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The second annual award-winning Franklin High School UNIFY March Madness event was held Tuesday night at the high school gym. Prior to the much anticipated basketball game, a parade was held honoring the special players and cheerleaders slated to perform at the event. FHS sports teams, students and coaches lent their support to make sure the event was successful. The UNIFY program pairs up students with special needs with volunteer partners who help guide them through practices and games. The Franklin Panther Sports Network (FPSN) live streamed the festivities. The event is organized by FHS business teacher and yearbook advisor Penny Moffitt. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Ellen Randall

Macon schools going to Plan A beginning April 5

Diane Peltz - Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 22. On the agenda was the recent actions taken by legislators and the governor to get kids back in school. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed Senate Bill 220 into law on March 11. Senate Bill 220 requires local boards of education to provide in-person learning for grade K-5 in Plan "A", and for grades 6-12 in either Plan "B" or Plan "A", while meeting all health and safety requirements in the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12). The updated Toolkit no longer requires schools to do daily temperature checks and symptom screenings.

While the Macon County School system is currently meeting the requirements that are outlined in Senate Bill 220, the school system had the choice of allowing all students to return to school. Schools are still required to offer families the option of attending school virtually.

On a motion made by Tommy Cabe and seconded by

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National tool and equipment chain opening at old Kmart

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

When Kmart closed its doors in 2018, the massive building it called home for decades was left empty, which is exactly how it has remained... until now. On Monday, Harbor Freight, a privately held discount tool and equipment retailer, announced it will soon be occupying the space. Harbor Freight operates a chain of retail stores, as well as a mail-order and e-commerce business. The company employs more than 20,000 people in the United States and has 1,000 locations in 48 states.

"We're very excited about our new location that will be coming to Franklin in mid- to late summer," said Craig Hoffman, director of Communications & Content for Harbor Freight. "This location will be our first in Macon County and our 46th location in North Carolina. We think it will be more convenient for our customers in the community, as they currently have to drive about 45 minutes to Seneca, S.C., or to our location in Henderson which we opened last fall."

According to Hoffman, Harbor Freight had been working

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Blaney thwarts Larson's dominance with win

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SCHOOLS

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Carol Arnold, the Macon County Board of Education approved by a 5-0 vote to have Mountain View Intermediate, Macon Middle School, and Franklin High School begin operating under Plan "A" when students return from spring break on Monday, April 5. By waiting until April 5, families and teachers will be given adequate time to prepare for the schedule change and all staff who have chosen to be vaccinated will have been provided the two weeks required to develop immunity to COVID-19.

Mountain View Intermediate School, Macon Middle School, and Union Academy will continue to require that each Friday be a virtual day in order to adequately interact with their virtual students. Franklin High School and Macon Early College will operate under Plan "A" five days per week. Cartoogechaye Elementary, East Franklin Elementary, Iotla Valley Elementary, South Macon Elementary, Nantahala School and Highlands School will not alter their current schedule of operations. While more students are allowed back on campuses face coverings are still required in North Carolina schools.

Summer Edventure/Learning Camp

Summer Edventure Camp will start on June 14. In the past, Summer Adventure Camp was made available as a daycare of sorts for kids to have somewhere to go in the summer. The camp came at a cost but some parents were eligible for subsidized tuition. This year, SEC will address learning loss experienced by students throughout this unusual season. The camp will be held face to face and will run for five weeks. Principals are gathering lists of "at risk" students and also putting together staff to assist with the Camp.

The Summer Learning Program will be four days per week, Monday-Thursday.

Summer Edventure Camp will be five days per week, Monday-Friday. Instruction will begin at 7:30 and will end at 1:30. The enrichment component will continue until 4:30 each day. All grade levels (K-12) will offer learning and recovery components. The number of students that can be served will be based upon the staffing of qualified teachers that are able to commit to teaching during the summer. There is no fee for this Camp Program. Eligible students will be contacted by their home school. Dr. Baldwin, Macon County School Board Superintendent, did have some concerns regarding the Edventure Summer Camp Program.

"Will virtual students be willing to come in to school for face to face instruction? Will we be able to staff summer school?" He questioned.

He also spoke about strong community partners such as Danny Antoine's Karate Camp and Nantahala Learning Center and not wanting to take away from their contribution. Instead he hoped to get assistance from them to help with implementation of the program.

Funding for the programs are made possible through the CARES Act passed by Congress and signed by the president in March 2020.

Strong community partners willing to lend a hand

Danny Antoine, owner of Danny Antoine's Marshal Arts & Fitness Academy, spoke at the board meeting.

"I wanted to take a moment to express to the board that my wife and I, our team at the karate academy, are making ourselves available to help at whatever capacity Macon County Schools would allow us to keep being a part. We have been serving this community for a little over 20 years now and we value the families here in Macon county, today more than ever before," said Antoine. "My second point is to simply share this thought, when I started my classes

back last summer we were overwhelmed with the response from the children. I spend much of my time listening to our children's hearts in this community, and it is vital to me that they understand, at the very least, with us their precious voices matter. These children have been suffering emotionally, and academically, and they are not sure how to process through it all. They don't have the capacity to formulate through all of this, the pandemic and our response to it, in the same manner as the adults that surround them. So my point in saying this is, the response and the results of the response to the pandemic cannot end up being worst than the pandemic itself. And that is part of what we are currently facing. Their hearts are broken because they miss their friends and their teachers, as they often relay to us during our family time discussions at the academy. So we continue to serve the families of Macon County and continue to try to be one of the many solutions to all of this in the children's lives. Thanks for giving a listening ear to this, blessings to all," he concluded.

Public school funding issues

John DeVille, Franklin High School Social Studies Teacher, expressed concern over the state legislature introducing school choice bills that would "divert public funds to privatization schemes." HB 32 would expand eligibility for North Carolina's school voucher programs.

HB32 would make five changes to the Opportunity Scholarship program: 1. No prior public school enrollment requirement for entering second graders. 2. Increase value of the voucher. 3. Loosening of prior public school enrollment requirement in grades 3-12. 4. Diversion of funds to marketing efforts. 5. Increase of administration funding.

"Private schools would have no accountability, they would not be required to administer state tests. Anyone could open a school and public school dollars would be taken away from our school budget," explained DeVille. "We are an economically diverse community with a very wealthy section of Macon and a poverty stricken section. We need to increase our tax base. We have an under tapped tax base right now, Macon stands at 90-100 of 100 counties, a far cry from the top 10 counties.

Virtual Academy offered in the fall - with changes

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Macon County Schools provided some in-person instruction to students who desired to attend school on site. All students participated in some virtual instruction but teachers were limited to the amount of direct instruction they were able to provide in order to accommodate for multiple students in a home, students with limited internet service, and so they could provide direct instruction to their in-person students.

The Macon Virtual Academy, starting Fall 2021, will look very different. The program will be open for K-8th grade students and their families who have successfully adapted to learning from home and would like to continue even when schools fully open.

Admission is by application only with specific requirements and expectations including references from a previous teacher or parent/guardian. Full day instruction will be provided by specially trained virtual learning teachers. Students will be engaged in direct instruction and specific daily assignments and expectations throughout the day. Students will participate in-person for various activities such as field trips, seminars, clubs or sports. Internet access is required. Daily attendance will be taken per class meeting and will be required for continued participation in the program. Students will also be required to remain for the full semester before requisitions a transfer to in-person school.

Limited space is available and applications are now open and will be accepted through April 23 for enrollment in Fall 2021. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 24.

COVID restrictions eased

As North Carolina's trends continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases with 31.7% of North Carolinians over 18 having received at least one dose of vaccine, Gov. Roy Cooper announced that the state will continue to ease some COVID-19 restrictions. Executive Order No. 204 will take effect March 26 at 5 p.m. is set to expire April 30 at 5 p.m. The state's general mask mandate remains in effect. All businesses must continue to maintain the 6 feet of distance requirement and implement other safety protocols as they expand their capacity.

The order will also increase mass gathering limits. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 25 to 50 and the number of people who may gather outdoors will increase from 50 to 100. This Order also fully lifts the restriction on the late-night sale and service of alcoholic beverages on bars, restaurants, and other establishments.

– Indoors and Outdoors up to 100% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing

- Museums and Aquariums

- Retail Businesses

- Salons, personal care and grooming businesses, tattoo parlors

– Indoors up to 75% and Outdoors up to 100% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing

- Restaurants, Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries

- Recreation (e.g., bowling, skating, rock climbing)

- Fitness and Physical Activity Facilities (e.g., gyms, yoga studios, fitness centers, pools)

- Amusement Parks

– Indoors and outdoors up to 50% Capacity, Subject to Masks and 6 ft. Social Distancing

- Bars, Lounges (including tobacco) and Night Clubs

- Auditoriums, Arenas, and other venues for live performances

- Sports Arenas and Fields • Meeting, Reception, and Conference Spaces

- Movie theaters and gaming facilities may operate at up to 75% capacity outdoors.

Activities and settings are lower risk when they involve interacting with fewer people, being outside, keeping masks on the entire time, keeping interactions with people short (under 15 minutes), staying physically distant, and avoiding singing, yelling, and cheering, according to public health officials.

FREIGHT

Continued from page 1

to open the Macon County location for some time, and are looking forward to seeing it completed.

"We've been looking to open a location in Macon, and specifically Franklin for some time, but we always believe in making sure we have the best possible location for our customers—one that offers easy access, good visibility and ample parking," said Hoffman. "We also want to make sure we have the right space — in this case approximately 25,000 square feet. We believe that one competitive advantage we have over our big box stores in this category is that we are far more compact, and easier to shop — while still offering our huge assortment of tools and equipment. A Harbor Freight store is easier to browse, and since many of our customers are professional tradespeople, easier to come in, pick up exactly what you need and head out to work or the jobsite."

According to Hoffman, the location at 395 Westgate Plaza in Franklin meets all those requirements.

The new store means new jobs for local residents. "We also hire locally — this location will bring between 25-30 new jobs to the community — so we look for a community that offers a great pool of applicants to join the Harbor Freight family," said Hoffman. "We want to be the best place to work in retail, and we offer very competitive salaries along with a full benefits package and the opportunity to advance in our growing company — we currently have more than 1,100 locations in the U.S. and are adding new locations weekly."

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High Hampton resort offers tuition reimbursement to WCU students

It began as small conversations regarding the possibility of Western Carolina University establishing an internship program with High Hampton resort in Cashiers.

Little did Kenny Jordan, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism in WCU's College of Business, know the magnitude of what those discussions would result in – a partnership establishing the High Hampton Educational Assistance Plan.

Through the plan, High Hampton is looking to employ up to 50 students from both WCU and Southwestern Community College for a variety of positions paying between \$12 and \$15 per hour. Students working a minimum of 800 hours during a calendar year in which they were enrolled in school will be reimbursed up to \$2,650 per semester, and no more than \$5,250 in a calendar year for qualified educational expenses, including tuition, fees and books.

Those working a minimum of 500 hours during a calendar year while enrolled will be reimbursed up to \$1,312.50 per semester, and no more than \$2,625 a calendar year for qualified educational expenses, including tuition, fees and books.

"This program is a great example of the partnerships our faculty forge with businesses and community organizations across Western North Carolina," WCU Provost Richard Starnes said. "It has important and tangible benefits for both our students and High Hampton resort."

