handsome dark green evergreen needles? *Cephalotaxus* would be a perfect choice. Deer will eat *Taxus* to the ground and ignore its cousin *Cephalotaxus* completely.

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

*Karen Lawrence is a professional horticultural and wildlife photographer in Franklin.*



Plum Yew

Photos by Karen Lawrence



## Deaths & Funerals

### John (Jay) Quince Sanders

John (Jay) Quince Sanders, 91, passed away at his home on Feb. 22, 2021. He was born July 22, 1929, to Jesse L. and Ida F. (Shope) Sanders. He was a fifth generation Maconian who lived most of his life on the old family farm located in the vicinity of the north fork of Skeenah Creek. He was preceded in death by his youngest son, Jeffrey; grandson, Jason Friedling; and ten of 12 siblings.



John Quince Sanders

We will miss the stories of his childhood/teenage years; for instance, hunting with his grandfather Zeb Shope and his prized fox hounds, walking to the movie theater in town and back in the dark, and the grand adventure of moving to the Hampton Roads, Va., area during WWII, when his dad worked in the shipyards.

He spent time in Michigan working in the auto industry and in residential construction. He was an accomplished brick mason and carpenter; and possessed all skills necessary to build a home from the ground up. He had a long career as a supervisor for Haywood Contracting Company, heading work crews in the construction of many commercial and government buildings stretching from Clay to Buncombe counties. He was heavily involved in the Angel Hospital expansion project and the conversion of the Biltmore dairy facilities into the Biltmore Winery. He was a good provider for his family, but sometimes his dedication to his work was over the top. Family drives on Sunday were usually an excuse to visit the current job site! John Quince Sanders lived a long life, was loved, and is now with his family and friends who have passed on. Until we see him again, those who remain will miss him.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Henson Sanders; children, Mike (Carol), Sharon (Kevin) Cates; grandchildren, Devan, Kayla, and Autumn Sanders, Brianna Stewart, and Joseph Friedling; great grandsons, Jacob and James Friedling; sisters, Olivia Reese and Amelia Trull, and Aunt Mildred (Shope) Swofford; several step-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and special family friends, including June Hodgin.

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

### Raymond Richard Bates

Raymond Richard Bates, 62 of Franklin, N.C., passed away at home March 2, 2021.

A lifetime resident of Macon County, he was born to the late George and Maebelle Bates. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Michael, and Mitchell.

He worked in the telephone industry and later delivered for Entemanns. His hobbies included puzzle books, playing cards, and playing guitar. He loved reading westerns and watching TV. He was a pretty darn good shade tree mechanic. He walked everywhere he went and put many miles on his feet. He was one of a kind and will be missed by many.

He is survived by sisters, Kathy (Ann), Sarah and Sherri; brother, Shawn; children, Shane, Caleb, Aaron, and Nicholas, all of Franklin; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday March 9, at Tellico Baptist Church with Rev. Terry Wilkes officiating.

Pallbearers were Allen Wilkes, Benny Hampton, David Woods, Robert Sanders, Tommy Greenwood and Charles Bates.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

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**Leon Yaun**

Leon Yaun, 92, peacefully left this earth to be with his Maker March 3, 2021. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., to Samuel Leon Yaun and Anna Anita (Swift) Yaun, Dec. 11, 1928.

From an early age his artistic talent was evident when his fourth grade soap carving of the Parthenon was selected to be exhibited at the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery in Memphis. Growing up, he spent many summers in the City of New Orleans, La., and loved its bayou country.

These experiences would become the subject of much of his early art work. He graduated from Subiaco Academy college preparatory school in Arkansas and as a young adult pursued his studies at Memphis Academy of Art, where many of his paintings were on display.

He moved his young family to Connecticut where he pursued a career in the furniture industry. He was head of quality control for Jens Risom Furniture in their Connecticut Plant. A loving father of four, he spent many happy hours playing with his children at the beach. Even with the responsibilities of a family, he managed to become an active member of the Mystic Art Association of Mystic, Conn. He also exhibited at the Slater Museum Gallery in Norwich, Conn.

