



East Franklin Elementary conducted its annual Wax Museum in which students had the assignment to research a historical figure, create a presentation and even dress up as their character. The students were staged outside where visitors could view the students' handiwork. Above, Jeremiah Jennings chose Richard Trevithick, British inventor. For more photos, see page 12. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Franklin mourns loss of longtime public servant

Mayor Bob Scott

Franklin and Macon County lost a wonderful public servant last night. Vice Mayor Barbara McRae passed away after a long and valiant battle against cancer. She was our historian, champion of women's rights, not afraid to take on any issue which would better the lives of us all. She wrote countless columns about our history and the natural world around us. She knew the name of every plant and animal on the Greenway.



Barbara McRae

More than likely there is nobody around here whose family Barbara did not write about in some way, helping us discover our heritage, preserving our history. She supported the Macon County Heritage Museum. Wrote books about us and especially the Cherokee Nation.

Her latest passion was the Women's History Trail of which she will now be a part of the Trail itself. The Nikwasi

See MCRAE page 2

## Commissioners going ahead with MMS project

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting Friday afternoon to consider a postponement of the Macon Middle School renovation project. The special called meeting came after Macon County Commissioners Gary Shields and Commissioner Josh Young spoke to members of the board of education on Monday regarding Young's desire to temporarily halt the project to consider alternative options.

Young asked commissioners to pause the multi-million dollar middle school renovation project while exploring additional options. Young asked for consideration of the possibility of instead of only renovating the middle school, doing due diligence to look at long-term planning for school facilities that could potentially address infrastructure needs over the next 10 years.

After much debate, commissioners ultimately voted 3-2 to move forward with the middle school renovation project. Young and Commissioner Paul Higdon cast the dissenting votes. The commissioners' vote to move forward with the renovation project does not mean other projects won't also be considered, it just means that the county will move forward with the deadlines established for finalizing the loan for the middle school renovation project.

Young's Proposal

Young's spoke to the board of education on Monday, Feb. 22, stating that he wanted to ensure that "due diligence" is completed on the MMS renovation project. Young, who is serving his first term on the board of commissioners, was appointed as a liaison to the board of education. He believes there may be options outside of the current MMS renovation plans that will not only address the MMS renovations but also address issues with other school facilities such as Franklin High School.

According to Young, he has spoken with local businessman Phil Drake about 14 acres of property that adjoins Macon Middle School to increase the available acreage surrounding the school.

The current middle school property sits on 34 acres and the additional 14 acres owned by Drake would increase the property to 48 acres total. Young's proposal includes not moving forward with the renovation of the middle school, but rather due to structural concerns he doesn't think can be adequately addressed with renovations, exposing the possibility of demolishing the current middle school building and completely building a new structure.

See MMS PROJECT page 3

"As leaders in the community, I think we owe it to the taxpayers to look down a different avenue ... before we spend this \$13 million."

– Commissioner Josh Young

### IN THIS ISSUE



Page 8

### Essential workers eligible for vaccinations

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# Town gives go-ahead for disc golf course

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

Students in Macon County Schools are first introduced to disc golf in their physical education classes. Two elementary schools in the county have used grant funds to install disc golf courses on their campuses to coincide with the lessons.

In terms of public access, the Siler Farm Disc Golf Course is located along the Little Tennessee Greenway near Southwestern Community College and is maintained by the Franklin Disc Golf Club. A small course is situated on the hill near The Lazy Hiker brewery in Franklin.

As one of the fastest growing sports in the world, residents of Western North Carolina will soon have a new disc golf course to try out — the Sunny Side Disc Golf Course in Franklin.

The Franklin Town Council unanimously voted Monday night to open the Whitmire Property up for public access for the first time since the town purchased the property. The town will use unused funds left over in the town's event budget to purchase the disc golf baskets. In the event that the town decides a different use for the Whitmire Property is better suited in the future, the disc golf course can be easily removed and relocated. The council also approved the placement of portable toilets on the property.

At last month's Town Council meeting, the Franklin Disc Golf Club presented a plan to construct a non-invasive 9-hole course around the property — which would need little work aside from purchasing the baskets used for holes and established tees.

Disc golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc at a target; it is played using rules similar to golf. It is usually played on a course with 9 or 18 holes. Players complete a hole by throwing a disc from a tee pad or area toward a target, throwing again from where the pre-



The Town Council has approved the Whitmire property in downtown Franklin for a disc golf course.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

vious throw landed until the target is reached. Usually, the number of throws a player uses to reach each target is tallied (often in relation to par), and players seek to complete each hole in the lowest number of total throws.

The Whitmire Property sits just under 13 acres and was purchased for \$1,575,000 in November 2004 by the town of Franklin. At the time, town leaders wanted to construct a new town hall on the property, but that idea was later scrapped and the town hall remains on Main Street instead, leaving the property to go unused for more than a decade. The property was last appraised at \$2.15 million in August 2008.

Since 2004, much debate has circulated around the property and the best use for it, however little private interest has come forth and council members have said that the property remains for sale. While the property will remain on the market and the town encourages the public to speak up regarding additional potential uses, the public will get the first chance to take advantage of the park this spring.

Members of the disc golf club said that once equipment is ordered, it would take around a month to receive the needed items, with installation taking about two weeks. With the board's approval on Monday, the disc golf course will be ready for public use by mid-April.

## MCRAE

Continued from page 1

Initiative would not be in existence without her steering it. She knew the value and significance of the Nikwasi Mound to the Town.

She served admirably as the Town's Vice Mayor. Always willing to pitch in in any way. Never ever having a harsh word about any issue or person, regardless if she didn't agree.

Barbara was not a native. But she certainly now qualifies as one.

RIP Barbara. It will never be the same without you. Thanks for all you did for us. And preserving what makes us who we are.

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# MMS PROJECT

Continued from page 1

Young was adamant that renovations may very well be the best avenue to pursue, however, before moving forward with the project, he wanted to temporarily pause consideration of renovations while other options are explored.

“As leaders in the community, I think we owe it to the taxpayers to look down a different avenue, to look down all avenues to make sure we are making the right decision before we spend this \$13 million,” said Young.

Young’s proposal includes expediting a long-term plan to comprehensively address needs within the Macon County School system over the next decade. Young’s proposal looked at four current needs at various schools in the district.

“If we plan this out right, we could shift all of our grade levels up a grade level, which means we would have K-3 at the elementary schools, 4 and 5 at the intermediate, 6,7, and 8 at the middle school,” said Young. “That would extend capacity at all of our schools. By being mindful of new construction, we just potentially saved \$7 million.”

Young acknowledged that he also understood that by not doing the proposed and already approved renovations at the middle school, the county would lose around \$1 million.

“I don’t want to be condescending, there is wasted money if we don’t do renovations. There is \$1 million, probably more than a million dollars and countless times,” said Young. “I am just thinking out loud that maybe some of the pros may outweigh the cons.”

Young noted that surrounding counties like Jackson, Clay, Rabun County, and all the way to Buncombe County have spent money to renovate or build new facilities, school facilities that he believes are better than Macon County — and while he said he doesn’t support raising taxes, he stated he understands it may be necessary.

Young noted that Macon County currently has about \$25 million in the county’s fund balance — and he believes that the county could spend a combination of funds from the fund balance, a loan, and a bond, to spend money now to address some needs and not have to look at raising taxes in the next five years to fund it.

“I haven’t even been through a budget process yet, so there is a lot of learning to do, but I feel like there is some money we can

redirect,” said Young.

Young said he doesn’t want to consider an increase to sales tax to fund the projects — referencing a state law that allows counties to increase sales tax to generate funds for school infrastructure.

“I want to find a way to do this now,” he said.

To demonstrate the need for a long-term plan for Macon County Schools facilities, Young discussed the current conditions of Franklin High School and the deterioration of facilities such as the track. Young said that his proposal would look at addressing needs at schools such as the high school over the next 10 years.

“All I am asking is to consider a plan,” Young said. “We go to the middle school and we come up with a plan.”

Macon Middle School Principal Scot Maslin said that he is appreciative of the commissioner’s vote to move forward with the middle school renovations, however, he believes Commissioner Young’s proposal has merit and agreed that a long term plan for the school district needs to occur.

“More than being just a principal, I am speaking as a resident and a parent,” said Maslin. “We have to do something for the kids in our county. We have to give them something to look forward to, something they can be proud of, and I think that starts with our school facilities.”

Maslin noted that he shares concerns that the renovation project will not address all the structural needs within the current middle school building. In terms of space and capacity, Maslin said that the middle school is sufficient and if the issues such as the excess moisture is fixed, then the renovations could be the right avenue to take.

## MMS Renovation Proposal

The scope of work proposed for Macon Middle School includes the addition of a 6,400 square foot locker room facility — which would be added to the facility’s existing 100,477 square footage. The work needing to be addressed includes roof repairs, wall assembly, cabinet and window replacements, interior finishes such as paint and restroom partitions, HVAC replacement, and plumbing updates.

Macon County Manager Derek Roland presented a timeline of the middle school project to the board on Friday — laying out the work that has been completed to date.

The Macon Middle School project was first brought to the at-

tention of the board of commissioners in 2017 during the annual budget planning process as part of the school district’s capital outlay needs. Roland said that at that point, the project was added to the county’s overall capital improvement plan.

While the county commissioners are responsible for funding schools, they do so at the request and need from the board of education. The board of education first made the county aware of needs in 2017 when \$2.7 million was requested for capital improvements to MMS.

Because of the significant needs at MMS, the county added the school project to the county’s overall capital infrastructure needs and in 2019 contracted with Novis architecture who conducted a general review of the facility.

Novis’ report stated that in general, Macon Middle School had been well cared for and was in good to fair conditions. The firm noted that with recommended renovations completed, the school would continue to serve the district’s needs for several years.

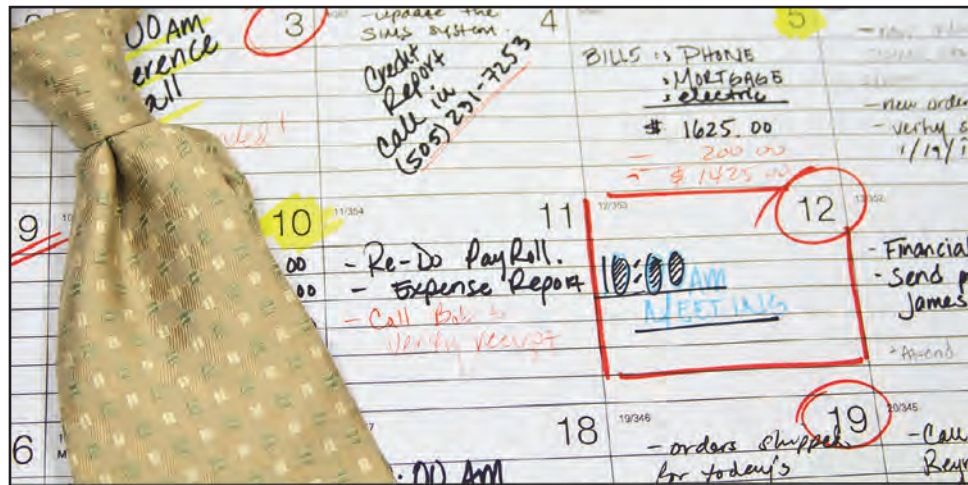
In August 2019, the Macon County Board of Education approves the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for renovations to the middle school. The Macon County School Liaison Committee — comprised of members of both the board of education and board of commissioners as well as county and school maintain and finance staff — received five bids in response to the RFQ and based on those bids unanimously recommended SGA NarmourWright Designs to develop plans for the project.

In October 2019, with unanimous approval by the board of education and board of commissioners, the county began working with SGA NarmourWright on the renovation project at the middle school. Between October and February of 2020, the joint committee worked diligently on the scope of work needed at the middle school to develop a comprehensive plan for the renovation project to address the most pressing needs.

Commissioners unanimously approved the architectural contract in its entirety in February 2020.