High Hampton also is providing free shuttle service from WCU and SCC to its property. Currently, more than 30 students have taken advantage of the program, which could reach a maximum payout of \$250,000 to students.

Employment is open to students of all ma-

jors. Participants in the plan must achieve a "B" or better grade point average, or a "pass" grade for classes that are on a pass/fail scale.

"The goal of the program is to provide all of our students on campus with the opportunity to work and gain employment experience," Jordan said.

Jordan said they also are working closely with WCU's Center for Career and Professional Development to promote the reimbursement plan and help prepare students for the interview process.

The partnership was a natural fit, said Scott Greene, High Hampton general manager. "The reputation for quality education, its relationships with their students, and the school's location really made Western Carolina University the perfect partner for High Hampton," he said. "Together, we will help create meaningful career movement for students, while providing support for their educational journey."

"We both saw the benefits of helping students find both year-round and seasonal employment that could provide flexibility to accommodate schedules. For High Hampton, we also knew we would be attracting quality candidates to the program that had ambition for success and growth. WCU has a notable hospitality and tourism school, so naturally the fit was really perfect."

High Hampton is a renowned luxury resort located in scenic Cashiers. Its property includes an inn, a private lake, restaurants, a spa, an 18-hole golf course and tennis courts.

For more information about the High Hampton Educational Assistance Plan, contact Jordan at kjordanjr@wcu.edu, or Theresa Cruz Paul, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development at 828-227-7133 or tpaul@wcu.edu.

Dates and times set for WCU spring in-person commencement ceremonies

After a series of virtual commencement ceremonies due to COVID-19 in 2020, Western Carolina University is holding in-person commencement activities the weekend of May 14-16 at Ramsey Regional Activity Center as follows:

- Friday, May 14, at 6 p.m. – The Graduate School
- Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. – College of Education and Allied Professions and David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts
- Saturday, May 15, at 4 p.m. – College of Arts and Sciences
- Sunday, May 16, at 10 a.m. – College of Business and College of Engineering and Technology
- Sunday, May 16, at 4 p.m. – College of Health and Human Sciences

To comply with the governor's current executive order regarding mass gatherings:

- Graduates will be required to confirm their participation in spring commencement exercises. Graduates will be required to RSVP in the Marching Order system no later than March 31;
- Graduates will be allowed two guests and all guests must be ticketed (tickets will be distributed in late April);
- Face coverings will be required of all graduates and guests; and
- Commencement will be livestreamed.

Campus officials will continue to monitor capacity limits in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center as new guidelines are issued by the governor and may adjust number of guests allowed accordingly.

Western Carolina University is also moving forward with plans to resume as close to normal operations this fall, given the current COVID-19 trends and projections, and as

WCU's clinic is helping to vaccinate the Western North Carolina region.

The resumption of "normal operations" will include an increase of in-person classes, fall sports, campus events and activities, community engagement, and a return to full occupancy residential living. All buildings and facilities, including dining operations, the library and the recreation center will return to normal hours and increased capacity.

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained open while providing a safe and healthy living, learning and working environment for our students, faculty and staff," said Kelli R. Brown, WCU chancellor. "With the steadily decreasing number of cases nationwide and in North Carolina, and our ability to assist in vaccinating our region, we look forward to once again providing a fully in-person and residential learning experience for our students."

"Students who attend Western Carolina University this fall can expect to have a traditional college experience as we work to expand their in-person course offerings," said Richard Starnes, WCU provost. "More than a beautiful setting surrounded by the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains, we continue to offer a supportive community that recognizes students' full potential and provide nationally ranked programs to achieve their goals."

Consistently in the upper ranks of higher education institutions by *U.S. News & World Report*, WCU is among the top 10 for public universities in the South and best value universities in the South. The ranking for is a reflection of NC Promise, which reduces the cost of tuition to \$500 per semester for North Carolina residents and \$2,500 per semester for out-of-state students.

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SCC's First C-STEP Cohort Transferring to UNC-Chapel Hill

In 2018, The University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and Southwestern Community College (SCC) partnered to increase the number of students transferring to and graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill. The Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP) is designed to guarantee admission to the university from community colleges around the state.

Two SCC students, Puja Patel and Trevor Cole, are scheduled to graduate with associate degrees this fall, becoming SCC's first cohort to transfer. Cole was a high school senior who applied before he graduated, while Patel joined C-STEP the fall she entered SCC.

Normally, C-STEP advisor Deanne Oppermann would take the students to visit the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. However, due to the pandemic these tours have been virtual. Both students are science majors who may also be completing a paid internship during the summer with UNC-Chapel Hill faculty.

"They always try to get you in touch with UNC, and Deanne always takes us to monthly meetings and checks on us to see how we're doing, making sure things are okay," said Patel. "It makes me feel good, because someone is always taking care of you to make sure you're on the right track."

Cole added: "I think this program is a great opportunity to let your wings fly and get better

opportunities and connections."

Principal Chief Richard Sneed from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was instrumental in securing SCC's partnership, making SCC the 11th community college to do so. In 2019, C-STEP received a \$1.1 million grant from GlaxoSmithKlein to enhance STEM mentorship for their students.

"C-STEP allows SCC college transfer students the ability to change the trajectory of their whole career path," said Oppermann. "And the relationships and research that they can engage in right from the start is a phenomenal opportunity for this area."

High school seniors have until April 1, and first-semester SCC students have until Oct. 1, to apply into the C-STEP program. Once accepted, students must maintain a 3.2 GPA and attend monthly meetings. Once they transfer to UNC Chapel-Hill, they will still be considered C-STEP students, just under the university's guidance.

"I hope that more students will continue to use C-STEP as a stepping stone to go into careers that will really bring them back into the community, and create a purposeful life with their education," Oppermann said.

For more information about C-STEP, visit SCC's website or contact Oppermann at deanne@southwesterncc.edu.



Trevor Cole (Clyde) and Puja Patel (Sylva) will become Southwestern Community College's first students to enroll at UNC-Chapel Hill through the C-STEP program. The Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP) is designed to guarantee admission to the university from community colleges around the state.

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New leader to continue charitable work of Knights of Columbus

The St. Michael's Council of the Knights of Columbus at Franklin's St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church welcomed a new leader when Morgan Stewart was elected to head the family-oriented charitable fraternity. Prior to Stewart's taking on the position, Luis Jimenez-Martinez Sr. led the group for the past three years.

Stewart promised the Knights would continue their charitable, church-related and patriotic work as safely as possible given the pandemic, while strengthening members' faith.

"My family moved here over a year ago, before the pandemic, and we're proud to call

Franklin home," Stewart said. "As we work through COVID, I can't think of a better way to serve our community than by helping our church and those in need."

Other new officers Joe Capita, Michael Kurczewski, and Enrique Rodriguez-Muniz join William Nemeth, Filomeno Perez-Jimenez, Ronald Moss, William Richards, Jr., and Daniel Allegretti to lead the council.

Knights of Columbus meetings require masks and social distancing, and, if need be, limited in-person participation. For outdoor events, non-family members are social distanced as much as possible.

While members are men of Catholic faith, the organization focuses on charity, family, fraternity and patriotism and welcomes anyone who wants to help with its work.

In Franklin, the local Knights assist with the church food pantry to feed the needy, support Veterans causes and Right to Life efforts as well as donating coats and shoes for kids. The council will host a drive-through Fish Fry Dinner on April 16, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi church. Proceeds will support the council's charitable activities.

Stewart, 54, has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 2010, and is a 4th Degree Knight. He previously led a Louisiana KC



Knights from St. Francis of Assisi church pose together after helping the local Veteran and Gold Star Family organization, Special Liberty Project, during a recent volunteer day. Pictured (L-R) are Carlos Mendoza, Mike Kurczewski, Enrique Rodriguez, Filomeno Perez-Jimenez and Luis Jimenez-Aguillon Jr.



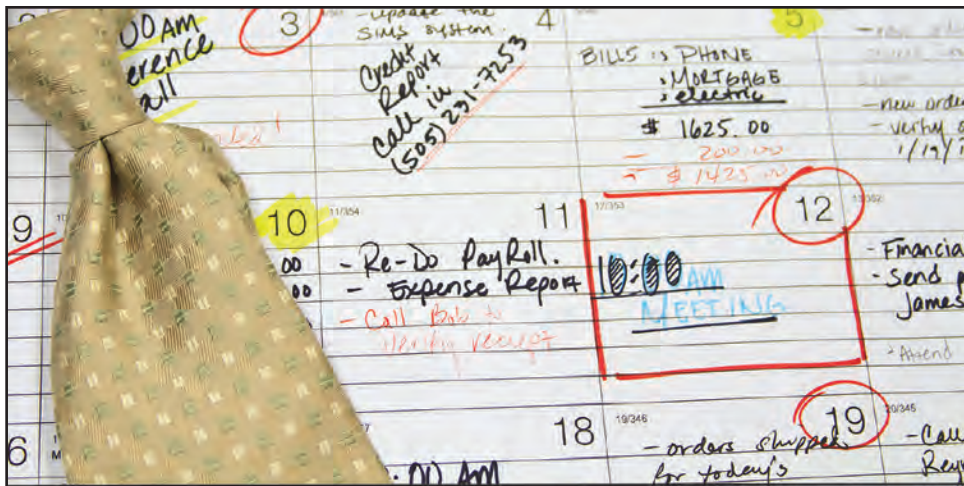
Knights Morgan Stewart (left) and Bill Nemeth, take a break from preparing Thanksgiving food boxes for the needy in November.

council and was a District Deputy.

About the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is one of the world's leading fraternal and service organizations, with two million members in more than 16,000 parish-based councils. During the past year, Knights around the world donated more than 77 million service hours and \$187 million for worthy causes in their communi-

ties. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable insurance products to its members, the Knights of Columbus has supported families and communities for more than 138 years. For more information about the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council, <https://www.facebook.com/kofc8363>.



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More than two million pounds of roadside litter already collected this year in N.C.

As part of its litter removal efforts, N.C. Department of Transportation crews, contractors and volunteers have now collected more than 2 million pounds of litter from roadsides this year.

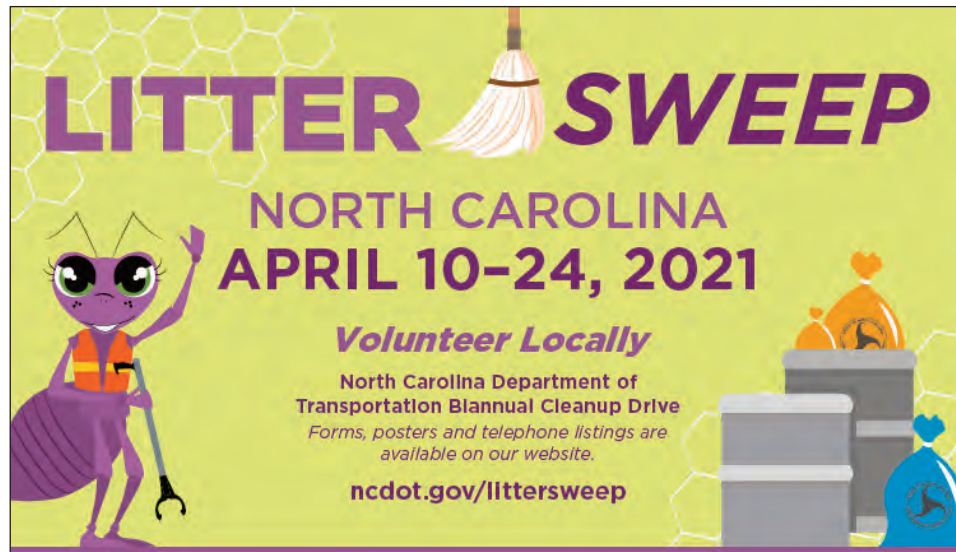
“We are only just beginning this year’s efforts to clean up and prevent litter on our roadsides,” said state Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette. “NCDOT and our partners have been working tirelessly over the past three months to remove litter from roadsides,” said Boyette. “But there’s a lot more work to do and we could certainly use help from citizens who can do their part by disposing of trash properly or volunteering during our upcoming Spring Litter Sweep.”