As his children matured and started families of their own, he became interested in the world of antiques and was able to incorporate his newfound interest into his love of art and wood working. He exhibited his collections of antique bottles and Americana regionally and became well known in the area. He remained closely involved in his children and grandchildren's lives as their families grew.

With the harsh New England winters, he began spending much of the winter months in Florida. In 1981, he was introduced to Hazel Giles, a fellow antique exhibitor with two young children. In 1982, he moved to Florida and he and Hazel began their lives together. When the children started college, Hazel and Leon moved to the North Carolina mountains to the little community of Glenville where he spent the remainder of his life. He spent countless hours painting and carving and exhibiting his work at Folk Fest in Atlanta, Ga., the nation's largest folk art festival at that time. His work is held in collections all over the South and Northeast.

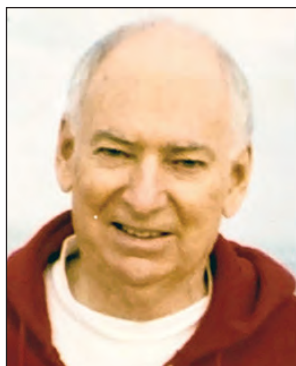
He remained close to his New England family and visited every summer until he was no longer able to travel. He was also especially close to Hazel's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who he treated as his own. They shared many holidays and summers in the mountains.

He is survived by Hazel Giles, his life partner of 38 years; his sister, Carol Richardson of Salisbury, Md., and her husband Wayne Hancock; nephews, Wade Richardson of Greenville, S.C., and Wesley Richardson of Del Mar, Md.; his half-brother, Eddie Yaun of Germantown, Tenn.; his son, Todd Yaun and his children, Derek Yaun and Luke Yaun of East Woodstock, Conn. and Iris Anna Gohn (Yaun) of Tucson, Ariz.; his daughter, Rory Lynch (Yaun) of Petersburg, N.Y. and her children, Clove Lynch of Boulder, Colo., and Mimosia Lynch of Munich, Germany; daughter, Jennifer Yaun Rainey (Tom) of Brooklyn, Conn., and her children, Travis Harwood of Plainville, Conn.; and daughter, Venessa Harwood Perry (Ronald), of Middletown, Conn.; daughter, Leslie McClellan of Dayville, Conn. and her children, Evan McClellan and Nathan McClellan; stepdaughter, Lynn Giles Herrera and her children, Megan Herrera Cartwright (Mike) of Milton, Del., Rebecca Herrera Joga (Matthew) of Beaufort, S.C., and Brittany Herrera of Montclair, N.J.; stepson, James Giles and wife Kristina of Rockville, Md., and their children, Christopher John (CJ) Giles and Kaitlin Rose (Katie) Giles of Rockville, Md.; and 13 great grandchildren.

Everyone who met or knew Leon was impressed by his kind, gentle humor and immense talent. He was indeed a very special gift on loan from God.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



**Leon Yaun**

**Marilyn Lyon Ilhardt**

Marilyn Lyon Ilhardt, 70, originally of Miami, Fla., passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 3, 2021, in the afternoon with family members by her side in Asheville, N.C. She was born July 13, 1950, in Miami to the late Neil "David" and Margaret Lyon. She met her future husband, Ronald "Ron" Ilhardt, at the tender age of 15 and they have been together ever since that day. She graduated from Miami Senior High, Class of '68, and wed Ron on Aug. 16, 1969. She worked in Miami until 2012 and once Marilyn and Ron retired, they began to spend more of their time in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains. In 2017, they made Franklin, N.C., their permanent home.

She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Ron; her brother, Stephen (Nancy) Lyon; her sister, Barbara (Andrew) Clute; her daughter, Kelli (Chris) Wise; her son, Kyle (Renee) Ilhardt; grandchildren, Tyler, Brooke, Kylie, Austin, Karson, and Klayton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was the most caring, loving, and kind woman. There is not a single person who could say anything negative about her – she was a phenomenal daughter, sister, wife, mother, "Mimi," aunt, and friend. All of our lives are better because of Marilyn. She was loved by many and will be cherished forever. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service at Macon Funeral Home on Saturday, March 13, to begin with a viewing at 11 a.m., followed by a service at 12 p.m. Burial will be at Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery. A celebration of Marilyn's wonderful life will follow at The Lodge at Cat Creek.

Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Miami Police Veteran's Association College Scholarship Fund.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



**Marilyn Lyon Ilhardt**

**Ada June Kiser Dowdle**

Ada June Kiser Dowdle, 94, of Franklin, N.C., was promoted to the Church Triumphant, March 7, 2021. She was born Feb. 23, 1927, to the late Bunyan and Nina Gillespie Kiser. She was predeceased by two brothers, Jack and Julian Kiser, one sister, Clara Shields, and her beloved husband, Erwin (Butch) Dowdle.

She worked in the textile industry, but for most of her life she was a dedicated homemaker. She enjoyed taking home-cooked meals and making pop-in-visits to neighbors and friends offering a simple word of encouragement and a touch of kindness.

She was a life-long member of Mt. Hope Baptist Church. During her active years, she participated in various areas of the church work especially the Women's Missionary Union.

She is survived by a son, Charles Andrew Dowdle; daughter, Mavis Dowdle Stiles (Billy Joe) of Rabun Gap, Ga.; two grandchildren, Juleigh Dowdle Rogers (Hank) of Franklin, and Todd Stiles (Gwen) of Clayton, Ga.; three great-grandchildren, Zeke Rogers, Laken Stiles, and Loren Stiles; and a sister, Kathryn Angel.

A private graveside service will be conducted at Woodlawn Cemetery, with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

The family extends appreciation to the Grandview Manor staff and Four Seasons Hospice for their kind, attentive and compassionate care.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com).



**Ada June Kiser Dowdle**

**Sandra Duane Parr**

Sandra Duane Parr, 72, of Cullowhee, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Born in Tampa, Fla., she was the daughter of the late JD and Doris Marquart Hughes. She was a retired schoolteacher in Florida and was the owner of The Bird Barn and Gift Emporium in Cashiers, N.C. She loved reading and studying her Bible, cooking, and watching cooking shows. She was a member of Community Bible Church in Cashiers.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Leroy Daniel Parr Jr; daughter, Jaime Duane Jones (Durl) of Banner Elk, N.C.; son, Leroy Daniel Parr III (Patty) of Cullowhee; and one brother, Douglas Charles Hughes of Tampa, Fla.; and eight grandchildren, who she loved and adored.

As per her wishes, no services will be held at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to TSI, PO Box 1566, Newland, NC 28657, Reference, Sandra Parr.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Staci Marie Mashburn**

Staci Marie Mashburn, 7, of Franklin, N.C., passed away March 6, 2021.

She was born in Jackson County to Kelby Mashburn and Kishi Sanders.

She had a passion for learning. She thrived in her school environment and adored her teachers, Suzanne Younce, Phyllis Castle, and Jeremy Chapman. She loved her classmates, befriended, and genuinely loved everyone and knew no strangers. She enjoyed spending time outdoors, coloring, blocks and swinging. She always had a smile on her face and brightened every room she walked into.

She is survived by her parents, Kelby Mashburn and Kishi Sanders of Franklin; grandparents, Rose Mashburn, Dayton Mashburn, Charlie Sanders, all of Franklin, and Emma Sanders of Hendersonville; great grandparents, Frankie and Dallas Sanders of Franklin; half-sisters, Hazel and Skyler; aunts, Kimberly Wojtkowski of Franklin, Kristin Johnson of Franklin, Emily Sanders of Glenville, and Anastasia Sanders of Franklin; cousins, Naaman, Dawson, and Paul; and special friend, Kailey Fraiser.

Services will be held Thursday, March 11, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jeremy Chapman and Rev. Morris Tippet will officiate. Burial will be at Elijah Missionary Baptist Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Naaman Posey, Buddy Thomas, Dawson Wojtkowski, and Josh Gregory.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

**D.L. Elliott**

D.L. Elliott, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday March 5, 2021.

He was born in Macon County, to the late James and Mattie Elliott. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his long-time companion, Mary Bumgarner; siblings, David Elliott, Kathleen Webb, and Imogene Elliott.

He was a mechanic by trade and enjoyed tinkering with the motors of mowers and weed eaters.