In June 2020, due to the extent of the project, the renovations to Macon Middle School had been revised to total \$15 million. By June 2020, the county was facing uncertainty around COVID19 and after discussions with the committee and architect, the board discussed postponing the project prior to soliciting construction

See MMS PROJECT page 4



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# MMS PROJECT

Continued from page 3

bids due to financial uncertainty.

Despite that economic uncertainty in the fall of 2020, members of the school system and county who had worked jointly on the project emphasized the importance of moving forward, so the project was put out to bid.

In October 2020, the board of commissioners approved a pre-qualification committee comprised of four members of the school system and four members of the county. The committee was tasked with the architectural plans and pre-qualifying eligible contractors to bid on the middle school renovation project.

On Dec. 10, the pre-qualification committee pre-qualified six companies to bid on the middle school renovation project.

On Jan. 4, 2021, a pre-bid meeting was held and on Jan. 11, the county approved the project findings to submit to the local government commission for approval to be able to finance the project. A public hearing was set and the county began looking at funding the project with bank loans versus bonds.

A public hearing on the project was held on Feb. 9 and the construction contract was awarded to New Atlantic Construction which is contingent on approval from the LGC and successfully closing the loan — which is currently scheduled to occur the first week in March.

On Feb. 22, the Macon County Board of Education unanimously voted to approve a resolution affirming their support of the project and their desire to move forward with the Macon Middle School renovations.

## Board of Commissioner response to Young's Proposal

Commissioners Gary Shields, Jim Tate, and Ronnie Beale all voted to move forward with renovations at Macon Middle School, but each said they support Young's intention and also want to further plan for the future of Macon County Schools.

"I absolutely agree that we need to move for-



Macon Middle School's much needed renovations have been talked about since 2017. Macon County Commissioners voted Friday to go ahead with the project.  
Photo by Vickie Carpenter

ward with plans for a new high school and over planning for our school system," Commission Chair Jim Tate said. "The Capital Improvement Plan we conducted for the entire county includes a new high school and has us moving forward with that project within the next two years, but I am certainly supportive of looking at plans for that project now."

Tate and the other commissioners agreed with Young on the importance of a new high school facility but noted that after two years working on the renovation project at Macon Middle School, it's imperative to address issues at that facility immediately.

Beale, who works as a general contractor and served as liaison to the board of education prior to Young, stated that after personally walking through the middle school with architects and other contractors, the middle school is in desperate need of repairs and that project cannot be delayed any longer.

Beale noted that the county has spent the last five years looking for space for a new high

school and that while Young's proposal has merit — the property proposed has already been evaluated and isn't being considered due to its location in a flood plain and the significant costs — between \$15 million and \$20 million on the grading alone before a new facility could even be built on the property.

Shields, a former board of education member and former Franklin High School principal, said that he knows firsthand the need for improvements within the school system and believes that it is the county's responsibility to move forward with renovations at Macon Middle School now and to also look toward the future of the school system.

Higdon agreed with Young and said that spending \$10-\$15 million on middle school renovations may not be the best financial decision. Higdon supported pausing the project to explore additional options.

"Josh and I have talked a couple of times on this, I don't do a lot of back door dealings, but Josh and I have talked about this," said Higdon. "What has impressed me is his youthful vigor in education and I strongly support this plan."

Beale noted that while he supports planning for the future of schools in the county, the first question that needs to be answered is how the project would be funded. Construction firms estimate that while renovations at Macon Middle School would add at least 20 years onto the life of the school and cost between \$10-\$15 million, a complete rebuild would cost closer to \$30 million assuming the rebuild occurred at the current location.

Projects provided by Roland showed that construction of a new middle school would have an estimated \$30 million in construction, another \$650,000 for the proposed additional 14 acres Young noted. However, instead of the 20 years the renovation would add, new construction would likely add 45 years.

Renovations are set to begin this spring while beginning the process of new construction would likely be delayed until 2023, and to fund the project would require a 1.3 cent tax increase or allocating \$2,330,000 from the county's fund balance.

A 1.3 cent property tax increase to fund a new middle school would generate a little over \$1 million in additional revenue for the county

and would increase the current tax rate from 37.4 cents of assessed value to 38.7 cents. For a home valued at \$100,000 the county tax rate would increase to around \$387 a year for a \$13 a year increase. For a \$300,000 house, the county tax would increase to \$1,161 a year for a \$39 a year increase. The increase estimates provided are just for consideration of a new middle school and doesn't address the construction of a new high school. To construct a new high school, the county would be looking at an additional 6.9 cent tax increase.

In total, taxpayers would see their annual bill increase to \$456 a year for a home valued at \$100,000 or \$1,368 a year for a home valued at \$300,000, which would be an annual increase of \$82 and \$246 respectively.

However, continuing along the path the county has been on for the last two years, the middle school will be completely renovated beginning this spring and by 2028 the county would be looking at a tax increase of just 3.7 cents to go into effect by 2030 to cover the cost of the project \$70 million to construct a new facility on 50 acres of land within Macon County.

Commissioners agreed that while a new high school facility is needed, the significant costs associated with the project should be placed on the ballot as a referendum to allow voters in Macon County a chance to decide especially considering the significant increase it would have on taxes.

With a referendum not being able to be placed on the ballots until 2022, Shields said that the county can and should certainly do that, however, delaying the vote now would not impact any decision or action in 2022, but that the middle school would continue to deteriorate.

"While I understand Mr. Young's suggestion of delaying the project now, what is more than likely to happen is we delay this project now, we risk losing out on the \$1 million we have spent over the last two years to get to the point we are at and then we end up completing the renovations anyway," said Shields.

A big concern about exhausting the fund balance or taking out a large loan to finance a new middle school and a new high school, was the impact such a decision could have on the financial standing of the county. Similar to how individuals are held to a certain standard for



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debt-to-income ratio when taking out a local for a house or a car, if the county depletes the fund balance or takes out a large loan, banks will not provide funding for additional projects identified as needs in the county. Macon County just completed a capital improvement plan that highlights significant needs across Macon County to address county facilities and services such as the senior service center, veteran's affairs, community building and library for the Nantahala Community and the Macon County Detention Center.

"If we do all of this now, we won't be able to do anything else for all of the other areas in our county that we have identified as being in critical need," said Beale.

The Capital Improvement Plan looked at issues such as the detention center which is constantly over capacity resulting in Macon County taxpayers being forced to fund inmate transports to other jails in WNC, which Macon County is legally obligated to do. In 2017-2018, Macon County taxpayers spent \$371,481 to house inmates outside of Macon County due to overcrowding at the jail; \$212,096 was spent in 2018-29; \$96,403 was spent in 2019-2020; and as of January 13, county taxpayers had spent \$227,280. Addressing space needs at the detention center would save taxpayers significantly each year.

**Macon County's Investment in Macon County Schools**

The Macon County Board of Commissioners have taken out significant out for schools in Macon County since 2007. These loans and this funding is in addition to the annual capital outlay and operating budget allocated to the school system each year and does not reflect the 2019 property tax increase approved to increase the technology budget for Macon County Schools.

2007- \$2.6 million loan for The Sanders/Owens Property that was purchased to construct Mountain View Intermediate School.

2007: A \$2 million QZAB loan to renovate East Franklin Elementary School

2008- \$2.8 million loan issued to construct MVI and an expansion at East Franklin Elementary School.

2010- \$12.8 million loan to construct Iotla Valley Elementary School

2010: A \$1.8 million QZAB loan to renovate Nantahala School

2012: A \$1.5 million loan used to purchase technology for Macon County Schools

2013: \$374,000 to purchase defibrillators for schools

2013: A \$1.5 million QZAB loan to renovate Highlands School

2015: A \$2.9 million QZAB loan to renovate both Highlands School and Union Academy

2018: \$2.92 loan for expansion at South Macon Elementary School

**What is the Macon County Fund balance?**

Macon County's fund balance is currently around \$25 million. The county fund balance acts as a savings account for the county in the event of issues that arise outside of the annual fiscal budget.

Available fund balance is an important measure of economic stability. It is essential that the county maintain adequate levels of available fund balance in order to ensure against unanticipated events that would adversely affect the

financial condition of the county and jeopardize the continuation of county services and/or activities and to provide the capacity to:

- a) Provide sufficient cash flow for daily financial needs;
- b) Secure and maintain investment-grade bond ratings;
- c) Offset significant economic downturns or revenue shortfalls;
- d) Provide funds for unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies;
- e) Adhere to Local Government Commission minimum fund balance recommendation
- f) Provide citizens with a stable property tax rate

County governments are charged to maintain available fund balance in the General Fund in an amount no less than 8 percent (or approximately one month) of the General Fund expenditures and outflows at the end of each fiscal year, as recommended by the North Carolina Local Government Commission.

Because the state requires that counties maintain a fund balance of at least 8 percent overall operating budget, Macon County is statutorily required to keep around \$7 million in the fund balance — meaning of the \$25 million in the fund balance, \$18 million is readily available if needed.

Similar to an individual's savings account when applying for a home or auto loan — the balance of a county's fund balance is viewed by banks and the local government commission when considering loan applications for the county.

Macon County has chosen to maintain a fund balance above the statutorily required amount over the last few years in order to qualify for better interest rates when applying for loans. Macon County also made increasing the fund balance a priority after the Peek's Creek disaster of 2004 due to the amount of fund balance used to help residents recover.

School Construction Projects in other NC Counties

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund has awarded a total of \$358.9 million to 31 local school districts since 2016. Projects funded include the replacement of 31 existing schools and the creation of 36 new schools or school buildings. Macon County, however, is considered a Tier 3 county, meaning unlike surrounding counties, Macon County does not qualify for assistance.

Among the 2020 projects in Western North Carolina funded by the needs-based public school capital fund are:

Graham County: \$3.2 million to build an addition to Robbinville Middle School to house 6th grade and other renovations to the existing middle/high school building space to accommodate the 6th grade addition (\$4.2 million total project cost).

Rutherford County: \$15 million for a new Rutherford-Spindale Middle School to replace the existing 94-year old school building. (\$35 million total project cost).

The state legislature created the fund to help school districts in lower-wealth counties that have critical public school building capital needs. The money comes from proceeds from the North Carolina Education Lottery. Macon County, however, is considered a Tier 3 county, meaning unlike surrounding counties, Macon County does not qualify for assistance.

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## Frontline essential workers eligible for vaccination beginning March 3

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. has announced that additional frontline essential workers in Group 3 will be eligible for vaccinations beginning March 3. The expedited timeline follows the approval of the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine and an expected increase in vaccine supply to North Carolina.

"The state and our providers continue to work extremely hard to get people vaccinated in a way that's fast and fair," said Gov. Cooper. "The third vaccine and improving vaccine supply will help us get more people vaccinated more quickly. Our essential frontline workers have remained on the job throughout this pandemic and I am grateful for their work."

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine comes as the federal government has also increased vaccine in North Carolina beyond the state's allocation. A new federally-supported site will open in Greensboro next week, and Walgreens is providing vaccine through the federal pharmacy program. While there is still not enough vaccine for everyone, the improved supply has contributed to providers reporting readiness to expand access to additional Group 3 essential workers. Under the timeline outlined Tuesday, providers may move to vaccinating these individuals on March 3. Sec. Cohen also unveiled a Public Service Announcement encouraging vaccine use among Group 3 essential workers.

State officials continue to encourage providers to exhaust each week's vaccine shipment before the following week's shipment arrives. Some vaccine providers may not be ready to open to frontline essential workers on March 3 if they are still experiencing high demand for vaccines in Groups 1, 2, and 3.

Gov. Cooper also outlined an expected timeline for beginning Group 4 vaccinations. Beginning on March 24, people at higher risk from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions will become eligible to receive a vaccine, as well as people in certain

congregate-living settings.

"This is a really exciting moment," said Secretary Cohen. "A third COVID-19 vaccine means North Carolina can get more people vaccinated sooner and keep people out of the hospital and prevent deaths from this pandemic."