NCDOT reports that the agency and its partners have removed 2.15 million pounds of litter since Jan. 1. That figure includes the 976 thousand pounds of litter removed from roadsides since March 1.

NCDOT’s litter management programs are multifaceted. The department makes use of both state-owned forces and contract services statewide. NCDOT’s Sponsor-A-Highway Program allows businesses, organizations and individuals to sponsor litter removal along roadsides. NCDOT also partners with the more than 120,000 participants in the Adopt-A-Highway Program, where volunteers pledge to clean a section of highway at least four times a year.

Each April and September, NCDOT asks volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. Volunteers from local businesses, schools, nonprofits, churches, municipalities, law enforcement and community groups play an important role in keeping North Carolina’s roads clean.

North Carolinians looking to help keep the state’s road-



ways clean can volunteer for the upcoming Spring Litter Sweep, which will run from April 10-24.

Volunteers are provided with clean-up supplies such as trash bags, gloves and safety vests from local NCDOT County Maintenance Yard offices.

Litter is unsightly, costs millions of dollars to clean up and can hurt tourism, the environment and the state’s quality of life. The most effective way to aid litter removal efforts is to stop it at its source.

Everyone should do their part by:

- Securing their loads before driving. Unsecured trash can fly from a vehicle and end up as roadside litter.
- Trash should be held onto until it can be disposed of properly. Keep a litter bag in your vehicle so you can properly dispose of trash later.
- Recycle whenever possible. Recycling protects our environment, saves landfill space and keeps the community clean

To sign up and get more information, visit the Litter Sweep web page at ncdot.gov/littersweep or call 919-707-2970.

NCDOT conducts first bridge inspection using a drone

The N.C. Department of Transportation has another new tool to help make our roadways safer: Drones.

This week, the Marc Basnight Bridge over Oregon Inlet became the first bridge in the state inspected using a drone as part of the regular biennial inspection process.

Inspection crews monitored live high-definition video feeds from the drone as it was flown around the bridge’s 10 largest columns, looking for any potential defects that would require further action.

NCDOT will use drones to conduct bridge inspections faster, saving money and reducing the need for lane closures. Drones will not replace a traditional visual inspection in most instances. However, they will be used to supplement traditional inspections and add great benefit by being able to inspect areas of the bridge that are difficult to reach during a traditional visual inspection.

A waiver granted to NCDOT in 2020 by the Federal Aviation Administration allows the department to operate drones beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) when inspecting bridges. This lets the operator fly the drone around pillars, between girders, and even inside columns.

The drone used in this case, a Skydio 2, is equipped with detect-and-avoid technology that allows it to operate within a foot of the bridge structure without risk of crash.



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SCC nursing students filling key roles at WCU vaccine clinic

Above her surgical mask, Rylee Williamson's eyes filled with emotion and hope when describing what it's like to be on the front lines of Western Carolina University's regional COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

"It means a lot to me to be a part of this," said Williamson, who's in her first year of Southwestern Community College's Nursing program, during a short break between giving injections to community members on March 15. "It's very rewarding, especially in this time, getting to vaccinate all these individuals. We're going to see a lot of progression out of this, and we're going to finally get back to normal."

A Clyde resident, Williamson is one of more than two dozen SCC students who've been administering vaccines on a volunteer basis at area clinics in recent weeks.

The students assist with more than injections at WCU's clinic. They also monitor the holding area, observe vaccinated individuals for adverse reaction, treat and assess individuals as well as working in the 'drawing area' – where they draw vaccines up into syringes.

Cortnee Lingerfelt, director of WCU's regional COVID-19

vaccine clinic, estimates SCC students have delivered approximately 300 shots each Monday since the clinic opened.

"We've been blessed and fortunate to have a partnership with SCC," Lingerfelt said. "Wendy Buchanan (SCC Nursing Program coordinator) and Kimi Walker (SCC instructor) have been wonderful to commit to Mondays for us, so they've been sending four or five students at a time – with a faculty member. The impact has been tremendous. They run half the clinic one day a week."

"They're incredibly professional, incredibly competent and friendly," Lingerfelt added. "They are going to make fantastic nurses, so we're glad to have their skills and their partnership here."

Gaining confidence and hands-on skills have always been the goal for SCC's Health Sciences students when they participate in clinical training.

"This experience allows me to give back to my community," said Brittany Gardner, a first-year student from Cullowhee. "It makes me feel grateful that people trust me as a student giving the vaccine. I think this experience will make me a better nurse overall. Not every nursing student goes through this, and it teaches you to just roll with the punches and go with it. It has given us the ability to give back."

Jasmine McConnell, a first-year student from Sylva, added: "It's huge; it's such a big thing. The COVID vaccines are just coming out, and we're able to be a part of that. Going forward in my career, I can say I was part of this."

Stations at WCU's clinic are separated by curtains for privacy. Each SCC student gets paired with a volunteer, who fills out the administrative paperwork for individuals who receive injections.

Inside their stations, the students ask individuals how

they're feeling and answer any questions before administering the inoculations.

SCC instructors wait just outside the curtains in case questions arise.

"It was very nerve wracking at first just because in a clinical setting, we usually have our instructor watching us," said Hailey Jenkins, a first-year nursing student from Cullowhee. "And here, we each have our own little booth, and we're doing our thing. It definitely gives me a good bit of confidence. It gets me out of my comfort zone and helps me realize I can do this."

Williamson and Gardner are in the RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) program, another partnership with WCU. Through RIBN, students complete their first three years of coursework at SCC before completing the final year of their bachelor's degree at WCU.

In addition to WCU's clinic, SCC nursing students have been volunteering for COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Haywood County Health Department and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Their efforts have made their instructors and program coordinator Buchanan proud.

"They are making a difference in the world, and their gaining some once-in-a-lifetime experience," Buchanan said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for them, and we're glad they're taking advantage of it. I cannot wait to see what they'll accomplish in their careers after they graduate from SCC."



Southwestern Community College Nursing students who volunteered at Western Carolina University's COVID-19 vaccination clinic on March 15 are pictured here with their instructor. From left: Nursing instructor Amanda Stafford, Jasmine McConnell, Corrie Kinsland, Brittany Gardner, Hailey Jenkins and Rylee Williamson.



SCC student Autumn Brown receives her immunization from classmate Rylee Williamson.

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SCC Nursing student Corrie Kinsland served at WCU's COVID-19 vaccination clinic on March 15 in Cullowhee.

Cardiology services added to West Care

Harris Regional Hospital announces the opening of a new office within Harris Medical Park of Franklin for Harris Cardiology. The practice opened its doors in Franklin on March 12, as a full-service cardiology practice to serve Macon County residents. This new office of Harris Cardiology is an additional step Harris has taken to expand cardiology with the promotion of needed diagnostic, treatment, and monitoring services, as well as stress testing and echocardiography. The hospital also established cardiac catheter-



Scott Westermeyer, MD

ization and monitoring clinic as part of the hospital's expansion. To accommodate this growth and expansion of services, Scott Westermeyer, MD will head the Franklin clinic.

Scott Westermeyer, MD, a board certified cardiologist, began caring for patients at Harris Regional Hospital since 2019. Dr. Westermeyer has practiced cardiology for almost 30 years. He completed a fellowship in cardiology and a residency in internal medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn., after graduating from the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. His experience includes cardiac catheterization, cardiac pacing, echocardiography, exercise testing, and nuclear imaging. Dr. Westermeyer is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

"We are excited to grow our local cardiology program by providing additional services close to home for residents who shouldn't have to travel outside of their community for healthcare that we can provide," said Steve

Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital.

Harris Regional Hospital has received recognition by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States, as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures, specifically the measure of heart failure. To receive this designation, an organization must demonstrate exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to

improve certain conditions.

The hospital received Chest Pain Center accreditation from the American College of Cardiology. We are dedicated to providing our patients with the best heart care treatment available. As an accredited facility, we use the newest methods and best practices in heart care to ensure that our patients receive:

- Right care at the right time to minimize or eliminate heart damage due to heart attack
- Timely and accurate diagnoses to reduce the disruption to your life and get you back home as soon as possible
- Help and communication to better understand how to respond to your heart emergencies
- Improved quality of life after a heart episode

The new office is located within Harris Medical Park of Franklin at 55 Holly Springs Dr. in Franklin, N.C. The office will be open on Fridays from 8:30 am - 5 pm and can be reached at (828) 586-7654.

MAHEC, Mission Health add to residency and fellowship programs

On Friday, March 19, Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) and Mission Health welcomed 75 new residents and fellows through the National Resident Matching Program's Match Day. This is the day when medical school graduates and residents from the United States and around the world learned in which U.S. residency or fellowship program they will train for the next three to seven years including programs here in Western North Carolina.

This year, MAHEC and Mission Health are extending their graduate medical education training to include new Internal Medicine and Transitional Year residency programs and additional fellowships in Surgical Critical Care and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. MAHEC and Mission Health have a history of excellence in graduate medical education dating back nearly 50 years. This regional partnership to train physicians includes Pardee UNC Health Care in Hendersonville and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System in Boone.

"This year's Match Day results are remarkable. All of our programs filled including our new internal medicine program," shared Jeff Heck, MD, CEO for MAHEC. "It is unusual for a new program to fill in the first year, especially a large program like this one. Thoughtful planning and preparation under the direction of Dr. Stephanie Call over more than a year enabled us to recruit high quality residents from the start."

The new residency and fellowship programs, along with the many others offered at MAHEC, will combine forward-thinking curriculum and optimal training in the largest Area Health Education Center in North Carolina with training in a busy, tertiary care,

state-of-the-art hospital system, where new physicians will benefit from unique rural-based rotations and public health opportunities. This influx of new physicians will help address the shortage of healthcare professionals across our region, as many are expected to establish practices in Western North Carolina after graduation.

"HCA Healthcare trains more residents across the country than any other organization, and adding these additional disciplines is exactly what we hoped for from the partnership," said William Hathaway, Chief Medical Officer for Mission Health and HCA Healthcare North Carolina Division. "Teaching hospitals push us to be at our best all the time, to always provide the highest level of care, while teaching the latest and therapies and techniques," added Hathaway.

Through the addition of the Internal Medicine Residency, MAHEC is providing learning experiences in all specialties of internal medicine and, in conjunction with Mission Hospital, residents will care for patients on medicine services, intensive care units (ICUs), cardiology services, specialty consultation services, and in the emergency department.