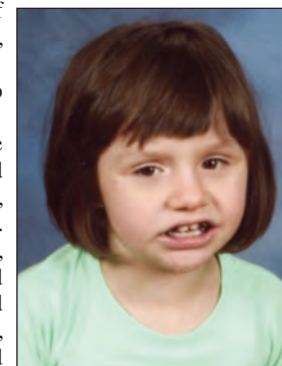
He is survived by Mary's son, Glen (Sharon) who he loved like his own; sisters, Jo Webb (Johnny), Rosa Young; and a brother, Denver Elliott (Vicki).

Service was held Wednesday March 10, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Don Bates officiating.

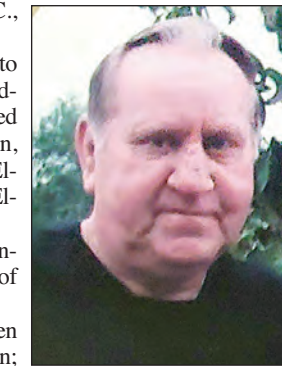
Pallbearers were Bud Elliott, Steve Elliot, DJ Elliot, Brandon Elliot, Scotty Elliott and Josh Houston.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association PO Box 840692 Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



**Staci Marie Mashburn**



**D.L. Elliott**

## Kyle Larson wins Cup race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Kyle Larson left little to chance Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway leading a race best 103 laps and pulling away to a convincing 3.156-second win over former NASCAR Cup Series champion Brad Keselowski to win the Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube – his first victory in two years.

Larson, 28, of Elk Grove, Calif., became the quickest winner in Hendrick Motorsports long and esteemed history, taking the checkered flag in only his fourth start in the team's famous No. 5 Chevrolet.

It was a hard-earned and highly-emotional win for Larson, who missed most of last season serving a suspension for using racially-insensitive language. The popular young Californian was reinstated by NASCAR in the offseason after following a course of rehabilitation and sensitivity training. He came into the season with the Hendrick Motorsports opportunity, grateful and ready to redeem himself.

Larson was exuberant speaking to the team on the radio while driving under the checkered flag as the race winner. He did celebratory burnouts on the backstretch and then again under the flag-stand on the frontstretch telling his Hendrick Motorsports team on the car radio, "What a car, what an opportunity. Thank you, guys."

Just as Larson was finishing his live television interview, Keselowski ran across the infield grass to shake Larson's hand and congratulate him on a powerful race performance.

"I'm just really happy for him, I know he's been through a lot in the last year and he's a good kid who I've known for a little while and has a good family and I'm just happy to see him bounce back," the Team Penske driver Brad Keselowski said.

"He was really fast – had a lot of speed in all the lanes which was really impressive, usually you have to make a compromise, but they were really good. If Kyle Larson wasn't here, we would have had a dominant day," Keselowski added with a smile.

It was a highly competitive race from green



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 07, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



drick, Jeff Gordon and everybody at Hendrick Motorsports for the amazing opportunity I've been gifted. Hendrick Motorsports, Chevrolet everybody at the engine shop. Thank you so much for all the hard work. This is definitely special."

Larson and Keselowski managed to use the final portion of the race to get around the full-on Joe Gibbs Racing team, whose drivers combined to lead 53 laps on the afternoon. Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Kyle Busch – a Las Vegas native – and Denny Hamlin finished third and fourth.

Team Penske driver Ryan Blaney was fifth, his first top 10 of the season.

Two more Joe Gibbs Racing Toyotas, driven by Martin Truex Jr. and Christopher Bell were sixth and seventh, followed by last week's winner, Hendrick Motorsport's William Byron. Team Penske driver Joey Logano and Richard Petty Motorsport's driver Erik Jones rounded out the top 10.

Larson's teammate Chase Elliott – the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion – finished 13th after overcoming several problems. His team had a jack issue in the pits and contact with another car made for multiple long pit stops.

"We were good on the short run, just didn't quite have enough long run speed," said Denny Hamlin, who led 47 laps on the day. "Certainly I thought it was a good start, we'll just gather our data and try to figure out what we need to do to be better when we come back here and it really counts."

Hamlin and Keselowski, who are still looking for their first wins of the 2021 season sit atop the championship points standings. Hamlin leads by 38 points over Keselowski and Larson is third.