NCDHHS also shared clarifications for Groups 1 and 4. The definition of long-term care in Group 1 has been updated for people with intellectual and developmental disability. Higher-risk medical conditions for Group 4 include intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down Syndrome, and neurologic conditions, such as dementia.

Gov. Cooper will continue to advocate to increase vaccine supply in North Carolina. Since January 20, the amount of vaccine received by the state has increased by 135%.

This week, the federal government authorized the distribution of Johnson & Johnson's (Janssen) one-shot vaccine and more than 80,000 doses are expected to arrive in the state beginning on Wednesday [March 3].

On March 10, a federally-supported community vaccination center will open in Greensboro. This site – one of just 18 sites nationally – will help the state continue its effort to reach more marginalized and underserved communities. The federal government will provide the center's vaccine supply, which will be in addition to North Carolina's weekly allotment from the Centers for Disease Control. It will operate seven days a week with the capacity to provide up to 3,000 vaccinations per day, with options for drive-thru service in the parking lot and walk-in service.

State officials continue to prioritize speed and equity in vaccine distribution as eligibility prioritization expands. On February 26, the Kaiser Family Foundation ranked North Carolina as first in the nation for vaccinating the largest share of its 65 and older population.

## Governor eases some restrictions, lifts Modified Stay at Home Order

As North Carolina's numbers continue to show improvement and vaccine distribution increases, Governor Roy Cooper announced last Wednesday that the state will carefully ease some of its COVID-19 restrictions. Executive Order No. 195 took effect Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. and will expire March 26 at 5 p.m.

"Today's action is a show of confidence and trust, but we must remain cautious. People are losing their loved ones each day," said Governor Cooper. "We must keep up our guard. Many of us are weary, but we cannot let the weariness win. Now is the time to put our strength and resilience to work so that we can continue to turn the corner and get through this."

The executive order lifts the Modified Stay at Home Order requiring people to stay at home and businesses to close to the public between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 10 to 25, while 50 remains the limit for outdoors. The curfew on the sale of alcohol for onsite consumption will be moved from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Some businesses, including bars and amusement parks, will now be open for patrons indoors as they adhere to new occupancy restrictions. Many businesses, venues and arenas will have increased occupancy both indoors and outdoors.

Executive Order No. 195 has two general categories of occupancy restrictions: 30% capacity and 50% capacity. Because indoor spaces have a higher risk of spread for COVID-19, indoor facilities in the 30%-occupancy category may not exceed two hundred fifty (250) people per indoor room or indoor space.

– 30% Capacity Limit (may not exceed 250 persons in indoor spaces)

- Bars
- Meeting, Reception, and Conference Spaces
- Lounges (including tobacco) and Night Clubs
- Indoor areas of Amusement Parks
- Movie Theatres
- Entertainment facilities (e.g., bingo parlors, gaming establishments)

lors, gaming establishments)

- Sports Arenas and Fields
- Venues
- Indoor event venues with more than 5,000 seats may be excepted from the 250 person limit if they follow additional safety measures up to 15% capacity.

– 50% Capacity Limit

- Restaurants
- Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries
- Fitness and Physical Activity Facilities (e.g., gyms, bowling alleys, rock climbing facilities)
- Pools
- Museums and Aquariums
- Retailers



Gov. Roy Cooper receives his first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday.

- Outdoor areas of Amusement Parks
  - Salons, Personal Care, Tattoo Parlors
- Safety protocols such as masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing will continue to be important as people adjust to the new order, health officials said.

Teachers began receiving vaccinations on Feb. 24 as the state begins to expand access to group 3 essential workers.

In Macon County as of Monday at 4 p.m., 6,699 vaccinations had been administered. Total cases of COVID-19 are 2,988 with 2,912 recovered; 46 active positive; and 30 deaths recorded. The vaccine inventory on Monday was at 500 doses.

To make a vaccine appointment, call (828)524-1500. Schedule testing appointments at (828)349-2517.

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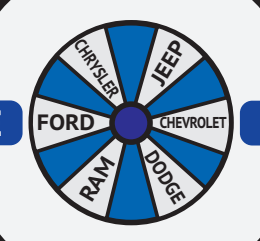
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# N.C. Senate fails to override Gov. Cooper's veto of SB 37

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

The North Carolina Senate failed to secure the three-fifths majority needed to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of Senate Bill 37.

Senate Bill 37 would have required schools to provide access to in-person learning under Plan A (minimal social distancing) for students with exceptional needs as well as require schools to provide in-person learning options for all K-12 students under either Plan A or Plan B (moderate social distancing) — leaving it up to local districts to decide.

On Monday night, 29 opposing votes led to the Senate's failure to override the veto. The Senate would have needed three-fifths of the vote. The vote was 29-20, one vote shy of the 3/5 requirement. One Democratic senator who voted in favor of the bill did not vote to override the bill and another Democratic senator who voted in favor of SB37 was not present for the override vote. To override the Governor's veto, all Republicans and at least one Democrat would have needed to vote in favor.

Senator Kevin Corbin who cosponsored SB 37 was disappointed the bill did not pass.

"It is sad that Governor Cooper's veto was sustained," said Senator Corbin. "All the bill did was allow our students the option for in-person learning. All the schools in my seven county district are already complying with Senate Bill 37. I am thankful and appreciative of our local educators for stepping up to the plate and getting back to the business of educating our youth. They deserve our best and 'distance learning' is not our best."

NC House Rep Karl Gillespie, who voted for the bill when it was sent to the House was also disappointed in the vote.

"It is extremely disappointing to know that all the students in North Carolina will not have the opportunity to return to the classroom," said Rep. Gillespie. "We will continue to work to bring our students back in a safe and responsible manner."

Cooper said in a press conference last week that he supported the return to school but had concerns regarding Senate Bill 37.

"Students learn best in the classroom and I have strongly urged all schools to open safely to in-person instruction and the vast majority of local school systems have done just that," said Cooper. "However, Senate Bill 37 falls short in two critical areas. First, it allows students in middle and high school to go back into the classroom in violation of NC Department of Health and Human Services and CDC health guidelines. Second, it hinders local and state officials from protecting students and teachers during an emergency. As I have informed the Legislature, I would sign the bill if these two problems are fixed. As written, the bill threatens public health just as North Carolina strives to emerge from the pandemic."

After officially vetoing SB37, Cooper released another statement on the issue.

"The question on SB 37 that I vetoed is not whether our children should be in the classroom in person," said Cooper. "They absolutely should. The question is whether we do it safely. The bill allows middle and high school students to be

in school without following NCDHHS and CDC guidelines on social distancing. SB 37 also removes authority from state and local officials to put students in remote learning in an emergency like a new COVID variant hitting our schools. I have asked legislative leaders to compromise with me on these two issues but so far they have not. I will continue talking with legislators and I will work diligently with the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make sure all of our children and educators are in the classroom, in-person and safe."

Had Senate Bill 37 passed the legislation and been signed into law, it likely would have little impact on schools in Western North Carolina, who have been providing some version of in-person instruction for the majority of the school year. The bill, however, would have forced school districts in the Eastern part of the state which still remain completely virtual to transition to in-person learning.

Speaker of the House Tim Moore said that the legislation will continue to look for avenues to get students back into the classroom.

"We are disappointed that students will continue to suffer from elected leaders' refusal to put their needs first, even as teachers were advanced in the vaccine priority list ahead of cancer patients under 65 to support safe classroom reopenings," Rep. Moore said. "The General Assembly leadership is committed to delivering on our state's constitutional duty to provide education access for families, and will pursue all available avenues to help North Carolina families overcome the massive learning loss forced on them by remote instruction."

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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I'm aware of a recent flurry of talk about how the town has permitted subdivisions without citizens knowing what was happening. Similar talk has centered around the new fire station. For seven years I have advocated for open communication in town government, so when I hear these rumblings about secrecy I feel compelled to respond.

A small subdivision in the Mirror Lake area was recently approved by the town board. Another small subdivision is in process on 5th Street. Both projects have been required to go through a multi-layered review. There has been no hidden agenda kept from public knowledge.

The subdivision approval process begins with the developer submitting the forms, documents and fees for the proposed subdivision to the town planning department. A preliminary subdivision plat/map is required. The town engineer reviews the plans and determines if they meet the subdivision ordinance requirements such as water line specifications, drainage, roads, etc. The town engineer writes a letter of recommendation, or denial, to the town planning board which reviews the preliminary plans. The planning board recommends, or denies, the proposed subdivision to the town board. The town board completes a review of the preliminary plan based on the planning board and town engineer's recommendations. Once preliminary approval is given by the board, the developer can then proceed to build the subdivision infrastructure following the approved plans. Upon completion, the town engineer inspects the completed work and recommends that the subdivision be granted final approval by the board. If there is any variation in the specifications of the preliminary plans, the town engineer will require the work to be redone. The town board then hears the recommendation of the town engineer and gives final approval. At this point, and not before, construction of houses can proceed. If a developer meets all requirements, there is no basis for denying the final subdivision plan. It is not an arbitrary process. This is an open, public process. Sometimes people become aware that a subdivision is underway in the middle of the process perceive it was a hidden process.

I encourage folks to sign up for the Town Sunshine List. Folks on the list receive every document town board members receive prior to monthly meetings, including subdivision plans. They also receive information concerning meetings such as the zoning board of adjustment and the planning board. Call town hall at 526-2118 and ask to speak to our town clerk, Gibby Shaheen and she will put your name and email address on the list.

Those on the list, including the press, were informed about the public meetings, and hearings concerning the development of the new fire station. All the state statutes for approving the construction of the fire station were followed, including a public vote by the Highlands Town Board and the County Commissioners.

## Letters to the Editor

### Commissioner Shields explains stance on MMS plan

Over the weekend, I was asked "Why did you vote for the Macon Middle School renovation"?

I will admit that I am not a long-term visionary person, I am more of "in the moment" problem solver. The word "moment" has elasticity built into it, but beyond two or three years, I lose vision. My career of 37 years in education called on decisions to be made quickly with success and move to the next problem or set of problems. My military experience was in the same manner.

Approximately two years ago, Principal [Scot] Maslin called me and asked me to come to his school, Macon Middle School, because he had some concerns that were "capital" in nature, meaning it was going to cost some money. I am not a builder nor a person of construction who has the "construction language" needed to converse the needs beyond my visibility. I can see leakage, mold, fractured interior plus numerous other items but the why and how of these deteriorations was out of my "scope of knowledge."

Mr. Ronnie Beale and I were the liaisons to the Macon County Board of Education [BOE]. I asked that he accompany Principal Maslin and me on a tour of the school. During this tour, Mr. Beale spoke in what I refer to as "construction/builders" language. After this tour, we both concluded that the Macon Middle School was in trouble and would need a "Renovation Plan" immediately.

A Facilities Review Team was established and the members on the team had the knowledge to speak the "construction language," excluding me, and BOE and county liaisons all agreed to move this MMS renovation project forward. Within a few weeks Mr. Derek Roland, county manager, brought the Facilities Review Team together to select an architectural firm to move the MMS project to another level.

In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this project was on its "death bed" but through the SGA architectural team and Roland, the MMS Renovation project never stopped. In February 2021, Macon County Commissioners and the Macon County Board of Education agreed to a resolution for this MMS project to move forward into the final stages of a "financial plan" due to the April 1, 2021 deadline. In a Macon County Commissioners Board "called meeting" on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, the Macon Middle School renovation project was approved by a majority vote of the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

In conclusion: If Macon Middle School is a "health hazard" doing nothing is not making it more healthy. I refuse to abandon MMS because humans occupy the spaces everyday. I feel the MMS Renovation Project could save a life or someone's health and one cannot put a monetary value on that. I feel a leadership responsibility to do what

I can, when the opportunity arises, to enhance work space environments for the safety and well-being of all.

I, too, would like to see a new middle school, but what do we do while we wait five-plus years for that to happen? Mr. Josh Young, former student, and I met prior to the last board "called meeting" and discussed both "positions" and concluded that both "positions" should be addressed.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Gary M. Shields – Franklin, N.C.