The new Surgical Critical Care Fellowship is devoted to broad-based intensive clinical training primarily based in the Mission Health NeuroTrauma Intensive Care Unit (NTICU). The mission of the surgical critical care fellowship program is to provide an educational environment to develop the skills for state-of-the-art support of human physiology under the stress of extreme illness, injury or surgery. The surgery critical care fellow will have core rotations in the NTICU as well as medical-surgical and cardiovascular ICUs.

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News from the Legislature

From the office of
N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

For the week beginning March 8, the legislature held various committee meetings as the House and Senate continue to work diligently on a budget proposal. I attended multiple Appropriations, Education Committee meetings, as well as the Agriculture Committee.

On Wednesday, March 10, a joint press conference was held by the Governor and House and Senate Leadership to announce a compromise bill had been reached to allow schools to reopen and send students back to in-person learning. The bill will require elementary schools to reopen under Plan A (minimal social distancing), middle and high schools with the option of either Plan A or Plan B (six feet social distancing), with discretion being left with the local board of education.

Additionally on Wednesday, we held votes in the House on eight bills. Among those bills, I voted in favor of HB48, Concealed Carry/Emergency Medical Personnel, which would exempt certain emergency medical personnel while on duty providing tactical medical assistance to law enforcement in an emergency situation from the general prohibition against concealed carry of a weapon.

The House voted on several bills on Thursday, March 11. Included in those bills was SB220, The Reopen Our Schools Act of 2021, the aforementioned bill that will reopen schools to in-person learning. SB220 passed the Senate and the House unanimously.

The week of March 15, began with two no-vote sessions on Monday and Tuesday. However, several committee meetings convened to hear presentations and consider numerous bills. I attended the Agriculture Committee, Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs Committee, and various policy working groups with my colleagues.

On Wednesday, March 17, the House convened to vote on several bills. House Bill 84, Sex Offender Premises Restrictions, would extend premises restrictions to certain additional sex offenders. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed the House by a vote of 119-0.

The House also took up House Joint Resolution 172, Term Limits for Congress. HJR172 applies to the U.S. Congress for a Convention of the States to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to impose term limits on members of Congress. I voted in favor of the resolution and it passed the House by a vote of 61-52.

We also voted on House Bill 91, Reduce Regulations to

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

We the People deserve equal treatment

The only thing constant in life is change, and change can be scary. I get that. But change has been coming, and it is here.

For centuries, racism has been the law of the land, starting with genocide and slavery. The victors wrote the history, and who were the victors? Rich white men.

Who owned the presses, enslaved other people, wrote the Constitution, wrote the laws, and forced on everyone what they thought was right? Rich and middle-class white men. White women, and even white men who didn't own land weren't allowed to vote under the original Constitution, yet how many renters today are all about the "original" Constitution?

I am a white middle class man, but I know that at every turn, I have benefited from white supremacy: the neighborhoods I've lived in, the schools I attended, the mortgages and insurance policies of my ancestors that have led to wealth over generations, and even the jobs I have gotten, as other people weren't able to compete given the strikes against them that they did not earn.

To listen to too many entitled white folks across this country today, you would think that white folks are the victims of racism. Where is this idea coming from? Fox "News" and other right-wing media outlets are filling the heads of tens of millions of Americans with this lie.

"With liberty and justice for all" has been a farce, as has been the ideal of equal opportunity. Native, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and others have had their property and land stolen from them, often their very freedom, lives and children at various times throughout U.S. history, and now conservative rich white men want to convince the rest of us that somehow white folks are the victims.

Now that more and more folks on the losing end of the brutality are insisting on equal rights, Fox etc claim that they are using race to cancel We the People. The fact is just the opposite: oppressed folks are saying that all of us, not just white, are part of We the People and deserve equal treatment and opportunity.

The prediction is that whites won't be the majority in the U.S. by 2050, but whites will still make up the largest group. Apparently, that scares the bejesus out of a lot of white folks, especially the Fox viewers. Maybe they are afraid that folks will treat white folks as badly as white folks have treated everyone else over the years.

So what are scared white folks to do? Cancel democracy: restrict voting, more gerrymandering, more fear, more hatred, more scapegoating, more discrimination, more brutality. And that is exactly what we saw Jan. 6 in Washington DC.

While most of these scared white folks claim to be Christian, they don't seem to trust God to keep them safe, and they are turning to what Jesus was against: violence and cor-

ruption.

True Christians love their brothers and sisters, neighbors near and far, similar and different. That is what He has called us to do.

As Dr. King said, "We must learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

Dan Kowal – Franklin, N.C.

Documentary could reveal plight of interracial families

Calling Ken Burns! Calling Ken Burns! We need you to get busy on a new documentary. It should cover two current movements in America. One: What is the prevalence of interracial families in America today? We dwell on events as though they are clearly black or white. But, the faces and skin we see on TV are seldom predominantly black. Most are light brown, tan or almost white. Show us what happens inside the families where one parent is black and one is white. Or other mixes. What do relatives feel? What do they say? Is there some chance that racial tolerance is progressing in spite of daily stories of prejudice and hatred? What effect are contemporary interracial commercials having on people's attitudes toward race?

Two: What is happening to wealth in America as a function of interracial children? Please show us that love trumps racial prejudice when people die and leave money to their mixed-race descendants!

Your documentary, Ken, will help people see that America is rapidly becoming a country unlike any other in history.

Most Americans will understand. Most will embrace our new destiny.

In John Steinbeck's 1952 classic novel "East of Eden" we are reminded of the Biblical story of Cain and Abel. As told, Cain may have felt rejected by God and in anger killed his brother Abel. In the novel Adam Trask's Cantonese servant Lee said this to him: "The greatest terror a child can have is that he is not loved, and rejection is the hell he fears."

Is Lee's statement not just as true for those who are born in America and yet must bear the weight of knowing that some people believe they are superior to them simply because they have a different set of genes (over which they had no control)? Is prejudice not actually a form of rejection like that which Cain felt?

For those who profess to be Christians are you sure you want to take part in the rejection of some of the people your God created? Get on it, Ken!

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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Taxpayers shouldn't be funding pet projects

My family has lived in the Cowee area for over seven years and enjoy the old school's facility from time to time. My daughter (and many other kids) esp. likes the playground, and the picnic area is useful for get-togethers, so this letter is not against spending money on recreation in general. However, I object to the recent approval of \$10k of taxpayer funds to upgrade the basketball court. When it comes to operating the Cowee School property which is owned by Macon County, the tax payers have continually supported its functioning despite it being a nonprofit. (This fact that we taxpayers own the playground, etc. also reveals that the public should NOT have been prohibited from using those facilities at our own risk during the 2020 COVID hysteria promoted by federal government fearmongering and pure lies. Roping off the playground for a period of time was inappropriate and completely wrong).

Commissioner Paul Higdon should be commended for his vote against spending the county's funds on an unnecessary project that will likely require more taxpayer money in the future to upkeep. Macon County already has too many expenses of upkeep and maintenance brought about by good intentions. The Cowee basketball court's usage (even during COVID craziness) does not warrant a \$20k makeover. A simple chain net on the goal would have been a nice and inexpensive upgrade for the amount of use it receives. While it is noble and generous of a private couple offering matching funds towards this project, the commissioners' jobs are to go about spending other people's money in the proper way. In this case, the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center should have applied for funding through the county's nonprofit funding pool rather than request money from the county's contingency fund. Now, what's to keep any 501(c)3 organization in Macon County from appealing to the taxpayers for any pet project whatsoever if someone is offering matching funds? In this current day and age of reckless spending and fiscal chaos across the state and federal levels, Macon County taxpayers expect the commissioners to apply impartial consistency in our local government's project appropriations and carefully study the concept of ROI (Return On Investment). No one wants to have taxes raised later in the future because there were too many "bright ideas" that require later maintenance and upkeep. Many small things always add up.

In this case, IF the proper channels were gone through by applying for money through the county's nonprofit funding pool and \$10k was then approved, that would be fine even though the ROI would be debated. But, the fact that citizens' money was spent in the name of compassion, does not make it right to abandon proper channels. Taxpayers desire that consistency be maintained so that our entire community benefits and there are no needless conflicts. Thank you to Commissioner Paul Higdon for pointing this out with his dissenting vote on this specific project and for his continual commitment to fiscal responsibility and common sense in government.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

HR-1 bill an abhorrent legislative act

Big money "For the people" or just another government scam?

What have comrades Schumer, Pelosi, Biden, Harris and the other similarly inclined anti-American Democrats done for you with the HR-1 Bill that they jammed through Congress without Republican support?

Oh, wow! They are giving everyone \$1,400! Aren't they generous and benevolent? How wonderful! Do you have a warm and fuzzy feeling about that?

These totalitarian government advocates are also giving that money to illegal aliens who are criminals by virtue of violating Federal immigration law and are inviting millions more to

criminally breach our borders and be supported by lawful Americans.

Do the simple high school math. They are spending 1.9 trillion dollars we don't have (just speed up the printing presses and print more fiat "money") to spend and must "borrow," probably from China.

Divide that by the approximately 250 million adults and you will quickly see that what they are doing in this one abhorrent legislative act will cost every adult American \$7,600.

This is a net bookkeeping loss to you out of your pocket and that of your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. What kind of a deal is that?

The over 22 million illegal criminal aliens (and thousands more arriving every week) won't be having to pay a penny for this largess. They are off the tax rolls and being supported by your work product.

At the same time HR-1 strips away protections against voter fraud, funds campaigns with taxpayer money at \$7,200,000 per candidate, allows for everyone, American citizen or not, to vote in federal elections, forbids voter ID, imposes Federal control over elections in the states in violation of the Constitutional reservation of the Power to State Legislators in Section 4 of Article 1, and a number of other equally onerous things.

Through it all, if you listen carefully to what the Democrats and their Lame Scream media propagandists are incessantly telling you, you will hear "Sit down, shut up, and toe the party line or we will punish you!"

How do you who voted for these lying Democrats like this abhorrent Socialist/Communist rip-off you have helped foment and empowered them perpetrate on our land?

Peter K. Stern
USAF Retired – Franklin, N.C.

Seasons change on earth and in life

We all have some amazement of the changing of seasons. We go from spring to summer, then fall into winter, each has its own differences and distinctions as they touch our hearts with their specialty of awe and wonder. There are other changes of seasons as well. Within the lives we live there are, life's seasons. The season of childhood in discoveries of the world around us, in displays of endless colors and shapes. The season of youth coming into adulthood and learning just how to think and fit as they enter into the uncertainties of a vast and changing world. Then there's early mid-adulthood which builds and tries balancing the demands of family, career, and the pleasures of what is to be, the good life. Last is the season of older adulthood, supposedly the golden years, when we look back at the journey we have taken and either are saddened or are satisfied of just where life has taken us. Everyone of us has this journey or seasons of life, just as nature has its seasons, we either walk or are forced into each season.

It becomes evident that as we enter each season of life we're in need of being informed or making wise choices for each season we are to enter, for if we don't, we suffer or have difficulties which otherwise could have been avoided in making the journey of life more satisfying and rewarding. As for many, I myself wish I could have done some things differently, but overall the seasons of life have been rewarding even within the hardships of life.