The series heads to Phoenix Raceway for next Sunday's Instacart 500 (3:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) – always an important race as the one-mile

to checkered flag with 27 lead changes among 12 different drivers. Five drivers led at least 20 laps. Keselowski won Stage 1 and Larson won Stage 2 – the first stage victories for both drivers this season.

In all, Larson led a race best six times, working his Chevrolet back to the front no matter the challenge, ultimately pacing the field for the last 30 laps en route to his seventh career win. It is his first on a 1.5-mile track after nine previous runner-up finishes on mile-and-a-half venues.

"It was such an awesome car," Larson said. "Cliff (Daniels, crew chief) and everybody did a great job preparing this piece. It was so much fun to drive. I could go wherever I wanted to. I know we had a really good car once we would kind of get single-filed out; but just drafting early in the run was tough.

"But thank you so much Mr. Hen-



A general view of the start of the NASCAR Cup Series Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 07, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Photo by Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images

Phoenix track is where the series races for the championship in the Nov. 7 season-finale.

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 139.615 mph.  
Time of Race: 2 Hrs, 52 Mins, 7 Secs. Margin of Victory: 3.156 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 6 for 30 laps.  
Lead Changes: 27 among 12 drivers.  
Lap Leaders: K. Harvick 0; W. Byron 1-19; C. Elliott 20-26; K. Larson 27-30; D. Hamlin 31-43; K. Larson 44-52; J. Logano 53; B. Keselowski 54-55; J. Logano 56-61; C. Elliott 62-71; B. Keselowski 72-73; C. Elliott 74-78; B. Keselowski 79-82; R. Blaney 83; D. Hamlin 84-87; B. Keselowski 88-106; K. Larson 107-123; W. Byron 124-129; T. Reddick 130-136; M. McDowell 137-145; A. Alfredo # 146; K. Larson 147-169; D. Hamlin 170-185; M. Truex Jr. 186-191; D. Hamlin 192-205; K. Larson 206-225; D. Suarez 226-237; K. Larson 238-267.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Kyle Larson 6 times for 103 laps; Denny Hamlin 4 times for 47 laps; Brad Keselowski 4 times for 27 laps; William Byron 2 times for 25 laps; Chase Elliott 3 times for 22 laps; Daniel Suarez 1 time for 12 laps; Michael McDowell 1 time for 9 laps; Tyler Reddick 1 time for 7 laps; Joey Logano 2 times for 7 laps; Martin Truex Jr. 1 time for 6 laps; Ryan Blaney 1 time for 1 lap; Anthony Alfredo # 1 time for 1 lap.

AJ Allmendinger hits jackpot with Xfinity win at Las Vegas

A.J. Allmendinger took the lead and held off the field on a final race restart with 12 laps remaining to earn his fourth NASCAR Xfinity Series win in the last 16 races – taking the victory in the AlSCO Uniforms 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in his first race at the track in three years.

Allmendinger's No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet had to hold off the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota driven by Daniel Hemric, who led a race best 74 of the 200 laps and came 0.978-seconds away from his first career victory.

It was clearly an emotional win for the veteran Allmendinger, who climbed out of his car at the finish line and leaned against it, eyes closed for a moment before doing his live television interview.

This is the 39-year-old Californian's first fulltime season racing in NASCAR since 2018 when he competed in the NASCAR Cup Series ranks, however he earned three wins driving parttime for Kaulig Racing the last two seasons.

"First of all, it's awesome to have you all back in the grandstands," a smiling Allmendinger said, motioning toward the cheering but socially-distanced and limited-size crowd.

"It's emotional because you don't know when you're

going to do this again," Allmendinger continued. "You never know. This could be the last one (win), you never know, I hope it's not I think we can do a lot more.

"Even though I'm back fulltime," he added, "this is fun, but I want to win so bad for [team owner] Matt [Kaulig] every week. It's hard to put into words what he means to me. Truly how bad I want to win for him. ... it means that much

here and wanted to try to have more speed to lead laps and win stages and we did that today," Hemric said. "We lined up with a shot there and just got beat. Congratulations to A.J. We just got beat."

Hemric's teammate Brandon Jones finished third followed by 2020 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion Austin Cindric, who led 43 laps and won Stage 1.