### Trump remains a threat to democracy

The other day a friend of mine made this remark: "I never want to hear Trump supporters mention morality (as in the Moral Majority) again. They have bowed down to his steady stream of lies as though the rest of us merely have to accept lying as a way of life in America."

Another said, "Do people not see the blatant hypocrisy in chanting "Lock her up!" about Hilary Clinton's peripheral role in the tragic deaths in Benghazi while they tolerate Donald Trump's central role in inciting an insurrection that resulted in a violent break-in and multiple deaths in the capitol of the United States of America?"

Hilary Clinton has weathered hours upon hours of investigations that resulted in no charges of wrongdoing against her. Since the January 6, 2021, insurrection is so recent the investigation of Donald Trump has only begun. His failure/refusal to use his mighty power to protect the people in the capitol that day will haunt everyone who has a conscience coupled with a strong devotion to democracy as the cornerstone of our government.

In short, Clinton's actions and inactions did not threaten democracy. Donald Trump's did.

If you believe this verse from John 8:32 (KJV) how do you follow Trump—"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What have his lies done to our democracy?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

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

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## 'For the People' Act could save our nation

Americans seem hell-bent on arguing these days, often over controversies once considered universally beneficial and were enthusiastically pursued. One common objective I recall from my youth when first attending Republican Club meetings in the 1940s (albeit at the behest of my mother) was to increase voter turnout. Harry Truman was of some concern to Republicans of that era.

Fast forwarding seven decades. Republicans today seem more inclined to make it harder to vote rather than easier. Bereaved, bedazzled and bewitched (and not just a little horrified) by the record turnout that won the White House for Joe Biden, GOP lawmakers across 33 states have introduced 165 bills (as of this writing) that, if enacted, will reduce early and absentee voting; impose far more exacting ID requirements; reduce the number of polling places and ballot drop boxes; eliminate automatic and same-day registration and make it easier to purge voter rolls.

Republicans will try to justify this obvious and brazen attempt to suppress voter participation in Democratic strongholds by repeating tired and worn out themes like achieving "ballot integrity." However, though following the shameless lead of their former president in practice, some Republicans have been less than subtle about their intent.

Thank a Georgia GOP election official for being brutally frank. Realizing the Republican base of white, rural, mostly male voters is being gradually outnumbered by minorities, and younger, more progressive, educated suburban women, new voting restrictions are needed, Alice O'Lenick states, "so that we at least have a shot at winning" (reported in The Week 2-19-21). Oh my, Ms. O'Lenick, any second thoughts on admitting that little tantalizing tidbit of naked truth? Be careful, young lady, Republicans have been known to censure party members who wax truthful.

As has been stated by many journalists (including Ronald Brownstein in TheAtlantic.com), "We're at a fundamental crossroads in American politics." Citizens who love their country and revere democracy must realize that Democrats will never be able to block those 165 bills because in the majority of the 33 states presently involved, Republicans are in full control.

The U.S. House is poised to pass H.R.1, the "For the People Act," which (if passed) will mandate automatic voter registration in every state, unlimited absentee voting, and 15 days of early voting. The bill also prohibits extreme gerrymandering and "dark money" campaign funding. These are things an earlier Republican Party would have advocated, enthusiastically embraced and welcomed. Not today. Today the GOP is all too well aware Republicans cannot win a fair and open election where everyone votes on an equally transparent basis.

In my opinion, to preserve democracy and our way of life and, yes, to remain competitive, both parties need to nominate moderates; honest, intelligent, capable men and women willing to work across the aisle for the common welfare of all our citizens; men and women who can win elections without voter suppression, without gerrymandering, and without all the other anti-democratic "dark acts."

If we can force Democrats and Republicans to evolve sooner rather than later, perhaps (just perhaps) we can save our nation. H.R.1 may very well be the long-term rescue package both parties desperately need.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

**What's on your mind?**  
Email letters to the editor to  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

## Another conversation with Gypsy the Philosophical Cat about the Coronavirus?

Gypsy: I'm wondering what all the excitement is lately?  
Paul: Well, I'm sure you have heard about the coronavirus, haven't you?

Gypsy: How could I have not heard about it? You have that blasted box on all the time.

Paul: You mean the radio? I'm trying to keep informed about the latest news about the virus.

Gypsy: I can't even hear the birds chirping with the radio going day and night. Even when I go outside, it is hard to hear.

Paul: My apologies to you. I know how important it is for you to be close to nature. I've noticed you going outside more lately now that they weather is nicer.

Gypsy: Perhaps you can tell me exactly what the coronavirus is and why there is such a ruckus about it. On one hand, I hear the president saying this isn't something to worry about and that the economy is more important than the consequences of the virus. What is the coronavirus anyway? I don't think I have seen any lately.

Paul: Well, you wouldn't see it. You would need a very powerful microscope to see it.

Gypsy: If I had a microscope, what would it look like.

Paul: It would maybe look a little like a green fuzz ball with little arms sticking out of it. Maybe like one of those burs that sometimes gets stuck in animals' fur.

Gypsy: It sounds like a hair ball I might cough up! I can't exactly see why people would be afraid of something they can't even see.

Paul: Unfortunately, this virus can make some folks very sick and they can even die from it. It can upset the body's immune system which can cause havoc within the body.

Gypsy: Can cats get the virus? I heard that people should avoid petting their animals.

Paul: No, cats and dogs can't get it, but people could leave the virus on their animal and pass it along to someone else. They recommend washing your hands before and after petting your animal.

Gypsy: I want to make it clear that I don't belong to anyone other than myself thank you!

Paul: Yes, I understand. I was just passing on info that I heard.

Gypsy: I understand that this virus came from animals and was passed on to humans. If humans weren't constantly invading the territory of animals, this might not take place. I might add that humans have been surviving for millennia with nature. I heard about one group of indigenous people who don't get any diseases because they have such a strong constitution.

Paul: Yes, it is important that we keep healthy so that if we come in contact with the virus, our immune system will just throw it off. That is why I grow healthy food for folks.

Gypsy: What about the president's concern that the we mustn't let the economy fail as a result of the virus. Don't we need to protect the economy?

Paul: It depends on whether you think money is more important than people. I would favor protecting people. Also, we need to consider the health care workers who are on the front line trying to help people who are severely ill. We have an obligation to consider their needs and what they are going through. In some cases they must decide who gets treatment and who doesn't.

Gypsy: I've been thinking that there must be something good about this virus in a world that is collapsing from human over-population and climate crisis.

Paul: Are you suggesting that if there were fewer of us, it would be better for the world?

Gypsy: Yes and no. What I mean is that since the pandemic began, there are a lot fewer cars on the road to run over animals and I don't hear as many planes in the air. People are staying at home more and not buying and using so many products. All this means that less energy is being consumed and

fewer polluting gases are going into the atmosphere to warm up the planet. The virus seems like a small drop in the bucket compared to the tragedy that is being caused by the climate crisis. Fires killed a billion animals in Australia, yet I didn't hear a big outcry over that.

Paul: You are of course correct and you seem to be keeping your eye on the larger picture. The virus seems like it may be around for some time and the impact it may have on our economic system and way of life may be extensive. And as you suggest, there may be some real benefits to this. In China, air pollution has been reduced by industries closing, so fewer people are suffering and dying from polluted air. What I wonder is how these changes could be paved the way for real changes in our society and around the world?

Gypsy: You mean people would learn to live more ecologically, use less resources, and learn how just to live in harmony with the world?

Paul: I think you hit the nail on the head. If we learn to live with less, we will reduce our impact on the environment and live a more fulfilling and meaningful life as you have suggested in many of our conversations. We will need to work less, drive less and be at home more so we can enjoy relaxing. But I'm afraid we humans can be workaholics at times.

Gypsy: I would recommend that humans learn to meditate like cats do. It takes very little energy and while we are meditating we are sending out positive messages to the earth and all its creatures so it can heal from the damage that man has inflicted.

Paul: I think this is a very important message you are conveying and other people should hear about it. Have you considered making this part of your presidential platform?

Gypsy: This is always been a major part of my platform, to transform our current way of life so it allows all creatures a say and a place in the future of the world. And this includes humans as well. We can't continue our current trends which value progress based solely on never ending growth. We need to value ungrowth and learn to use resources wisely especially alternative energy sources. This could lead to a scaling back of the economy and reducing the release of greenhouse gases.

Paul: And you would suggest that people shouldn't just sit there, they should do nothing? I'm kidding of course, and I think I understand what you are saying. If nothing else, the coronavirus has slowed things down and made people think about life in a different way. But won't things just pick up again after the virus has passed?

Gypsy: It depends whether humans learn a lesson from all this: that they don't need to have all the things that they are told they need. That happiness comes from living very simply and meeting basic needs in the simplest and most direct way. Like your gardening.

Paul: Like you sitting in the sun in the morning to warm up?

Gypsy: Exactly and humans can build houses that utilize the sun in the same way and don't require all the fossil fuels to heat and cool them. But it needs to be a change in the way people view themselves and the world. That they are part of an ecosystem that relies on all the parts, even viruses to survive!

Paul: I'm glad we had this conversation. I will try to limit listening to the radio and will spend more time enjoying the sounds of nature outside. It may help me relax and not feel like I have to be doing something all the time. I appreciate our conversations and what I can learn from you!

Gypsy: Cats have always been advisors to humans, when humans take the time to listen.

Paul: Blessed be!

For more conversations, email Gypsy at [coweeta@gmail.com](mailto:coweeta@gmail.com) and she will send you them at no charge (why do you think cats would need money?).

Paul Chew – Otto, N.C.

# East Franklin Elementary's annual Wax Museum presentation



Diane Sawyer



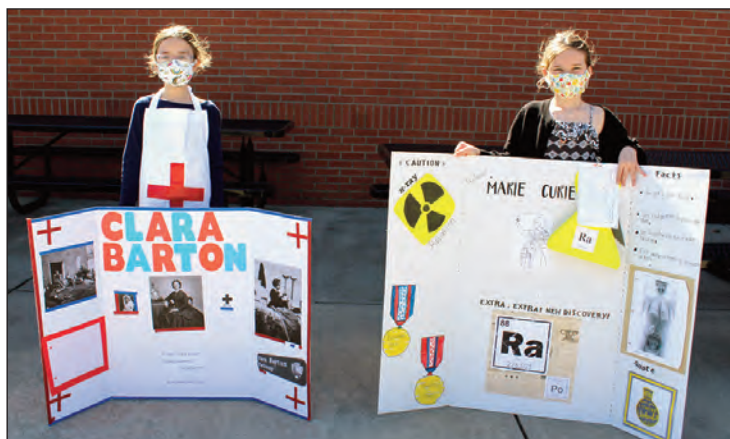
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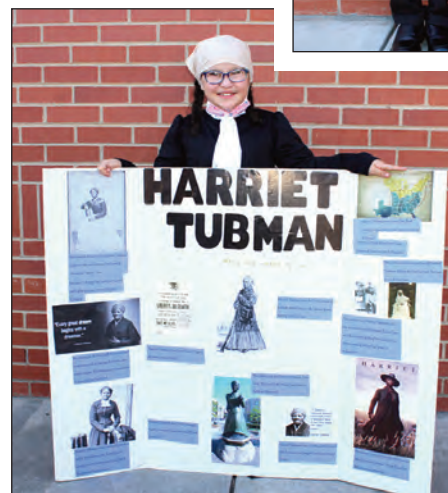
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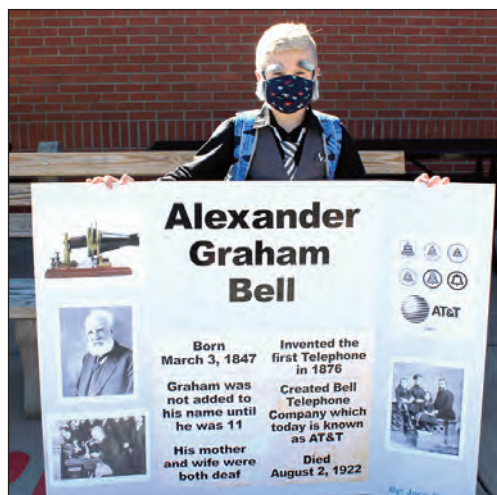
Stan Lee



Jane Goodall



Martin Luther King Jr.