We are each given "time" here on earth, and for some, time or the season is cut shorter than for others, all the more reason that each season follows a guidance that is true and trustworthy which has reason and purpose. Everyone feels that there is something more which lies beyond this time which we are given. All governing systems, from times beginning hasn't satisfied man's quest for that elusive something we seem to be in search of, yet feel someday we will. There seems to be something beyond us that calls out to be found, something that connects the depths of heart and soul of each of us. Something beyond human systems which are forever failing and in deep disappointment for each of us, something

outside of time.

There is no me, in a human materialistic way, we can be sliced and diced, if you will, but once the body is gone and decays we are just minerals and elements that revert to dust of where we came from. The me, is nowhere to be found. This is where eternity begins and time is no more. Time had a beginning and will also have an end, for us as well as creation itself. We sense we are made for this something beyond, or a spirit type existence. Scripture tells of all we are and what we all feel. Man's search, wants, and failures for all seasons of life are shown in detail and there is always shown within the mix, God's love asking for us to believe in Him and all he desires of life making sense for all time and all seasons, and for all eternity with Him, this he wants for each of us. We each have a destiny that is real and we each will live in an eternity of our own choosing.

(Ecclesiastes 3:11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

LEGISLATURE

From previous page

Help Children with Autism. HB91 would expand access to care for children with autism by reducing and streamlining unnecessary regulations. The bill passed unanimously by a vote of 119-0.

A local bill that I have introduced, House Bill 94, Graham County Occupancy Tax, was heard in two committees this week. House Bill 94 would create a special taxing district consisting of that part of Graham County that is located outside the incorporated areas of the county. The bill is supported by the Graham County Commissioners, Graham County EDC and the Town of Robbinsville. The bill passed with overwhelming support in both the Finance Subcommittee and the full House Finance Committee. The bill's next stop is the House Rules Committee.

N.C.'s state debt cut by one-third since 2013

According to a recent report from the State Treasurer's Office, North Carolina's debt has been cut by one-third since 2013. NC maintains AAA credit ratings, balanced spending, and responsible borrowing under Republican leadership, highlighting our successful commitments to serving taxpayers and reforming state government.

Legislature extends \$335 Extra Credit Grant application

Thanks to an extension by the state legislature, the North Carolina Department of Revenue (NCDOR) is now accepting applications for the \$335 Extra Credit Grants through May 31, for eligible individuals who did not already receive the payments. The grant program was established by the N.C. General Assembly in last year's Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0 to assist families with virtual schooling and child-care costs during the pandemic.

If you were eligible but did not receive your \$335 "Extra Credit Grant" payment, you now have additional time to apply.

Recently sponsored legislation

HB205: Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools
HB211: Reopen Bars and Restaurants
HB218: Streamline Permits/Redevelopment of Property
HB220: Assuring Choice of Energy Service
HJR233: Application for a Convention of States

Franklin High School's second annual UNIFY March Madness Basketball game



Photos by Ellen Randall





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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 11 - 21. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 15

Ethan Nichols Hatch, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of a stolen goods/property. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Nicholas Scott Harvell, was charged with stalking. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

William David Ruckman, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female, felony larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

March 16

Joshua Adam Rider, was charged with breaking and entering, communicating threats, injury to personal property. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Regina Leigh Sanders, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

March 17

Nicholas Scott Harvell, was charged with parole violation, communicating threats. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Warren Tyler Harling, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

March 18

Melissa Chenault Barnes, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Catlin Nathaniel Davis, was charged with simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Elijah Todd Lam, was charged with breaking and entering, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny after breaking and entering, fugitive out of state felony. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Krystal Downing, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Alexandria Rae Anglin, was charged with probation violation, communicating threats. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Jennifer Lynn Nations, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

March 19

Tricia Campbell, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery or participates in simple affray. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Sarah Lynn Webb, was charged with failure to appear for a misdemeanor. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

March 20

Tanner Ray White, was charged with fictitious information to an officer, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

March 11

Justice Lee Littlejohn, 26, was charged with failure to appear for carrying a concealed gun, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set. Sargent Norman made the arrest.

March 13

Luis Antonio Algodon-Garcia, 25, was charged with driving while impaired, failure to display registration plate, resist delay obstruct, provide fictitious name, issued a warrant for arrest for communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

March 16

Yuri Bo Jastremski, 56, was charged with larceny by an employee. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Rachel Fannin Martineau, 34, was charged with driving under the influence. No bond was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

Hank Galloway, 29, was charged with larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Sargent Beegle made the arrest.

March 17

Daniel Alexander Tabares, 24, was charged with assault and battery. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

March 18

Michael Anthony Passafume, 51, was issued an order for arrest for possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set. Officer Dula

made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 15

Keonta Monteece Ardrey, 41, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

March 16

Lane Elizabeth Stocker, 40 of Bended Knee Dr., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, simple assault. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Carolyn Rachael Reed, 23, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison /jail premises, possession of heroin, trespassing. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Tabitha Sherel Henry, 31, of Pumpkin Town Rd., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation out of county. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Collin Coleman Orr, 18, of Walnut Cove Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

March 18

Michael Curtis Nichols, 49, of Skyland Lane N.E., Atlanta, Ga., was charged with common law obstructing justice, common law uttering, common law forgery. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jamie Keith Buchanan, 52, of Dalton Rd., was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, unlicensed set up contractor. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Darin Douglass Brinkmire, was charged with aggravated assault. No bond was set.

March 19

Ronnie Steven Swisher, 24, of tuckaseegee, was charged with injury to real property. No bond was set.

March 21

Thomas Glen Mancini, 40, of Sylva, was charged with breaking and entering, domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Monique Laverne Smith, 29, of Ledbetter Lane, Franklin, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, drug equipment violation, possession of a schedule I controlled substance on jail premises. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Christy Ann Ward, 35, of Fox Trace Dr., was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

Kenneth William McCall, 66, of Charleys Creek Rd., Tuckaseegee, was issued a true bill for discharging a firearm in an occupied vehicle causing serious injury, attempted first degree murder. A secured bond of \$300,000 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Louisa Chapel UMC and Macon New Beginnings will hand out free to-go meals Thursday, March 25, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., while they last in the parking lot of Franklin First Assembly, 1150 E. Main St.

Franklin Covenant Church Curbside Hot Lunch and Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, March 27, 11 a.m. while supplies last. The church is located at 265 Belleview Road.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Food Pantry will be open on Wednesday, March 31, 10 a.m. to noon. Drive thru only. Masks are required.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike on Saturday, March 27, with an elevation change 300 ft., to Round Mountain near Cashiers. Start on a Forest Service road with ups and downs to the top to see great views of Lake Jocassee in South Carolina. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m., drive 12 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, call Leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, (828)743-1079.

Democratic Women of Macon County Food and Donation Drive for CareNet will be held on Thursday, March 25, at the Otto Post Office 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Franklin Memorial Park 12 to 2 p.m., and 4 to 6 p.m., 488 W. Main St. For more information, call (828)421-6337.

Macon County Animal Services Rabies Shots for all dogs, cats and ferrets are \$10. Vaccination clinics will be held on Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. to noon, East Franklin Elementary; and Saturday, March 27, 1 to 3 p.m. at Mountain View Intermediate; Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cartoogechaye Elementary. Pets must be kept in the vehicles or on a leash. State law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets over the age of 4 months to have the rabies vaccine. For more information, call (828)349-2106.

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet for a light dinner on Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m., regular meeting 7 p.m., at 614 W. Main St., Franklin. All members and military veterans are encouraged to attend as nominations for new Post Officers are only one item on the agenda.

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

First Presbyterian Church Clothing Drive on the theme of "Clothe the Naked" as a part of the Matthew 25 Initiative. A box will be out in front of the sanctuary on Church Street on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Specifically looking for new underwear, socks, and sweatpants for elementary schools, nursing homes and the homeless. This drive will continue through April.

New Girl Scout Troop forming in Franklin. Now recruiting for Daisies, ages 5 and 6; Brownies, ages 7 and 8; and Juniors, ages 9 and 10. For more information, call (828)371-2823 or email dianepeltz1953@gmail.com

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

Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Stop by for coffee, a soft drink and a snack, and free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m.

at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin. Online meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

Macon County Public Health is currently vaccinating those eligible under Group 4. People in Group 4 are those who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk of serious illness and people who live in certain congregate settings are eligible for vaccination. The rest of Group 4, which includes other essential workers will become eligible April 7. Individuals in Group 4 that want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, must call Macon County's Vaccine Call Center at (828)524-1500 to register and schedule an appointment. The Macon County Vaccine Call Center is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smppcc.org

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

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22. A 9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions, representing the solution to a Sudoku puzzle.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Grace Baptist Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. Frank Rodriguez is the pastor. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

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

Cowee Baptist Church is hosting "Parenting the Love and Logic Way" a seven-week study presented by Heart for Families on Wednesdays, starting April 14 through May 26, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Using the powerful tools of Love and Logic®, we can help our children make good choices while maintaining their love and respect. Love and Logic® is balance of love, mutual respect, limits, and accountability. All designed to help kids become happy, self-controlled adults. Registration is required. For more information, contact Bruce Ferguson by email B2F@msn.com

First Alliance Church Sunday Services on March 21, will be in-person and on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will deliver the message, as part of the series on Genesis. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Mask wearing and social distancing are requested. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Intercessory Prayer is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Womens Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465 or (828)421-4153.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 28, speaker will be Doug VanOrsdall former Board President. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Seventh Day Adventist Church meets on Saturday, with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Masks are required. The church is located at 71 Brendle Rd.

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

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

Send Church items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22. A crossword grid with words filled in, including CHASMS, LICHI, ADMAN, WEEEDING, CAT, ADIT, GEAR, PROM, STAITIC, and others.

Trimont kicks off its Feed The Need campaign

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again when Trimont Christian Academy (TCA) steps up to Feed the Need. In April, TCA students will be packing 10,000 meals to help beat hunger in Macon County, Clarkston, Ga., and Haiti. This event also allows TCA to raise much needed funds for the school. Trimont Christian Academy is looking forward to utilizing funds to maintain a five-day a week operations, meeting the needs of their students, and keeping tuition costs at an affordable rate.

TCA held its kick-off party on Thursday, March 18. The school will post goal thermometers, to be posted in various parts of the building. This thermometer will help keep track of the of the fundraiser donations. The goal this year is to raise \$50,000. This amount will come from businesses, sponsors and personal donations. This event runs through April 16, when students will count the donations and begin their "packing party."

Mackenzie Rodewald is an 11 year old student at Trimont, and has participated in the Feed the Need program for the past several years.

"Feed the Need is an event and a fundraiser. We pack rice, dried vegetables, protein and grain. Each bag has six meals," she said.

Callie Parker attends the middle school at Trimont. She has also been involved in the event for years.

"The meals are packed and sealed in bags and boxes. We work all day from 9 to 2 in order to get everything packaged.

We take shifts and assist the younger students who also help with the packing. It is really fun to pack and it helps the school too," said Callie.

Peter Rodewald is the TCA administrator and pre-school director.

"This fundraiser helps fills the gap in tuition costs. Tuition only covers 80% of the money needed to run our school," he said.