Cindric had a tire go down on his No. 22 Team Penske Ford 55 laps into the race but turned in an inspired rally, finishing 10th in the 2nd Stage and breaking into the top five by Lap 117. He made contact with Harrison Burton in the closing laps and his fourth-place showing is his fourth top five in as many races.

Las Vegas native Noah Gragson finished fifth – his best showing of the season. Michael Annett, rookie Josh Berry, Justin Haley, Harrison Burton and Jeb Burton rounded out the top 10. Haley's and Jeb Burton's work gave Kaulig Racing a top 10 sweep.

Cindric holds a 21-point lead over Hemric in the series driver standings entering next Saturday's Call 811 Before You Dig 200 at Phoenix Raceway (5:30 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 113.804 mph.

Time of Race: 2 Hrs, 38 Mins, 10 Secs. Margin of Victory: .978 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 8 for 45 laps.

Lead Changes: 23 among 7 drivers.

Lap Leaders: M. Snider 0; D. Hemric 1; A. Cindric 2-25; D. Hemric 26-28; A. Cindric 29-47; B. Jones 48; D. Hemric 49-62; J. Allgaier 63; D. Hemric 64-68; J. Allgaier 69; D. Hemric 70-75; J. Allgaier 76; D. Hemric 77-92; J. Allgaier 93; B. Jones 94-118; D. Hemric 119-138; A. Allmendinger 139-148; B. Jones 149; J. Haley 150-154; A. Allmendinger 155-175; B. Jones 176; T. Dillon 177-178; D. Hemric 179-187; A. Allmendinger 188-200.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Daniel Hemric 8 times for 74 laps; AJ Allmendinger 3 times for 44 laps; Austin Cindric 2 times for 43 laps; Brandon Jones 4 times for 28 laps; Justin Haley 1 time for 5 laps; Justin Allgaier 4 times for 4 laps; Ty Dillon 1 time for 2 laps.



AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 Ellsworth Advisors Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO Uniforms 300 at The Bullring at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 06, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



to me that he believes in me."

For Hemric, who now has 11 career runner-up showings in NASCAR's three national series, it was a tough final outcome considering the strong showing up front for his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota all race long. He led eight different times and won Stage 2. Tonight was Hemric's eighth runner-up finish in his NASCAR Xfinity Series career. NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Jarrett holds the Xfinity Series record for the most runner-up finishes before his first victory with 10 second-place finishes.

"You hate to have one get away like that, but we came

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# Should I buy a second home?

Owning a second home can provide retirees – or even younger families – a mountain retreat or a house at the beach for those family vacations or quick weekend getaways.

But if buying a second home is on your list of things to do in 2021, be sure to consider all the upsides and downsides before committing, says Patrick Rush, CEO of Triad Financial Advisors.

"Many retirees end up regretting it," Rush says. "They feel they are forced to go to that second home every weekend just because they spent so much on it. A vacation property or second home can certainly provide a lot of joy, but it rarely works out financially."

That doesn't stop people from buying them, though. The National Association of Home Builders estimates that Americans own about 7.4 million second homes, which is about 5.6 percent of the total housing stock.

"People tend to purchase a second home either as a rental property or a vacation home, which they might also rent for part of the year," Rush says. "There are better ways of growing your money."

Here's a few things to know about investing in a second home:

*Real estate doesn't automatically mean easy money.* People mistakenly believe real estate provides a guaranteed return, but that's not always true. Rush recalls one client who withdrew all of his retirement money to build an expensive second home. The client was certain the house would pay off, but he eventually was forced to sell it for half his investment.

*Consider the overall impact on your life.* Most people don't have endless streams of money, even if they have done well for themselves financially. So, a splurge in one area often requires a sacrifice in another. "If you want the second home, then perhaps an Alaskan cruise won't be in the budget," Rush says. "It comes down to what your priorities are."

*Upkeep can become overwhelming.* People tend to overlook the ancillary costs that make owning a second home expensive, Rush says. "Property taxes, insurance, and maintenance start to add up," he says. "Renting the house out when you aren't using it does provide an income stream, but managing the property and dealing with tenants is a hassle. You can hire a property manager, but that has its own disadvantages."