Alexander Graham Bell



Mary Lou Retton

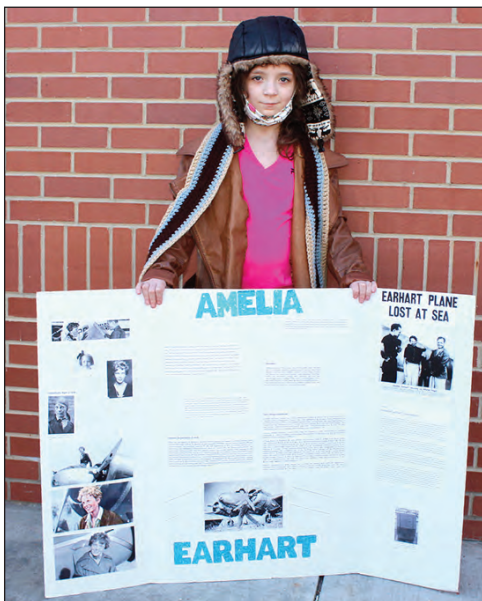
Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Thomas Edison



Christopher Columbus



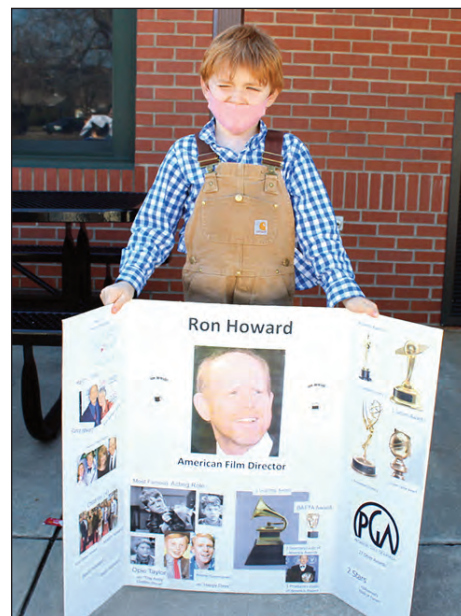
Amelia Earhart



Payton Manning



John Cena



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**We are currently closed in preparation of this major move and anticipate reopening Tuesday, March 16th.**  
*Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.*

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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 18 - 27. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



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

**February 22**

Shawna Sue McDowell, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

**February 23**

Ronald Lee Wickham, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. David Blanton made the arrest.

**February 24**

Benjamin Gary Speed, was issued a warrant for an out of state felony. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

**February 25**

Jessy D. Beaver, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Rickey Anthony Caldwell, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Misty Michelle Bates, was charged with failure to appear. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Kyle Jordan Jenkins, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Joseph William-Ferro Grier, was charged with provide contraband to inmate, possession of tobacco by an inmate. Robert Young made the arrest.

Edward Andrew Fowler, was charged with simple assault. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Kelly Lee Bowers, was charged with simple assault. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

**February 26**

Dakota Charles Mathis, was charged with communicating threats. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Donald McLean Long Jr., was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Willie Eldon Watts, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Blake Justin Roskam, was charged with failure to appear for driving after consuming under 21. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Zacariah Matthew Sedivac, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Michael Anthony Roland Jr., was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

**February 27**

Gabriel Jimenez, was charged with domestic physical. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

**February 28**

Austin Harley McCall, was charged with failure to appear for assault inflicting serious injury. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

**February 19**

Andrew Philip Hesselburg, 35, was charged with assault by strangulation. No bond was set. Officer Chastain made the arrest.

**February 24**

Alex Livorio Rivera, 28, was charged with larceny, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set. Sargent Norman made the arrest.

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

**February 18**

Jacob Tyler Smith, 30, of Little Mountain Rd., Waynesville, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. No bond was set.

Carolyn Rachel Reed, 23, of Webster Estates, was charged with harassing phone calls. No bond was set.

**February 19**

Lisa Monique Hawkins, of Laven Rock Town Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. No bond was set.

Tanya Hanes Jenkins, 44, of Kirkland Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for Macon County for first degree trespass enter/remain. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Darrion Justin Ulmer, 21, of New Prospect St., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female, simple assault, damage to personal property. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Jessica Marie Millett, 22, of Sylva, was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, larceny of a cell phone, breaking and entering forcible. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

**February 21**

Paul Anthony Namotka, 29, of Sparks Lane, was charged with second degree trespass, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, break or enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

**February 22**

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 38, of Rock Quarry Rd., was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats, interfering with emergency communications. No bond was set.

Kelly Marie Walkingstick, 31, of Hallie Manor Court, was issued an order for arrest for child support. A \$5,100 bond was set.

Dorell Nijay Leshore, 46, of Williamsburg Lane, Norcross, Ga., was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a scheduled II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of marijuana paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Gina Ann Waltonowski, 28, of Atlanta, Ga, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver MDA/MDMA, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, trafficking opium or heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

**February 23**

Darrion Justin Ulmer, 21, of New Prospect St., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female, violation of a court

order. No bond was set.

Crystal Lovedahl Queen, 43, of Indian Mound Rd., Cullowhee, was issued an order for arrest for child support. A bond of \$2,247.96 was set.

Tobias Nathaniel Dillard, 25, of Clockwork Lane, was issued an order for arrest for child support. A bond of \$4,293.44 was set.

Christopher Michael Johnson, 42, of Harris Circle, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, trafficking in methamphetamine by possession, trafficking methamphetamine by transport. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Lauren Ashley Cauthan, 20, of Sunset Lane, Moore, S.C., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of schedule IV, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Andrew Doyle Boggs, 30, of Dalton Rd., was charged with breaking and entering forcible. No bond was set.

**February 24**

Robert Dylan Thomas, 23, of Ensley St., was charged with injury to personal property, communicating threats. No bond was set.

Raynard Antione Flagg, 40, of Atlanta, Ga., was charged with maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine, felony possession of cocaine, simple possession of a schedule V controlled substance, possession of marijuana 1/2 oz, felony possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver marijuana, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set.

Nakeshia Denise Roberts, 33, of Angier Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Ga., was charged with felony possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver MDA/MDMA, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, carrying a concealed gun. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set.

Stacie Lee Glance, 37, of Sylva, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a stolen firearm. No bond was set.

Tinola David Wildcat, 43, of Acree Dr., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. No bond was set.

**February 25**

Dontavius Juan Cox, 28, of Oaks Dr., Cherokee, was issued a U.S. Marshals warrant for probation violations. No bond was set.

Regina JoAnn McQuaig, 38, of Trailer Skyland Dr., was issued an order for arrest for communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Kenneth Lee Tramper, 42, of Lee Bird Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

**February 26**

Norman Rozelle Walkingstick, 40, of Dynasty Dr., Whittier, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, possession of stolen goods/property, felony larceny. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

**February 27**

Jeffery Thomas Burnett, 24, of Pilot Knob Rd., Glenville, was charged with resist/obstruct delay. A secured bond of \$75 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are there 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.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike on Thursday, March 4, with an elevation change 700 ft., on Long Branch Trail in the Standing Indian Recreation Area, hiking along the stream to Glassmine Gap on the Appalachian Trail. There may be some early wildflowers in bloom, perhaps hepatica. This is an in and out hike with roots, very wet and rocky areas. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 12:30 p.m., drive 35 miles round trip. Visitors welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call hike leader Katharine Brown (828)421-4178.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-5 mile hike on Sunday, March 7, with an elevation change 300 ft., to Jack Rabbit Recreation Area in Clay County in an area on Lake Chatuge for biking and hiking. The trail is up and down at first, then levels off with views of the lake. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 1 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call leader Gail Lehman (828)524-5298.

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

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

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

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

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

apers, 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 [smpcc.org](http://smpcc.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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Grace Baptist Church services are held on Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Preacher Gary Moore will deliver the message. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

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

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](http://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](mailto:admin@allsaintsfranklin.org) or by calling (828)524-4910.

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church Join them on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church either live at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays or later on recorded video while they are social distancing due to COVID19. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. for more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit [www.firstumcfranklin.org](http://www.firstumcfranklin.org)

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

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

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

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

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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

# Full Circle Recovery Center celebrates grand re-opening Feb. 24

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Full Circle Recovery Center celebrated its grand re-opening on Wednesday, Feb. 24. That day is significant because it is also International Family Drug Support Day (FDS). International FDS day first started in 2016 to draw attention to the importance of families affected by alcohol and/or drugs and the benefits of supporting families. The International Family Drug Support Day is set on the date of the passing of 23-year-old Australian Damien Trimingham from a drug related overdose. The day has become an annual event to highlight the need for families to not only be recognized and heard but to be supported and encouraged to speak about their concerns and their needs.

At Full Circle, Executive Director Stephanie Almeida hosted a drop-in event, whereby folks were able to stop by and get some coffee or tea and finger foods, and watch volunteers assemble 3,000 naloxone overdose reversal kits. These kits are available to drug users and their families. The recovery center had recently undergone a renovation, adding new space to house Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction's (SMHR) new drop-in center and their new HIV/Hepatitis C testing room. SMHR is a peer-led nonprofit that provides substance use harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery support services to folks in Western North Carolina. It became an official nonprofit in October 2019.

This year's theme for International FDS is "Family Connection not Tough Love." On

this day, an alliance of community organizations is speaking out against drug dependence stigma and pointing out the futility of "tough love" approaches to drug use. The group is calling for a greater focus on harm reduction services which recognize that drug dependence is a health issue.

A news release on the International FDS Day website explains the reasoning behind this year's theme of Family Drug Support Day:

"'Tough love' denies that drug dependence is a health problem, seeing it as an issue of will and choice," said Yarra Drug and Health Forum Executive Officer, Bernadette Burchell. "The idea that we need to let people hit rock bottom before they can



Full Circle Recovery Center is located at 3261 Georgia Road, Franklin, just south of Tractor Supply Co. Photo by Vickie Carpenter



Volunteers assemble naloxone overdose reversal kits at Wednesday's open house at Full Circle Recovery Center.

start to recover is nonsensical. In the case of drug use, hitting rock bottom means death or brain damage, and there's no recovery from that point," she said.

"Harm reduction services such as needle exchange programs, Naloxone training, medically supervising injecting rooms and drug education help people to stay alive, and stay as healthy as possible while they are using drugs," said Burchell.

Debbie Warner, whose son battled heroin dependence for a decade, said, "I realized that I needed to approach my son's drug use just like I would if he had any chronic illness, because addiction is a health issue," said Warner.

"I turned my thinking from 'how can I get my child off drugs' to 'how can I keep my child safe and well while they are drug dependent?'"

"I helped connect him to places where he could get sterile needles, I made sure I always had Naloxone in our house and knew how to use it, I found a GP who gave non-judgmental advice about avoiding Hepatitis C, preventing abscesses, and avoiding overdose," she said.

Drug forum officer, Sam Biondo, said, "The harm reduction approach eases the

stigma attached to drug dependence, and keeps people within arm's reach, which gives them the best chance of staying alive, and connecting to treatment and recovery if and when they're ready."

What it looks like in North Carolina

According to North Carolina Health News, 41 N.C. counties classified as "high risk" in a new opioid study. Counties were deemed "high risk" if they had a higher than the national rate of 12.5 opioid related deaths per 100,000 people, and lower than the rate of 9.7 providers of medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, for opioid use disorders. Macon County fits that profile. The North Carolina Division of Public Health reports that from 2014-2018 the rate of unintentional medication/drug overdose deaths per 100,000 residents in Macon County was 18.6% compared to the statewide 16.7% whereas 5-9 is low and 22-34 is high. The rate of unintentional opioid overdose deaths for Macon was 11.0% with the state statistic at 13.6% whereas 3-8 is low and 20-30 is high. This information is part of the Vital Registry System of the State Center for Health.

Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction offers opioid overdose prevention and survival help. Signs of an overdose include: no breathing, turning blue, deep snoring; vomiting, gasping, and gurgling.

Home remedies do not work to reverse opiate and opioid based overdoses such as a cold shower, letting them sleep it off, giving someone coffee or making them walk around. The only viable option when someone is experiencing an opiate overdose is to initiate rescue breathing, administer naloxone and seek medical assistance.

If you or a loved one is experienced issues due to drug use, call Full Circle Recovery at 828-475-1920 to find out what the available options are for your situation. In case of an emergency, always call 911 first.

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## Saturday structure fire damages Mill Creek condos

West Macon Fire & Rescue responded to a report of a structure fire around 12 midnight on Feb. 27 at 45 Mountain View Villas, located in the Mill Creek Subdivision. Clarks Chapel Fire & Rescue, Franklin Fire & Rescue and MCEMS were also dispatched to respond mutual aid. West Macon arrived on scene within six minutes finding a four-living unit condominium, with one of the living units being approx 50 percent involved with heavy fire. Due to unknown occupancy, a search team was formed immediately, and a primary search was conducted on all of the units, with findings showing that all occupants had evacuated safely or were not at home at the time of the fire. Water supply was established by using a hydrant located inside Mill Creek Subdivision. The fire was declared under control within 24 minutes of the first arriving units. The condominium unit of origin suffered significant fire damage and is not occupiable. An adjacent living unit suffered some structural and water damage. The two other units suffered limited damage and the occupants were allowed to return to their residences later that day. There were no reports of any occupant or firefighter injuries while on the scene. The Macon County Fire Marshal's office is conducting the investigation.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

## Community Foundation announces scholarship availability

The North Carolina Community Foundation recently announced the statewide opening of scholarship season.

NCCF administers more than 150 scholarships for students across the state. Eligibility criteria and deadlines are specific and vary widely by scholarship and location. Deadlines typically range from March to May. To determine if you or your student qualifies, visit NCCF's website at [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org).

In Macon County, the George and Bonnie Siek Memorial Scholarship Endowment is available to graduates of Macon County high schools who will attend an accredited college or university at the undergraduate or graduate level. Preference is given to graduates from the Town of Highlands.

The deadline to apply is March 31.

Tyran Hill, scholarship administrator, said that this scholarship provides a good opportunity for local students to further their educations. "Our aim is to raise awareness about opportunities offered through scholarships held with the North Carolina Community Foundation," he said. "We're honored to steward these scholarships on behalf of our fundholders who are investing in the futures of these North Carolinians."

For further information, contact NCCF Program Officer

Tyran Hill at [thill@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:thill@nccommunityfoundation.org) or visit the NCCF website at [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org).

About the North Carolina Community Foundation

The NCCF has administered more than \$184 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$290 million in assets, NCCF sustains more than 1,200 endowments established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations, institutions and scholarships. For more, visit [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org).

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Curtis Alan Rich Sr.

Curtis Alan Rich Sr., was born in Pell City, Ala., to Oscar and Mary Neighbors Rich on Oct. 18, 1928.

He developed an interest in photography at a early age which lasted throughout his lifetime. As a member of the United States Navy, he attended the Navy School of Photography and was assigned to the Aerial Photography Unit. A highlight of his time in service was working in conjunction with 20th Century Fox filming the movie, "The Frogmen." He also had the honor of being assigned to accompany President Harry Truman recording his activities when he visited the base at Key West.

Upon discharge from the Navy, he returned to Birmingham, Ala., and opened a full fledged photography studio. He missed the south Florida he had loved during his Navy days, so he returned to Miami where he worked for Eastman Kodak. During this time he became involved in the Florida mining and rock blasting industry where he saw the opportunity to market specialized tools, thus founding and operating Curtis Tool Company.

Later, he moved to Citrus County, near Crystal River. He became active in Rotary International and was instrumental in forming the Economic Development Committee of Citrus County. He served as mayor of Crystal River for five terms, from 1990 to 2000. He also organized a community bank, Nature Coast Bank, now Drummond Bank. He served as chairman of the board initially and later as a member of the board of directors until about three years after moving to Highlands.

He and his wife, Vangie, were very active in local theater and starred in many productions. They retired to Highlands, N.C., where they continued to be interested in photography and involved in community events, including theater.

His family was always most dear to him.

His survivors include his devoted wife of 36 years, Vangie Caruthers Rich of Highlands; his daughter, Alana Franceal Rich, of Cullman, Ala.; his son, Curtis A. Rich II and fiancé, Kimberly Porter of Crystal River, Fla.; two stepsons, William T. Swigert Jr., (Shane W. Wilson) of Oklahoma, Okla., and Brett L. Swigert (Nancy Massey Swigert) of Ocala, Fla.; a niece, Audryn Kay Swigert of Culver City, Calif.; grandchildren, Rebecca Crowder Demarco (Justin) of Illinois, and Taylor G. Rich of Crystal River; and great-grandchildren, Addison, Cannon and Cora Demarco of Illinois.

A memorial service will be held after gathering restrictions are lifted. Memorials made to Four Seasons Hospice, Care Partners, or Highlands-Cashiers Hospital are greatly appreciated.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Rich family.

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



**Curtis Alan Rich Sr.**

### Joseph Harley Jenkins

Joseph Harley Jenkins, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. He was born Nov. 2, 1958, in Macon County to the late Harley and Ruby Houston Jenkins. He was married to the late Rebecca "Becky" Luker Jenkins. He was a maintenance worker on tractors, a member of the Macon County Horse Association and a longtime member of WNC Wagon Train. He also was a blacksmith for many years.

He is survived by three sons, Paul Jenkins (Crystal), Joey Jenkins and Nathan Jenkins; six brothers, Rick Jenkins, Ray Jenkins, Jerry Jenkins, Tom Jenkins, Carlos Jenkins and Troy Jenkins; a sister, Annie Mae Cisneros; grandchildren, Kendra Sheffey, Branson Jenkins, Aspen Applewhite and Hailey Jenkins. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Annie Mae Jenkins.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Feb. 25, in Bryant-Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Brent Houston officiating. A graveside service was held Friday at Lakey Creek Methodist Church Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Jenkins family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



**Joseph Harley Jenkins**

### Scott Steven Macfarlane

Scott Steven Macfarlane, 44, of Asheville, N.C., went to be with the Lord on Feb. 15, 2021.

He was born and raised in West Palm Beach before moving to Asheville. He was a carpenter by trade and loved that profession. He had a sweet and loving heart and loved to use his carpentry skills in freely helping others. He was greatly loved and a blessing to all. He will be missed immensely.

He leaves behind his wife, Sasha (nee Foltyniewicz); his parents, John Steven and Barbara (Tyre) Macfarlane of Otto, N.C.; his brother, Eric (Abigail); and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his infant brother, John Kirk Macfarlane; grandparents Robert (Bob) and Joyce Macfarlane of West Palm Beach; and George C. and Velma Tyre of Lantana, Fla.

Service to be held at a later date in West Palm Beach.



**Scott Steven Macfarlane**

### Jonathan Gonzalez Valdez

Jonathan Gonzalez Valdez, 24, from Marietta, Ga., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. He was a painter who worked alongside in his father's company. He was son to Leonardo Gonzalez and Rita Valdez, a loving brother to his eldest brother Alexis, eldest sister Maria and to his youngest sister Jacqueline.

He was a ray of laughter and a light to his family throughout the years and to the people who he met along the way. He had a gentle heart and was passionate about his reading and artwork. He was committed in the work he did and took pride to always perfect his work. In the 24 years of life that he was given he showed so much love. He got the opportunity to be with his three nephews throughout the last four years, he would go from playing endlessly with them to just sitting patiently practicing their talking and teaching them new things. He had such a kind soul, he was the happiest when around his family and those he considered friends. He is loved by so many, his smile and the sound of his laughter will be missed.

A graveside service was held Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Chapel at Cheatham Hill Memorial Park.

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

### Rebecca 'Becky' Luker Jenkins

Rebecca "Becky" Luker Jenkins, 49, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. She was born Dec. 8, 1971, to R.A. and Joann Brissey Luker of Tuckasegee, N.C. She was an office manager at Nantahala Physical Therapy; she attended Central Baptist Church, she loved horses and was a member of Macon County Horse Association. She loved people and especially loved her family. She was married to the late Joe Jenkins.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by sons, Nathan Jenkins, Paul Jenkins (Crystal) and Joey Jenkins; sister, Melissa Hoyle (Gary) of Sylva; grandchildren, Kendra Sheffey, Branson Jenkins, Aspen Applewhite and Hailey Jenkins.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Feb. 25, in Bryant-Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Brent Houston and Rev. Leonard Luker officiating. A graveside service was held at Shook Cemetery in Tuckasegee, N.C., with Rev. Jason Bryson officiating. Pallbearers were Matt Hoyle, Mark Hoyle, Darrell Luker, Roger Luker, Dennis Luker and Lyndon McFalls.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Jenkins family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



**Rebecca Luker Jenkins**

### Anthony 'Tony' Alvin Pressley II

Anthony "Tony" Alvin Pressley II, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Feb. 24, 2021.

He was born in Charleston, S.C., to the late Alvin and Margaret Cooper Pressley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by wife, Millie, and son, Anthony Alvin Pressley.

He attended Western Carolina University and was a music major and played the trumpet. He was a pressman by trade and most of his working life was in the printing business. He enjoyed hiking, camping and the beauty of God's creation.

He loved Jesus and lived his life to honor him. A faithful man, beloved husband, wonderful father, dear brother. He will be greatly missed and ever in our hearts.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa; daughter, Megan Pressley of Abingdon, Va.; sister, Sue Pressley Parker of Otto; nephew, Dean Smith of Greenville, S.C.; and niece, Samatha Bennett of Charlotte, N.C.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Christian Training Center International, 234 Watchman Lane Franklin, NC 28734, or at [www.ctci.life.org/give](http://www.ctci.life.org/give).

### Patricia Ann Giddes Vinson

Patricia Ann Giddes Vinson, 60, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021. She was born June 5, 1960, in Ft. Myers, Fla., to the late Irving and Willie Mae Giddes. She was an office manager for Giddes Construction Company in Lee County, Fla. She loved to crochet, cook and loved hanging out with her daughter. She was an avid reader and was of the Methodist faith.

She is survived by her husband, Scott Vinson; and daughter, Olivia Vinson.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

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



**Patricia Ann Vinson**

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Glenda Castleman Takach

Glenda Castleman Takach, 79, of Franklin, N.C., died Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021.

Born in Miami, Fla., she was the daughter of the late George Denton and Sue Ann Langford Castleman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Paul "Jay" Takach in April 2016 and a granddaughter, Anastasia Scheufele in December 2020. She was Catholic and worked for many years as an LPN at Britthaven in Franklin. More recently she would be found working in her yard or her antiques.



Glenda Takach

She is survived by daughters, Grace Phillips (Maurice) of Franklin, and Pam Goins (Glenn) of Davie, Fla.; sons, Jon Balcom (Teresa) of Franklin, George Balcom (Luann) of Jacksonville, Fla., Joe Takach of Cooper City, Fla., and Paul John Takach (Ada) of Miami, Fla.; and a sister, Carolyn Miller of New Mexico; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, and her "bonus" daughter, Monica Byrd of Franklin.

Private services will be held later in the spring.

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Patricia 'Pat' Yvonne Rowland Shuler

Patricia "Pat" Yvonne Rowland Shuler, 85, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, at Angel Medical Center in Franklin.

She was born on April 12, 1935, in Franklin, to the late Royal Furman Rowland and Texie Lavora Welch Rowland.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Albert Shuler.

She was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church and she retired in 1997 from her job as a care giver with Macon Citizens

Habilities, Inc. She was an avid reader and loved visiting with her family and making others laugh. She was known and loved for her great sense of humor and love for her family. She was an intercessor who found great joy in praying for the needs of others. "Nana Pat," as her grandchildren called her, will be greatly missed.