Those interested in sponsoring the event can do so in several ways. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the school

at 98 Promise Lane in Franklin, NC 28734. In person, just ask for Stephanie Duchemin. Donations can also be taken over the phone. Call (828)369-6756 and ask for Stephanie, to make a donation by phone or visit their website at <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/Trimont>.



Students at Trimont Christian Academy held their "Kickoff" event for Feed the Need Fundraiser last Thursday.

Published authors invited to submit to publication

The Arts Council of Macon County is creating a literary publication to showcase the talents of Macon County's many published authors. It will be released this summer, free for distribution and available in print and digital form. The purpose of the publication is to promote local authors by exposing them to a wider readership, and to allow community members and visitors to sample the works of many writers in one tabloid-style publication.



The only eligibility requirements are that authors be Macon County residents aged 18 or older, and that content be appropriate for readers of all ages. To be included, submit one excerpt from your favorite published work (may be fiction or nonfiction, from a book, magazine, or newspaper), with a 500 word minimum, and approximately 1000 word maximum. Provide the work's name, publication date, and publisher. Include your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number, plus a 200 word bio. Deadline is May 15, 2021. Send hard copy submissions to The Art Council, PO Box 726, Franklin, NC 28744, and electronic submissions to arts4all@dnet.net. There is no entry fee.

The Arts Council intends this to be an ongoing publication, in the same vein as *The Wayah Review*, a compilation of essays, poems, and visual arts works published by the Council from 1980 until 1992, edited by Barbara McRae. While poets aren't included in the 2021 publication, future editions will focus on different art forms, from poetry to visual arts to oral history and beyond. If you have questions about this project, contact the Arts Council, art4all@dnet.net or 828-524-ARTS.

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Live music coming back in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

After a year of almost no live performances, area and visiting musicians are once again looking forward to potential opportunities to play in front of audiences.

“It’s been a very long strange year, ‘The Year of the Covid,’ but things are looking up!” said local musician Dave Stewart. “Venues are starting to open, and it’s my hope that this spring and summer will be music-filled.”

On Saturday, March 27, Blue Jazz plays in public at La Italiana on Highlands Road. The local band includes Stewart, Delphine Kirkland, and Scott Crowley.

Bear Shadow Music, Mountains & Revelry is planned for April 23-25. The music festival will have as its “base camp” the 50-acre Winfield Farm at Scaly Mountain. For three evenings in a row, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m., a range of artists and genres are offered to participants of the music festival. All questions regarding pandemic safety protocols and ticketing is addressed on the festival’s website at bearshadowmusic.com.

Karen Hunt is already establishing the logistics for the first annual Highlands Porchfest, scheduled for Sept. 19. Hunt, who recently moved to Highlands from Napa, Calif., after retiring as president of DAOU Vineyards & Winery in 2020, joined the board of directors for the Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) in Highlands and presented the idea for an event that became successful in California while she was involved with the Napa Rotary.

“The Napa Rotary and many volunteers started the Napa Porchfest in 2011 and had a blast,” said Hunt. “We went from 10 bands and a couple hundred people walking around to listening to over 130 bands and over 20,000 in 2019 people attending.”

The free walk-around music event in Highlands will take place from 12 p.m.-5 p.m., “but the time may change depending on the number of musicians we get to play,” said Hunt, who encourages locals all over Macon County as well as visitors to mark their calendars for the fall event. She also expressed hope that she can work with individuals to plan a Franklin Porchfest sometime in 2022.

“The Porchfest in Napa really grew to have a life of its own,” said Hunt. “The initial intention was not to raise money, but people began donating money because they thought it was such a great thing to do for the community. So, we raised enough to help local nonprofits, and I’m hoping that the same thing will eventually happen in this area as well.”

Currently, Hunt is working with volunteers to establish a



Blue Jazz will be at La Italiana restaurant on Highlands Road this Saturday, March 27, beginning at 6:30. The group performs jazz standards, blues, and soul music for dancing and listening pleasure. Pictured are band members Scott Crowley, Delphine Kirkland and Dave Stewart.

website and t-shirt for the event.

“And we are now looking for local musicians who will donate their time to play on porches or outside of restaurants, churches, parks, or wherever we can find spots in Highlands that will allow us to use their property for free on Sept. 19 for a few hours. The length of time that musicians will need to play will depend on the number of musicians, and they will be allowed to play for tips and can have CDs and t-shirts and any other products available for sale.”



Highlands is planning a Porchfest in September, a free walk-around music event as “a way to have fun together, get outside together and to support local musicians.”

a beer, walking more, etc.,” explained Hunt. “It’s a way to have fun together, get outside together, and to support local musicians.”

Hunt said she welcomes input and volunteer assistance, and she needs musicians to express interest. Contact her by sending a message on Facebook; emailing her at huntkaren3@gmail.com; or, calling (707) 287-4534.

“There are a lot of logistics to get this put together, but I think it’s going to be a success,” she added. “Since we did it for 11 years in Napa, (it still goes on as of today) I know how to get all the moving parts going, but it’s going to take people helping and these months leading up to September to get it all together.”

Applications sought for Arts Council scholarship

The Arts Council of Macon County will accept applications through May 15 for its annual \$1000 Arts Scholarship. Guidelines and application forms are available from any Macon County high school guidance office and the Arts Council. Macon County residents of all ages wishing to pursue a college degree in the performing, literary, or visual/graphic arts, or arts education may



apply. Applicants must submit to an in-person interview the afternoon of Thursday, May 27. The recipient is chosen on the basis of talent, commitment, career aspirations, and financial need.

The scholarship was established in 1988 to help talented and deserving Macon County residents prepare for a career in the arts. For more information contact any high school guidance office or the Arts Council, 524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.

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Kiss-me-at-the-gate plant a fragrant harbinger of spring

Dr. Bob Gilbert
Columnist

Just recently we found another unfamiliar plant blooming along the road side. I often worry that I have given the impression that while driving I am only looking for plants and not the highway. I have to admit I am often the passenger.

Our early February discovery was only in two small clumps. Its small white booms resembled an apple tree bloom to me. The blooms occurred in pairs facing away from each other. For several days we pondered the identity of this plant. It took a plant identification ID app belonging to photographer Karen Lawrence to identify it as a Bush Honeysuckle.

Karen writes, "Seek is an App by iNaturalist that helps identify plant and animals. It is free and not always correct but is a great tool to use to get an idea of your plant observations. It is available for iPhone and iPad. You use your phone's camera to point at plants, insects, fungi and more, and the App will try to identify the item for you. You can take a photo and have a record. It takes some practice because the camera image has to be sharp and pretty close to the subject. iNaturalist is a joint initiative of The California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society."

There are other apps that will do almost the same thing.

Considering it is a honeysuckle we were amazed that we found only two small clumps as this entire genus of these plants are considered very invasive. I had never seen this particular plant before. I now know it is *Lonicera fragrantissima* (Lon-iss-er-a fra-gran-tis -I-ma) having many common names: Winter Honeysuckle, Fragrant Honeysuckle, January Jasmine, Chinese Honeysuckle,



Dr. Bob Gilbert

Kiss-me-at-the-gate and Sweet Breath of Spring. These common names are informative which is unusual. It is native to China, blooms in January or earlier and is very fragrant. Reading about it I learned it only infrequently produces berries that are distributed by birds. Some authors have inaccurately labeled this plant invasive. It does not produce enough fruit to be heavily distributed. It only rarely sends up shoots from its roots.

I once went to a garden club meeting where one of the members announced she was new at gardening. "I do not know much except I only want to grow native plants." This raises some interesting thoughts. Plants from other countries introduced here have the reputation of being invasive because there are no natural predators here to check their expansion. You could say that all plants

are invasive to some degree as they need to bloom to re-

produce in order survive. Some are more prolific than others. A more accurate descriptive term to use in instead of invasive would be aggressive. But it needs some sort of adjective for clarification. For example, we have a cut-over bank that was created to make room for our house and the front parking court. This one area was quickly covered with scarlet oak seedlings that in 14 years have grown to 8-10 feet tall. Scarlet Oaks are not considered invasive but, on our site, they seem to be invasive but just locally. We are not covered up with Scarlet Oaks elsewhere. So, you might say Scarlet Oaks can aggressively germinate in new cut-over areas. There are many other examples of plant first colonizers in new cuts. One common one is Sumac.

So, this new gardener more clearly could have said that she did not want to grow aggressive plants or aggressively invasive plants even natives.

Fragrant honeysuckle unlike its



Fragrant Honeysuckle

Photos by Karen Lawrence

cousins is not aggressively invasive. The plants we found most likely originated from bird-distributed seeds from a mature planting we found about 1/14 mile away. We have vigorously looked for other seedlings in many other areas and have found none.

Lonicera fragrantissima has value as a landscape plant. It is well behaved, growing to just 6-10 feet. It has no disease problems to speak of. It can be used as an informal hedge and can be planted among other shrubs in a mixed hedge. This is not particularly a handsome shrub so it is not a good choice as a garden feature. It is often planted along a woodland edge. Even its blooms are not very showy. Its fragrance is its main feature. Its foliage often stays into winter. It does not have particular soil or moisture requirements. It does best in full sun. Because it blooms so early it could be a good pollen source for bees. It is hardy from Zones 4-8.

I became curious about its one common name Kiss-me-at-the-gate. I could never find an explanation about the name except there are few other plants with the same name. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's book "The Great Gatsby" there is a description of the house front entrance being flanked on both sides by Kiss-me-at-the-gate. One thing for sure is that you do not need a garden gate to grow this shrub.

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

Karen Lawrence is a professional horticultural and wildlife photographer from Franklin.



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Deaths & Funerals

Ronald Lee Hardegree Sr.

Ronald Lee Hardegree Sr. 87, passed away on March 20, 2021.

He was born in Miami, Fla., to the late Edward and Cynthia McDowell Hardegree. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Geraldine Madeline Hardegree; one son, Edward Daniel Hardegree; and one daughter, Julie Hardegree Jackson; great grandchild, Draxtyn Ortiz; and eight siblings.

He was a fire fighter and invested in his community. He was the building contractor and owner of Macon Block, Holiday homes and Otto Country Café and worked as the building inspector and co-owner of the Water Company of Riverbend Estates. He loved a good game of bingo or round of bowling. He enjoyed making everyone laugh and couldn't resist a good joke.

Surviving are his children, Rhonda Freeman (Steven) of Miami Fla., Mike Hardegree (Pam) of Hiialeah, Fla., Renee Maxwell (Frank) of Otto, N.C., Lee Hardegree of Otto, Gail Anderson (Greg) of Lantana, Texas, and Chris Hardegree (Dawn) of Deltona, Fla.; grandchildren, Melanie Herring, Justin Herring, Amanda Freeman, Danielle Freeman, Dylan Ortiz (Nicole Rogers), Jason Rouse (Amy), Mikey Hardegree, Sheldon Hardegree, Danny Hardegree, Andrew Hanak, Joshua Hanak, Randall Hanak, Hunter Maxwell, Brandon Harris, Courtney Harris, Waylon Hardegree, Samantha Hardegree, Ashlyn Anderson, Kelleigh Anderson, Logan Hardegree, Amos Hardegree; great grandchildren, Michael Henderson, Gage Herring, Destiny Ortiz, Skylynn Ortiz, Lyric Ortiz, Bailey Rouse, Anthony Brown, Tullie Rouse, Baron Rouse, Kennedee Hardegree, Moses Stucky, Sophia Stucky, Emily Hanak, Jackson Roberson, Hunter Harris, Austin Harris, Nevaeh Harris, Eddie Harris, Christian Harris, Ally Jones, Jayden Hardegree, Jenavicia Hardegree, Dominic Kilby, Sofia Hanes, Jace Bertke; and dear friends, Melissa Bryant and Leah Welch.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, March 25, at 5 p.m., at Coweeta Baptist Church. Fellowship to follow.