*Renting can work just as well.* While it might feel exhilarating to own a mountain home in North Carolina or a Pacific Ocean beach house, Rush says another option is simply to rent a place for a week or a weekend whenever you're in need of a getaway.

## SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:  
HEAD TO TOE

### ACROSS

1. \*A or O, to blood
5. Catch a wink
8. "Don't know what to say" sound
11. Eon, alt. sp.
12. Severe blow
13. \*Blood \_\_\_\_, type of blood test
15. Eastern \_\_\_\_, 1947-1991
16. \*Respiratory rattling
17. Enormous ones
18. \*Annual exam
20. Largest city of Norway
21. Like a romantic movie?
22. \*Anatomical pouch
23. Work over with fists (2 words)
26. Levee next to water mill
30. Not cooked
31. What a terrorist wants to spread
34. Continental currency
35. Wide open
37. Charged particle
38. Colorado resort
39. Hipbones
40. Recede, as in tide (2 words)
42. Laos resident
43. Stinging shrub, pl.
45. Handrail's main supports
47. Caribou kin
48. Relating to a lobe
50. Saint's topper
52. \*L in ACL
55. Bad-tempered
56. Affirm with confidence
57. Stain on Santa

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59. Work the dough</li> <li>60. Tiger Woods' pegs</li> <li>61. Ruptured</li> <li>62. "____ my party, and I'll cry if I want too..."</li> <li>63. Store posting, abbr.</li> <li>64. *Largest organ</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Type of shark</li> <li>10. Not Miss or Ms</li> <li>12. Influenza</li> <li>13. Sandbar</li> <li>14. *Cardiac, smooth or skeletal ones</li> <li>19. Quickly fry</li> <li>22. Knightly title</li> <li>23. *Cerebellum location</li> <li>24. Two under on one hole</li> <li>25. Look forward to</li> <li>26. *Kissing disease?</li> <li>27. Having two parts</li> <li>28. Beatles: "He's _____ nowhere man" (2 words)</li> <li>29. Plural of #26 Down</li> <li>32. *12 pairs of these</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33. Rip off</li> <li>36. *a.k.a. kneecap</li> <li>38. Mr. T's team</li> <li>40. Comic book cry</li> <li>41. Unlocks the gate</li> <li>44. Andrew Webber's middle name</li> <li>46. Forcefully grabs</li> <li>48. *Blood filter</li> <li>49. S-shaped moldings</li> <li>50. "The ____ for Red October"</li> <li>51. Greek god of war</li> <li>52. Strip of wood</li> <li>53. Breakfast spot?</li> <li>54. Spelling or Kelly</li> <li>55. Biathlon equipment</li> <li>58. One less than jack</li> </ol> |
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**3 Months - \$11.00** (includes tax)

**The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide**  
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**NEWS CLASSIFIEDS REAL ESTATE OBITUARIES SPORTS DINING**

# COUNTDOWN TO SPRING *Sale*

**\$1 OVER COST ON ALL PRE-OWNED INVENTORY\***  
CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY! 828-524-0734

COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET'S ENTIRE PRE-OWNED INVENTORY IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT \$1.00 OVER COST!

THAT'S RIGHT, ONE DOLLAR OVER OUR COST

ON ALL IN STOCK PRE-OWNED INVENTORY! WHEN YOU COME IN TO THE DEALERSHIP, SIMPLY ASK FOR THE MANAGER'S INVENTORY ACCOUNTING BALANCE LIST.



Plus tax, tag, title, doc. and NCSI Payments based on 84 month terms, \$2,000 down or trade equity, and approved credit. Geographic restrictions may apply. Offer may not be compatible or stacked with other incentives. See dealer for details.



**2004 JEEP LIBERTY**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$4,726**



**2013 CHEVY SILVERADO**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$17,995**



**2019 NISSAN ROGUE**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$300/MO.**



**2016 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$10,960**



**2019 TOYOTA COROLLA**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$200/MO.**



**2019 CHEVY COLORADO**  
**OUR PRICE:**  
**\$400/MO.**

## PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

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
2012 Chevrolet Cruze	63,884
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
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	24,462
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
2016 Ford Escape	33,265
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 Unltd.	88,737
2018 Jeep Wrangler Unltd.	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