Those left to cherish her memory are her two sons, James J. Blevins III (Judy) of Bryson City, N.C., and William Eric Blevins (Cathy) of Greensboro, N.C.; a daughter, Renee Yvonne Vinson (Gerald) of Young Harris, Ga.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 2 p.m., at Cullasaja Assembly of God, 6201 Highlands Rd., Franklin, with Rev. Forrest Jones officiating.

The family respectfully requests that memorial contributions be given to: Baptist Children's Homes of NC, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361 or [www.bchfamily.org](http://www.bchfamily.org)

Penland Family Funeral Home is honored to be assisting the Shuler family with arrangements.



Patricia Shuler

## Alberta Green Bowes

Alberta Green Bowes, 76, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Leonard and Tiny Gibson Green. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Jo Swafford and Cathy Green, and a brother, Lenden Green.

She was a lifelong member of Ridgcrest Baptist Church and was very active at the church. She served on the decorating committee and loved working on the food committee.

She was known for always taking care of others first and definitely had the "Service Before Self" way of life. She helped with Relay for Life, The Banquet Table, and would help prepare the community Thanksgiving meal at First Presbyterian Church and the Masonic breakfast fundraiser whenever possible. She loved to make beautiful wedding cakes and pies for those she knew, and to help plan baby showers and bridal showers for anyone she could. She enjoyed bowling and loved spending time with family and friends. She was a faithful employee to Belden for 34 and a half years and worked in the restaurant business for many years. She was a real friend to many and would always make sure no one left hungry. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her son, Bobby Bowes (Natalie Whittaker) of Mount Vernon, Ga.; her sister, Shirley Charles (Jackie "Pete") of Cumming, Ga.; and two grandchildren, Maggie and Carter Bowes of Dublin, Ga.; one nephew, Brian Charles of Cumming, Ga., and numerous cousins and close friends.

A graveside service will be held at Ridgcrest Baptist Church Cemetery on Saturday, March 6, at 2 p.m. Rev. Guy Duvall will officiate.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744 or the Gideons International.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Alberta Green Bowes

## Jimmie B. White

Jimmie B. White, 86, passed away Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021, following a lengthy battle with a rare incurable cancer. He was born in Bristow, Okla., and moved to Tahlequah, Okla., to pursue a career in the field of education. He retired in Tahlequah as the principal at Greenwood Elementary School. He spent a few years in Florida before moving permanently to Franklin, N.C., in 2006.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Burl and Paulene White, and son Kelly at the age of 13.

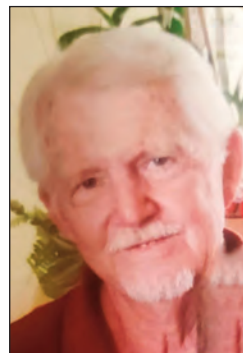
He is survived by his wife Jean of 30 years; sons, Jeffrey White and wife Laura and J.D. White, both of Tahlequah Okla.; a sister, Anita White Zwick of Cape Coral Fla.; a brother, Ron and his wife Madeleine who split their time between Franklin and N. Ft. Myers, Fla.; many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren; stepchildren of over 30 years, Darin McDaniel and wife Kelly of Oklahoma City; Michael McDaniel and wife Debbra of Joplin, Mo., and Tracey Vaughn and daughter Madison Scrabeck of St. Petersburg, Fla.

He was loved by all of them as a dear father figure and mentor. He made many friends in Franklin participating in the Macon County Senior Games which he entered most every year in golf, tennis and bowling before becoming ill. He also produced beautiful carpentry pieces for many of his friends.

A memorial service will be held in Tahlequah at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice of Macon County.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the White family. Online condolences at [www.bryantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantfuneralhome.com).



Jimmie B. White

## Audrey (Kellie) Bridge

Kellie lived a life dedicated to family, friends and animals. She loved camping, fishing and the beauty of nature. She was our angel on earth and we're sure Kellie is flying high with God's angels somewhere over the rainbow.



Audrey (Kellie) Bridge

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# William Byron cruises to NASCAR Cup Series win at Homestead-Miami

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

In a No. 24 Chevrolet that steadily improved its performance as the sun went down, William Byron streaked to a decisive victory in Sunday's Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

With Tyler Reddick, Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr. battling for second place behind him, Byron cruised to a 2.777-second victory over Reddick, who charged through the field late in the final 60-lap green-flag run to the finish.

Truex ran third, with Larson coming home fourth. The victory was Byron's first of the season, first at Homestead and the second of his career. The win was the 264th in the NASCAR Cup Series for Hendrick Motorsports, leaving the organization four victories behind Petty Enterprises for most all-time.

"It was just a really smooth day," said Byron, who won Stage 2 after finishing fourth in the opening 80-lap stage. "We worked hard in the winter on this track. I can't believe it."

Though Reddick made his charge by running inches from the outside wall, Byron preferred to maintain a respectful distance from the fence whenever possible.

"You had to go to the wall at certain times," said Byron, who led 102 laps, a career-best for a single race. "(Turns) 3 and 4, it was really fast up there. I definitely didn't do it as good as the Xfinity cars do it, but I used it when I had to. This car was just awesome. It was really a lot of hard work. I think we went to the sim (simulator) four or five times this offseason, and it pays off, man. It's awesome."

Byron delivered the first Cup victory to crew chief Rudy Fugle, with whom he teamed to great success in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. In fact, the last time Byron and Fugle worked together, they won the 2016 season finale at Homestead.

Reddick didn't score a point in either of the first two stages, but his No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet was lightning fast at the end of the race. When Reddick moved into fourth place past Kevin Harvick on Lap 254 of 267, he was nine seconds behind Byron. By the end of the race, despite having to clear both Truex and Larson for second, he had trimmed more than six seconds off Byron's lead.

"Once I really saw how fast we were in clean air, when I saw how fast we were catching everybody, it's beyond frustrating," said Reddick, who matched his career-best finish. "Three different decisions on restarts would have put me miles ahead, and I would have been within reach."

"Second's great, but I saw how much faster I was than those guys at the end, so naturally, it's frustrating."

Chris Buescher was dominant early, leading a career-high 57 laps in a single race and picking up the second stage win



William Byron, driver of the #24 Axalta Chevrolet, celebrates with burnout in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Feb. 28, 2021, in Homestead, Fla.

Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

adjustment to have a chance."

Harvick came home fifth, followed by Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell, as both drivers have scored top-10 finishes in each of the first three races of the season. Ryan Newman, Kurt Busch, Alex Bowman and Kyle Busch completed the top 10. Denny Hamlin ran 11th, failing to keep his top-10 streak alive because of a late-race pit road speeding penalty.

Hamlin nevertheless retained the series lead by 20 points over Harvick.

Myatt Snider scores first Xfinity win as fate KO's Noah Gragson – again

Myatt Snider got his first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory. Noah Gragson got another heartache at Homestead.

With perfect execution from the inside lane on his second chance at an overtime restart, Snider held off charging Tyler Reddick to win Saturday's Contender Boats 250 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

For his third straight race at the 1.5-mile track, Gragson was close enough to taste victory, but it was his ill-fated crash with just over two laps left in regulation that set up

of his career in the opening segment. But as the sunlight faded, so did Buescher's No. 17 Roush Fenway Racing Ford. He finished 19th.

Truex thought his car capable of maintaining Byron's pace in the final run and was disappointed when it didn't.

"On that last run, for whatever reason, I was just babying it," Truex said. "The 24 (Byron) got the lead from me on that (last) restart (on Lap 208), and then the 5 (Larson) got by us, and I'm just biding my time waiting for them to start coming back to me, and they just never did."

"They obviously were really fast at the end, and we weren't quite as good that last run. These things are so hard to win. These cars are so touchy and just needed one more



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overtime and Snider's victory.

Reddick's second-place finish didn't stand, however. His No. 23 Chevrolet was disqualified after post-race inspection, because the ride height measure too low in the rear.

On the first attempt at extra laps, Snider spun his tires, and Reddick grabbed the lead before AJ Allmendinger spun toward the infield grass in Turn 1 to cause the eighth and final caution.

In the second overtime, Reddick returned the favor, and Snider pulled clear in the bottom lane. With a determined charge on the final lap, Reddick gained ground, but he was .085 seconds in arrears when Snider crossed the finish line in the No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet.

"Yeah, I guess I learned my lesson on that first restart, 'cause I spun the wheels," said Snider, who won in his 36th start in the series. "Then I saw Tyler spin the wheels on the next one, and I knew I might have a chance."

"Just a shout-out to all these RCR guys, (sponsor) TaxSlayer, all these people that supported me over the years. It's been a rough journey, but we're here with a win, and I can't complain."

Reddick, who drives full-time for RCR in the NASCAR Cup Series, was moonlighting with RSS Racing on Saturday, making his first Xfinity start since winning his second straight series title at Homestead in 2019. But his effort proved moot with the disqualification, which elevated Brandon Jones to the runner-up spot.

Gragson was just over two laps away from a redemptive victory when the No. 13 Ford of David Starr—the last driver on the lead lap—blew a right front tire and shot up the track into the outside wall and right into Gragson's path."

Gragson, who led 83 and 81 laps in last year's two Homestead races but failed to win either, couldn't avoid the collision that destroyed his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet. At the time, Gragson led second-place Reddick by more than

eight seconds.

"What are you going to do," Gragson said after a visit to the infield care center. "We dominated the last three races here, including this one, and have stuff like that (happen). We were saving fuel. I was half-throttle the last 30 laps, and we were still pulling away."

The first stage of the race was eventful—but not primarily for Stefan Parsons spin in Turn 4 on Lap 26 or for Daniel Hemric missing his pit stall under the resulting caution and knocking his tire carrier to the pavement.

Parsons' car necessitated the third caution of the race on Lap 68, drivers who had stayed out under the Lap 26 caution to save a set of tires came to pit road—Cindric among them.

Allmendinger led the field to the restart with six laps left in the second stage. Cindric restarted 22nd, and in less than three laps took the lead on the way to a stage win and a Playoff point.

Pit stops followed at the end of the stage, on Lap 83, leaving almost all drivers on equal rubber for the final run, with two sets of sticker tires left in the pits. But in terms of track



Myatt Snider, driver of the #2 TaxSlayer Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Contender Boats 250 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on February 27, 2021 in Homestead, Florida. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)



What Stage 1 demonstrated with jarring clarity was the enormous value of fresh tires on the abrasive asphalt surface. Allmendinger restarted 25th on fresh tires with 10 laps left in the stage and grabbed the lead from Kaulig Racing teammate Justin Haley eight laps later.

Allmendinger won the stage with Haley second after restarting 20th and moving into the lead on Lap 33 before surrendering the top spot to his teammate. Reigning series champion Cindric, on the other hand, stayed out during the caution, restarted in the lead on old tires and fell to 14th by the end of the 10-lap run.

Stage 2 was the mirror image of Stage 1. When fluid from

position, the exchange favored those who had pitted late in Stage 2 and charged to the front.

First off pit road during the fourth caution, Cindric led the field to green on Lap 89. But neither Cindric nor Allmendinger was a major player in the overtime. y Hemric finished third, followed by Jeb Burton. Cindric, Haley, Brett Moffitt, Ryan Sieg, Jeremy Clements and Josh Berry completed the top 10.

Xfinity stalwarts Harrison Burton and Justin Allgaier were the first two drivers out of the race, Burton with an engine failure and Allgaier after contact with the Ford of Riley Herbst on Lap 98.