Rev. Keith Ashe will officiate. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral home will be handling the arrangements.

Danny Joe Teem

Danny Joe Teem, 65 of Franklin, N.C., died on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, at Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 27, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.



Ronald Lee Hardegree Sr.

Bill Carpenter

Bill Carpenter, age 69, of Sylva, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Teresa Carpenter and the son of the late Earvin Carpenter and Maxie Carpenter.

As a long-time, faithful member of East Fork Baptist Church, he served as the chairman of the deacon board. He loved hunting, fishing, playing golf, and good food. He dearly loved his family and his church family. One of his greatest delights was spoiling his grandkids. Following his stem cell transplant in 2002, he traveled out west to heal and spend time with his Lord.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Teresa Carpenter; one daughter, Shea (Chris) White; and two grandchildren, Makenzie (Will Ballard) White and Landon White; one sister, Starlotte Deitz; one brother, Jeff (Mary) Carpenter; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Sunday, March 21, at East Fork Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Burrell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his memory to East Fork Baptist Church Building Fund, 19 Woodrow Deitz Rd. Sylva, NC 28779.

An online registry is available at: www.appalachianfuneralservices.com.

Appalachian Funeral Services of Sylva, is serving the family.



Bill Carpenter

John 'Johnny' Earl Hall

John "Johnny" Earl Hall, 83, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord Thursday, March 18, 2021. A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Sam Earl and Sarah Elizabeth Hall. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Louise Hall.

He loved going to church and was a faithful member of Franklin First Assembly of God. He enjoyed watching Westerns, listening to, and singing Christian music and would never turn down a helping of banana pudding or a good cup of coffee. He worked 50-plus years at the Macon County Sheltered Workshop and later at MCE. He spent the past 33 years at MCH group home where he enjoyed trips to Florida, camping, Balsam Lake Lodge, happiness retreats and bowling tournaments. He loved riding shotgun as the front seat navigator on his many trips.

He spent the last weeks of his precious life surrounded by the love and tender care of his MCH group home family members as well as his brothers, niece, and nephews. Many visits, calls and cards were received and read and appreciated.

Johnny inspired many to look to Jesus and to be the best person they could possibly be. He overcame so many obstacles and touched so many lives. Anyone that knew Johnny, loved him and he will be missed by so very many.

A special thanks to Four Seasons Hospice for helping us all through this season of life.

Johnny is survived by his brother, Kenneth Hall (Nancy) of Hayesville, N.C.; his sister, Anne Bradshaw Hall of Anniston, Ala.; his brother, Joe Hall (Sue) of Franklin; five nephews, Kevin and Brian Hall, Jeff Bradshaw, Wes and Scott Hall; and two nieces, Beth Hall-Love and Kim Bradshaw Billings; and six great nephews and five great nieces, all of the MCH Family, and his church family at Franklin First Assembly.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 22, at Franklin First Assembly of God.

Pallbearers were Mike Raby, Keith Walker, Cooper Hall Love, Harlan Magers, Jim Graham, Michael Contino.



John Earl Hall

Clayton Franks

Clayton Franks, 63 of Sylva, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of Evelyn Young Franks and the late Clinton Franks. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a sister, Sandra Franks and a brother, Steven Franks.

He was of Baptist faith. He enjoyed fishing, wood working, and working on cars. He will always be remembered as a hard-working man, who loved his Mommy, daughters and grandchildren.

He is survived by his mother, Evelyn Young Franks; companion, Sharon Bradley of Sylva; five daughters, Marleen Franks (Eric) of Sylva, Lisa Ford (Logan) of Balsam, Alicia Franks of Waynesville, Amber Franks and Christian Franks, both of Sylva; siblings, Ernest Franks of Franklin, John Franks of Hendersonville, Radford Franks of Sylva, Lana Franks of Franklin, Madelyn Robinson of Sylva, Debbie Gaddis of Hickory, Rebecca Franks and Angela Franks, both of Asheville; 10 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 23, at Zion Hill Baptist Church. Rev. Eddie Stillwell, Rev. Frank Rodriguez, and Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiated. Burial was in the Zion Hill Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dakota Ledbetter, Zachary Cosgrove, Justin Cosgrove, Logan Ford, Ernie Lee Franks, Rocky Franks, Josh Franks, Eric Miller, and Creedence Aust.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Zion Hill Baptist Church cemetery fund.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Clayton Franks

View obituaries online at themaconcountynews.com

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-- Bahá'u'llah

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Ryan Blaney wins at Atlanta, ending Kyle Larson's hot run

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

You can call Ryan Blaney “The Spoiler.”

With a pass for the lead with eight laps left in Sunday's Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Blaney took the air out of an otherwise dominating performance by Kyle Larson, who had to settle for second place after winning the first two stages and leading 269 of 325 laps.

“Gosh, we had a great long-run car all day,” Blaney said after climbing from his No. 12 Team Penske Ford. “It took us a little bit to get going. I was pretty free all day, so we made a really good change to tighten me up where I needed it.

“It looked like Kyle was getting loose, and I'm happy it worked into our favor that there were a couple of long runs at the end (that) let us kind of get there, and he got slowed up behind some lapped traffic... It's nice to close out a race like that—it was awesome.”

Blaney's first victory at Atlanta and the fifth of his career extended the streak of different NASCAR Cup Series winners this season to six. The victory was the fifth straight at the 1.54-mile track for Ford drivers.

For the fourth time in his career, Larson swept the first two stages of a race and failed to win the event.

“I think he (Blaney) just got a lot better that last stage, and that changed up my flow of the race a little bit,” said Larson, who won each of the first two stages by more than six seconds. “I could get out to such big leads, and I could take care of my stuff and run the bottom where it was maybe slower, but I could take care of my tires.

“He was fast there (in the final run), and I just wanted to maintain that gap that I had, so I had to run in the faster part of the race track and just used my stuff up. He was a lot better than me there late in the run. I hate to lead a lot of laps and lose, but we had a really good car that we brought to the track. Our (No. 5) Hendrick Cars Chevy was stupid-fast there for a long time. I don't know if we got that much worse, or if he got way better.”

Alex Bowman ran third, followed by Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch. Austin Dillon, Chris Buescher, William Byron, Martin Truex Jr. and Kevin Harvick completed the top 10.

The first two stages featured only one caution for an on-track incident. On a restart on Lap 113, after the break at the end of Stage 1, Kyle Busch spun his tires at the front of the pack in the outside lane, causing Chase Elliott and Kurt Busch to check up behind him.

Kurt Busch steered down to the middle lane, but off-center contact from Hamlin's Toyota sent the No. 1 Chevrolet into the Turn 1 wall and out of the race.

“Yeah, I think the No. 18 (Kyle Busch) was the outside-lead car,” said Kurt Busch, who ran near the front of the field throughout the first stage. The No. 9 (Elliott) kind of checked-up, too. I checked up... It was just the accordion effect and then I jumped to the middle. I'm like ‘I'm here’; I positioned myself. It wasn't like I rearranged my lanes and made another block.

“He (Hamlin) didn't do anything vicious or malicious there. It's a 500-miler, and these are the days that it hurts the worst. This absolutely hurts the worst because we had a top-five, winning Monster Energy Chevy.”

Elliott, the reigning series champion, sustained damage on that same restart, but his troubles didn't become terminal until the third stage, when his engine blew to cause the fifth caution of the afternoon.



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 BodyArmor Ford, crosses the finish line to win the NASCAR Cup Series Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 21, 2021 in Hampton, Georgia.

Photo by Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

reer. “They pushed and made great adjustments on pit road—(crew chief) Jason Burdett and all the guys on the team did a great job. My wife and daughter are here. They may not be able to come out here (to Victory Lane), but I get to go celebrate with them. Just proud of the effort that we put in today.

“Martin had a great race car. They definitely had the car to beat at the beginning. We made good adjustments, and that's what it came down to at the end.”

Harrison Burton ran third, followed by Noah Gragson, who recovered from a Lap 40 wreck and ended his day exchanging blows on pit road with Daniel Hemric—the result of an earlier pit road altercation between their two cars.

A pit road speeding penalty under caution on Lap 114 of 163 spoiled what had been the Truex show up to that point. Truex, who won the first two stages and led 103 laps, restarted at the back of the field on Lap 118 and spent the rest of the race working his way back to the front, aided by two subsequent cautions.

But Truex used up his No. 54 Toyota charging into the runner-up position and had little left for Allgaier in the closing laps.

“We got back up there, but obviously, we were kind of out of tires at that point,” said Truex, a two-time Xfinity champion who was racing in the series for the first time since 2010. “Got close, and then the last 10 (laps), the right rear was completely smoked off. Just had to use too much to get there.

“Thanks to (sponsor) Stanley and everyone else at JGR for letting me go do this. It was fun until I screwed it up. Just came up a little short at the end there.”

Hemric confronted Gragson after the race for backing into the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota on pit road. Hemric had to pull into Gragson's stall to avoid a car blocking his own pit box. After Hemric backed into his own stall, Gragson entered his and backed into the nose of Hemric's Supra as crew

“Yeah, obviously we broke a motor there later on,” Elliott said. “We got some damage there on that restart. Kyle (Busch) kind of spun his tires and then I was pushing him, and Kurt (Busch) was pushing me. We all just really jammed together hard and ended up hurting the nose some. I don't know if that had something to do with breaking the engine or not.”

Early tire troubles ruined the afternoon for defending race winner Harvick, who pitted with a flat left rear as the rest of the field restarted on Lap 32 after a competition caution. Larson lapped Harvick later in the first stage, and the 2014 series champion didn't get the lap back until he took a wave-around under the fifth caution, for Elliott's blown engine.

Harvick battled back to finish 10th but could advance no further.

Justin Allgaier holds off Martin Truex Jr. for dramatic Atlanta win

When Martin Truex Jr. made his only serious mistake on Saturday afternoon, Justin Allgaier took full advantage.

Even so, Allgaier had to hold off Truex during a 26-lap, green-flag run to the finish to win the EchoPark 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

“We didn't start out the day like we wanted to—these guys persevered behind it,” said Allgaier, who picked up his first win of the season, his first at Atlanta and the 15th of his ca-



Justin Allgaier, driver of the #7 Axalta/EchoPark Automotive Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series EchoPark 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 20, 2021 in Hampton, Ga. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

members scattered.

"I got a hole in the nose of my car, and he got popped in the eye, so I'd say we're in good shape," Hemric said after the combatants were separated and had a chance to cool down.

A multicar wreck on the final lap of Stage 1 ruined the winning chances of a handful of contending cars. Contact from Brett Moffitt's Chevrolet turned Brandon Jones' Toyota into the outside wall on the backstretch.