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

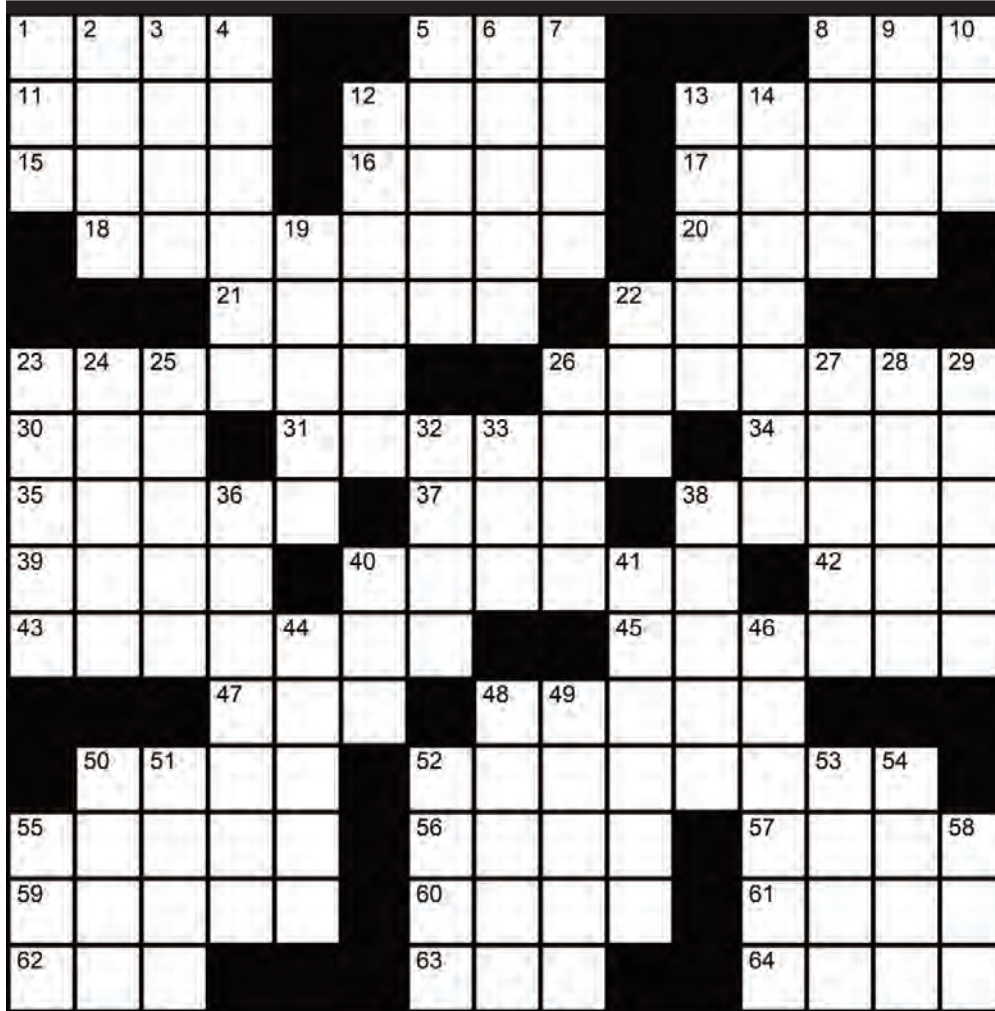
THEME: MARCH MADNESS

### ACROSS

1. Theories
5. T in Greek
8. Tarzan's mom, e.g.
11. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, e.g.
12. Ingredient in talcum powder
13. Spectator
15. 5,280 feet
16. Tiny river
17. Note taker
18. \*Last NCAA basketball winner
20. Any day now
21. Antiquarian's concern, pl.
22. Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The \_\_\_\_.
23. Saw a nightmare
26. Caribbean rattles
30. Witch's spell
31. Flocked-to destinations
34. Goo or slime
35. Plural of ostium
37. Leo mo.
38. Eurasian goat-like antelope
39. Showing signs of use
40. "Yo, \_\_\_\_!"
42. \*Nothing but it
43. Wrap a baby
45. \* \_\_\_\_-elimination
47. Outrage
48. Fraternity K
50. One of the Bridges
52. \* \_\_\_\_ 1 schools only
55. \_\_\_\_ less but pennywise
56. Decanter
57. In a frenzy
59. Threesome
60. Turkish monetary unit, plural
61. Dumpy establishment
62. Common conjunction
63. New York time
64. Male deer

### DOWN

1. Singular of #1 Across
2. Rikers Island weapon
3. Burkina Faso neighbor
4. Himalayan mountaineer
5. Tarnish
6. " \_\_\_\_ fair in love and war"
7. \*School with most NCAA basketball titles



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8. Choir member
9. Hammer part
10. Blunder
12. Sad, to mademoiselle
13. Radio studio sign
14. \*Mid-major school that's become major powerhouse
19. Kind of ray
22. Is no longer
23. Arabian sailing vessels
24. Restart from seed
25. Uncredited actor
26. The Wise Men
27. Acting as a prompter
28. Snow impression
29. Eric Heiden's "shoe"
32. \*Oklahoma State's super freshman \_\_\_\_ Cunningham
33. Mixed breed puppy
36. \*2021 NCAA Tournament location
38. What Edward Scissorhands does
40. Stout relative
41. Dream big
44. Ancient Celtic priest
46. Water nymphs
48. Fuzzy fruit, pl.
49. Deflect
50. Sanders' campaign slogan "Feel the \_\_\_\_"
51. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
52. Expunge
53. Fail to mention
54. Scotia preceeder
55. School-related org.
58. Liquor store pony

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# Classifieds

## Real Estate

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

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

## Community Fundraisers

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

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

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

## Misc. For Sale

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

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

## Wanted

**WANTED: STUDIO APARTMENT.** Room for Rent, Roommate or Housesit for Honest/Reliable, Quiet, Non-smoker, 57 year old woman. Text/Call (828)342-4147 or email imakelif-ericher@gmail.com

## Motor Vehicles

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

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

# SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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

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

SALE OR RENT \$800/ or buy 3BR/2.5BA with 2 Fireplaces and DOUBLEWIDE 4BR/3.5BA, 3000sf. MUST \$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living Need room? This home has plenty! 3BR/2BA room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, storage, fully furnished, many \$259,900. On the web factured bonus room. New windows, pool, etc. \$129,900 please co

# The Classifieds

### Help Wanted

**CAROLINA MOTEL** is hiring for the 2021 Season. Housekeepers and front desk personal. Starting Wages: \$10 to \$12 per hours plus bonuses. Non-smoking environment. Please call (828)524-3380 for interview.

**COOK: FULL-TIME** Provides food services for Head Start and/or Head Start Center. Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Requirements: Ability to plan, coordinate and implement nutrition services for the center. Ability to prepare, serve and deliver meals and snacks. Ability to assist with storage, inventory and ordering nutrition items. Willingness to clean, sanitize and operate kitchen equipment. Ability to work well and communicate effectively with others. Ability to read and write in English. Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. MPP is an EOE/AA Employer. Ways to apply: Visit [mppnch.org](http://mppnch.org) Complete MPP Employment Application, E-mail resume to [admin@mppnch.org](mailto:admin@mppnch.org) NC Works Office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin, NC | [www.ncworks.gov](http://www.ncworks.gov) Apply by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

**ZAXBY'S OF FRANKLIN** Now Hiring Full-time, Cooks, Cashiers. Apply at [www.zaxjobs.com](http://www.zaxjobs.com). Come grow with us!

**HEAD START-EARLY** Head Start Classroom Assistant, Full-time, Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Requirements: Ability to collaborate and work with the teaching staff in their assigned classrooms. Follows the daily lesson plan for assigned or scheduled classroom. Ability to apply Early Childhood Development theory to daily classroom activities and adapts the theory to the individualized needs of children. Supervises and maintains the safety of children following indoor and outdoor safety rules, routines and procedures. Relates to children in a calm, caring and nurturing manner using age appropriate child guidance techniques. High School diploma or GED required; CDA or AA preferred. CPR and First Aid Certification at the time of hire or achieved within the first 6 months. NC Early Childhood Certificate and CDA required within one year of hire. Willing to attend job training, nurture and motivate young children and their families, and work well with others. Valid NC driver's license and willing to get a CDL bus license. MPP is an EOE/AA Employer. Ways to apply: Visit [mppnch.org](http://mppnch.org) | Complete MPP Employment Application, E-mail resume to [admin@mppnch.org](mailto:admin@mppnch.org) NC Works Office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin, NC, [www.ncworks.gov](http://www.ncworks.gov) Apply by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

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

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA** Highlands NC, \$500 sign on bonus for FT Bellman, Housekeeping, Dishwasher! Now recruiting for Houseman, Turn-down Attendants, Overnight Housekeeper, Bartender, Host, Server, Busser, Club Server, PT Banquet Server, F&B MIT, F&B Asst. Mgr, Cook, Pastry and Bread Cook, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Cosmetologist, Massage Therapist, Fitness Manager, Front Desk, Night Audit, PT Warehouse Asst., PT Retail Sales, Seasonal Culinary Gardens Crew. Benefits offered after 90 days employment Apply online: [www.olderdwardsinn.com/careers](http://www.olderdwardsinn.com/careers)

**REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE** Company Hiring an Honest Reliable Person. Must Have Drivers License and Able to Work Alone. Call Chris @ (828)342-4995.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Services

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

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

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

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

**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.

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**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.

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

**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.

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

### Animals

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

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1997 Chevrolet Camaro	16,606
2016 Chevrolet Camaro	29,783
2018 Chevrolet Colorado	22,488
2018 Chevrolet Colorado	13,389
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	3,987
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	6,928
1972 CHEVROLET CORVETTE	91,171
2014 Chevrolet Cruze	62,058
2019 Chevrolet Cruze	14,078
2012 Chevrolet Cruze	63,884
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	26,234
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	21,036
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	48,398
2016 Chevrolet Equinox	107,191
2018 Chevrolet Impala	8,465
2018 Chevrolet Malibu	41,816
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	11,584
2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	41,705
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	9,141
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	6,147

2013 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	201,568
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	24,462
2016 Chevrolet Suburban	112,779
2017 Chevrolet Tahoe	74,241
2012 Chevrolet Traverse	121,174
2015 Chevrolet Traverse	101,068
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	91,874
2018 Chevrolet Traverse	17,683
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	37,692
2019 Chevrolet Traverse	24,449
2016 Dodge Grand Caravan	102,307
2019 Dodge Journey	16,576
2019 Ford Edge	45,478
2012 Ford Edge	136,822
2016 Ford Escape	33,265
2018 Ford Explorer	49,476
2013 Ford Explorer	135,416
2012 Ford Explorer	104,587
2018 Ford F-150	27,491
2018 Ford F-150	25,711
2017 Ford F-150	45,495

2013 Ford F-150	109,025
2014 Ford F-150	133,960
2016 Ford F-250	190,904
2011 GMC Sierra 1500	208,162
2014 GMC Terrain	82,762
2020 GMC Yukon	40,952
2019 GMC Yukon XL	37,969
2020 GMC Yukon XL	25,411
2002 Honda Accord	217,842
2019 Hyundai Elantra	36,506
2019 Jaguar XE	22,558
2019 Jeep Cherokee	9,020
2019 Jeep Cherokee	38,039
2004 Jeep Liberty	130,097
2016 Jeep Renegade	85,600
2019 Jeep Wrangler	6,867
2018 Jeep Wrangler JK	47,132
2017 Jeep Wrangler Unltd.	88,737
2018 Jeep Wrangler Unltd.	52,471
2019 KAUFMAN TRAILER	
2016 Kia Sorento	73,270

2019 Kia Sorento	21,976
2016 Land Rover Range Rover Sport	55,302
2016 Lexus GX 460	81,717
2017 Lexus GX 460	39,179
2015 Mercedes-Benz GLA 45 AMG	36,859
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander	49,318
2020 Nissan Altima	38,911
2019 Nissan Frontier	39,039
2019 Nissan Rogue	39,871
2019 POLARIS SLINGSHOT SL	
2004 Pontiac Grand Prix	163,739
2020 RAM 1500	25,556
2020 RAM 1500 Classic	18,621
2016 RAM 3500	86,402
2019 Toyota Corolla	27,529
2018 Toyota Tacoma	35,770
2018 Volkswagen Tiguan	19,002