Moffitt fell out of the race in 40th place, and Jones finished 37th, 31 laps down. The No. 22 Ford of series leader Austin Cindric, as well as the Chevrolets of AJ Allmendinger and Gragson, all sustained enough damage in the chain-reaction crash to affect their performance adversely.

Gragson and Allmendinger recovered to finish fourth and fifth, respectively. Cindric came home 13th, as his streak of five straight top-five finishes to start the season came to an end.

Kyle Busch dominates NASCAR Truck Series race at Atlanta
Kyle Busch wasn't about to let two straight NASCAR Camping World Truck Series races slip away.

Leading 102 of 130 laps and pulling away in the final stage of Saturday's Fr8Auctions 200 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Busch notched his first victory of the season, his sixth at the 1.54-mile track and the 60th of his career—extending his own series record.

Busch beat runner-up Austin Hill to the finish line by 4.133 seconds. Third was John Hunter Nemechek, who had held off Busch, his car owner, to win the last Truck Series outing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

"I thought we had a great truck at the start of the race," said Busch, who collected his 214th NASCAR national series win. "We just kept working on it all day. We were loose

to start, and we got it a lot better there. That final stage, we just took off, and it was super-fast, super-good. Can't say enough about everybody at Kyle Busch Motorsports."

Busch led most of the first two stages, but at the end of each, he surrendered the top spot to Nemechek, who picked up a pair of Playoff points for the stage wins. But Busch beat Nemechek off pit road on Lap 63 during the Stage 2 break and held it the rest of the way, save for a cycle of green flag stops that put Chase Purdy out front from Lap 102 through 105.

The race featured three cautions, one for a planned competition yellow after Lap 15 and two for the stage breaks. With the race going green for the final 63 circuits, Hill never had a chance to test his No. 16 Toyota against Busch's No. 51.

The victory was the first for crew chief Mardy Lindley, who joined Kyle Busch Motorsports this year. The only improvement Busch could have wished for was a 1-2 finish for KBM instead of a 1-3.

"Anytime I'm in my truck, I want to be able to go out there and score the victory," Busch said. "With good competition and good competitors, it's not easy. With John Hunter coming on board, at Vegas he was super-fast and did everything right, no mistakes.

"We'll go back and regroup and make sure that 4 truck (Nemechek) can stay in front of that 16 truck (Hill) the rest of this year."

Johnny Sauter ran fourth, followed by GMS Racing teammates Sheldon Creed and Zane Smith. Ross Chastain, Matt Crafton, Brett Moffitt and Stewart Friesen completed the top 10. Friesen recovered from a penalty for an uncontrolled tire during a stop under caution on Lap 63.

Bill Lester finished 36th, seven laps down, in his first NASCAR national series start since 2007.



Kyle Busch, driver of the #51 Cessna Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Fr8Auctions 200 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 20, 2021 in Hampton, Georgia. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Potts Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS

Assessments Collected	\$530.50
Total Interest Earned - Lincoln Financial	\$1,118.04
Other	-0-
Total Receipts	\$1,648.54

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	-0-
Collection Commissions	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$510.00
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	\$510.00
Membership Fees Paid Agents	-0-
Refunds	\$2.40
Death Benefits Paid @\$50	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100	\$200.00
Death Benefits Paid @200	\$800.00
Total	\$1,512.40

ASSETS

Cash on Hand	\$2,518.12
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041746	\$50,882.40
Total	\$53,400.58

LIABILITIES

Death Benefits Unpaid	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses	-0-
Total Payables	-0-
Reserve : 250 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books)	\$5,250.00
Total	\$5,250.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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THEME:
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ACROSS

- Great divide
- World's oldest national broadcaster
- Pasturelands
- Chinese fruit
- #9 Across, sing.
- Clemency
- One in advertising
- "_____ the land of the free ..."
- Characteristic of birds
- *Ongoing job in the garden
- *Without synthetic fertilizers
- 2nd tallest bird
- Theatrical production
- Curiosity killed it?
- Additionally
- Capital of Poland
- Passage into a mine
- Prefix in levorotary
- Mid-century modern, e.g.
- Toothy wheel
- *Some are heirlooms
- Make like a cat
- Erasable program-mable read only memory
- Stanislavski's rifle, e.g.
- Unwanted correspondence
- Motionless
- Catch-22
- "Are you sure?" in a text
- Freight horse cart
- Opposite of don'ts
- *6 or more hours of sunshine
- *Radicchio or frisÈe
- On foot

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- Lack of money
- *Tomato supports
- Highly skilled
- Miss America's head-dress
- Slowly leak
- Moves at the gym
- Monument to Buddha
- Orderly arrangement
- *Wiggly plowers
- Faster than a walk
- *Some plants and flow-ers emit a good one
- *Type of digger
- Centers, old-fashioned
- French vineyard
- *Last of 3 numbers on a bag of fertilizer
- Be a pest
- Washington, e.g.
- Grow dim
- Extraterrestrials' rides
- Pilot's stunt
- Type of parrot
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SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO. online bidding, smokeymountainauctioncompany.hibid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat (828)634-4271.

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

LAWN CUTTING & TRIMMING Free Estimates and will mow as often as needed. (828)342-5116.

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

TILE-TILE-TILE-TILE Floors, Backsplash, Custom Showers. 38 Years Experience Call for Free Estimates (828)369-2209.

NEED HELP CLEANING Your Home, Office Call Me. I'm Honest and Dependable. (828)347-6284.

HOME & PROPERTY CARETAKER Service. We Will Be There When You Can't to Offer Routine Home Inspections, Maintenance, Repairs and Peace of Mind. (828)421-6712.

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

HYDROSEEDING & SOD LAWNS Now Is The Time! Ron's Hydroseeding. (828)524-3976.

FREE LAWN CARE Estimates, \$5. Off With Ad, Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch/Fertilizer, Pressure Washing, Gutters Cleaned. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

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

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

Community Fundraisers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Real Estate

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

Rentals

SMALL CABIN SUITE Suitable for 1 Adult, All Amenities, Completely Furnished, Short Term Lease Only. Available April 2. Non-smoking/pets. \$625/monthly, plus Deposit. (828)342-4897.

NEW 24 HOUR STORAGE Facility at Gold City, 5 acres Open Fenced Storage with Controlled Gates for RV/Trailers \$50/monthly. 10 Units Dry Storage in Concrete Building, Units 77 sq. ft. \$60/monthly. 9410 Sylva Rd., Franklin. (800)713-7767 goldcitystorage.com

Animals

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

WE PROVIDE YOU DECIDE

Plus Hundreds More!

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In Otto since 1998

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Bryant Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected	\$2,581.35
Total Interest Earned	\$4,165.60
Other	-0-
Total Receipts	\$6,746.95
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries	-0-
Collection Commissions	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,269.74
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	\$1,269.74
Membership Fees Paid Agents	-0-
Refunds	\$26.20
Death Benefits Paid @ \$50	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @ \$100	\$800.00
Death Benefits Paid @ \$200	\$7,600.00
Total	\$9,695.94
ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	\$15,558.23
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities Account AAU-041745	\$177,727.79
Total	\$193,286.02
LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses	-0-
Total Payables	-0-
Reserve : 1097 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books)	\$23,037.00
Total	\$23,037.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Nicholas E. Page, President • Jack J. Dendy, Vice-President
Guy E. Grant, Secretary-Treasurer
DIRECTORS: Patricia Saffko, Ashley Grant Virga, Edwin Grant, Dale Roper



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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.

\$250 or less per month

2019	Hyundai Elantra	36,506
2019	Toyota Corolla	27,529
2018	Mitsubishi Outlander	49,318
2017	Chevrolet Traverse	91,874
2019	Chevrolet Cruze	14,078
2017	Buick Encore	43,236
2016	Ford Escape	33,265
2019	Nissan Rouge	39,871
2019	Dodge Journey	6,576
2018	Chevrolet Equinox	48,398

\$350 or less per month

2018	Chevrolet Equinox	21,036
2019	Jeep Cherokee	38,039
2020	Nissan Altima	38,911
2019	Kia Sorento	21,976
2018	Chevrolet Colorado	13,389
2019	Jeep Cherokee	9,020
2018	Ford Explorer	49,476
2019	Ford Edge	45,478
2018	Volkswagen Tiguan	19,002
2017	Jeep Wrangler Unlimited	88,737

\$450 or less per month

2019	Nissan Frontier	39,039
2018	Jeep Wrangler JK	47,132
2019	Jaguar XE	22,558
2019	Chevrolet Colorado	6,928
2017	Chevrolet Traverse	37,692
2016	Lexus GX 460	81,717
2017	Chevrolet Silverado 1500	41,705

PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

1997 Chevrolet Camaro	16,606
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	3,987
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	6,928
2019 Chevrolet Corvette	3,023
1972 CHEVROLET CORVETTE	91,171
2019 Chevrolet Cruze	14,078
2014 Chevrolet Equinox	108,214
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	21,036
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	48,398
2016 Chevrolet Equinox	107,191
2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	43,966
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	16,818
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	30,179
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	39,385
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	11,584
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	6,147
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	25,168
2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	2,821,214
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	22,009

2018 Chevrolet Spark	33,334
2017 Chevrolet Spark	29,568
2015 Chevrolet Suburban	103,523
2015 Chevrolet Tahoe	160,428
2015 Chevrolet Traverse	101,068
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	91,874
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	37,692
2019 Chevrolet Traverse	24,449
2016 Dodge Dart	37,024
2019 Dodge Journey	16,576
2019 Ford Edge	45,478
2012 Ford Edge	136,822
2016 Ford Escape	33,265
2013 Ford Explorer	135,416
2018 Ford F-150	27,491
2018 Ford F-150	25,756
2007 Ford Focus	158,109
2017 Ford Fusion	127,731
2016 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW	191,167

2011 GMC Sierra 1500	208,162
2017 GMC Sierra 3500HD	55,539
2020 GMC Yukon	40,952
2012 GMC Yukon	163,871
2019 GMC Yukon XL	37,969
2002 Honda Accord	217,842
2017 Honda Civic Sedan	49,543
2016 Honda HR-V	85,731
2019 Hyundai Elantra	36,506
2019 Jaguar XE	22,558
2019 Jeep Cherokee	9,020
2019 Jeep Cherokee	38,039
2015 Jeep Cherokee	138,767
2019 Jeep Wrangler	6,867
2018 Jeep Wrangler JK	47,132
2017 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2018 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited	52,471
2019 KAUFMAN TRAILER	
2012 Kia Optima	102,804

2019 Kia Sorento	21,976
2017 Kia Soul	91,896
2016 Land Rover Range Rover Sport	55,302
2016 Lexus GX 460	81,717
2019 Lincoln MKC	33,369
2015 Mercedes-Benz GLA 45 AMG	36,859
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander	49,318
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander	39,416
2020 Nissan Altima	38,911
2019 Nissan Frontier	39,039
2013 Nissan Frontier	136,148
2019 Nissan Rogue	39,871
2019 POLARIS SLINGSHOT SL	
2020 Ram 1500	25,556
2020 RAM 1500 Classic	18,621
2020 Toyota Camry	17,59
2019 Toyota Corolla	27,529
2008 Volkswagen New Beetle Convertible	107,001
2018 Volkswagen Tiguan	19,002