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The Overlook Theatre Company presents "The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" April 15-17 and 22-24 at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The production centers around that silly old bear who is once again in search of honey. Along the way, he meets his pals, Tigger, Piglet, Rabbit and Owl, but soon discovers that Christopher Robin has disappeared and is in need of a rescue party. Created especially for younger viewers, all ages are sure to enjoy this happiness-filled skip through Christopher Robin's back yard. For times and ticket information visit greatmountainmusic.com or call (828)524-1598. Photo by Beth Payseur

Town manager resigns, takes job in Reidsville

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After more than a decade serving the residents of Franklin, Town Manager Summer Woodard submitted her letter of resignation Tuesday night during a continuation meeting of the Franklin Town Council.



Summer Woodard

"I have been offered an opportunity to serve as the City Manager for Reidsville, N.C.," said Woodard. "I ask that Mayor Scott and the Town Council accept this letter as my official resignation as Town Manager for the Town of Franklin."

Woodard said that her last day with the town of Franklin would be June 7 — to help the town get through the current budget process which is currently underway.

"The Town of Franklin afforded me several opportunities in my 11 years with the town," said Woodard. "The Town of Franklin allowed me the opportunity of an internship in 2010 to complete my Masters of Public Administration degree from Western Carolina University."

After completing her internship, Woodard was hired to work as a Customer Service Representative. During her tenure with Franklin, Woodard has served in multiple capacities including Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resource Officer, Interim Town Manager and for the past six-plus years as Town Manager.

"I have thought for some time that Summer would be sought after by another town," noted Franklin Mayor Bob Scott. "She has the reputation of being an outstanding town

See **MANAGER** page 4

CDC pauses J&J vaccine pending data review

Macon County Public Health, at the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, will pause its distribution of the Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine immediately. No appointments are scheduled for the J&J vaccine at MCPH at this time.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are reviewing data involving six reported cases in the U.S. of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment

of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, an anti-coagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given.

Pausing distribution of the J&J vaccine is important, in part, to ensure that the health care provider community is aware of the potential for these adverse events and can plan for proper recognition and management due to the unique treatment required with this type of blood clot.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has released the following statement regarding the

See **VACCINE** page 5

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APRIL 25

KIDS Place plants pinwheels to promote child abuse awareness

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Lots of sparkling blue pinwheels have cropped up throughout the town of Franklin and in areas of Macon County. They were placed there by KIDS Place, a local member of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Annually and nationally, child abuse reports involve an average of 7.9 million children, according to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children, a national nonprofit centered on improving the lives of children in the United States. And, although an up-to-date report regarding abuse cases in Macon County is currently not available, National Institutes of Health published a report last September focusing on child maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, stating: "... the disruption and stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic presents significant risk for increased family violence, including child abuse."

Franklin-based KIDS Place, which for 30 years has been providing services for local children, youth, and teenage victims of abuse – as well as their families – places the pinwheels in visible areas to remind people that "everyone deserves a childhood with care-free moments and hope for a bright and happy tomorrow," explained Alisa Ashe, executive director. "Sadly, some children learn first-hand what it means to be abused before they ever have a chance to learn to read and write. For some children the nightmares don't end when the sun rises. These are our children and we must care for them."

Pinwheels for Prevention is a nationwide campaign that was created by Prevent Child Abuse America. The goal, pointed out Ashe, is to motivate people to seek actions that will help reduce stress for families and increase healthy, safe options for children.

"When you reach out to someone being bullied, volunteer at a local child-serving agency, or donate to programs that help children and families, you're doing something extraordinary," she said.

Approximately 47 "host" sites around Macon County have allowed close to 1,500



During Child Abuse Prevention Month, the staff of KIDS Place put blue Pinwheels for Prevention around town and blue ribbons on power poles to increase awareness of the issue of child abuse.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

pinwheels to be displayed. "When you see these pinwheels, please take a moment to say thank you to the host site for taking part in this year's campaign, and remember the children, youth, and families who are impacted by abuse," said Ashe.

She shared that while abuse does not directly affect all people, the implications do.

"Child abuse and neglect cost taxpayers billions annually in direct costs for child protective services, foster care services, hospitalizations, mental health treatment, and law enforcement intervention.

"The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are entirely preventable in an engaged and supportive community," said Ashe.

Services offered by KIDS Place include victim's advocacy, case coordination, child forensic interviews, child medical evaluations, and trauma-focused treatment. There is even sexual abuse training through the Darkness to Light program. KIDS Place also provides, on its website, a list of abuse signs

– for anyone concerned about possible abuse – as well as ways the community can help support the organization's efforts.

"KIDS Place needs everyone to come alongside us as we provide hope and healing for child victims of abuse," said Ashe, noting several ways community members can become proactive:

- "If you see something, say something! If you suspect a child is being harmed, NC law requires you to make a report to DSS and law enforcement.

- Be a support to families.

- Donate!! We can use donations of paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, juice boxes, individually wrapped snacks, and small bottles of water.

- And, we can always use monetary donations. We are facing a 67% cut in our base grant funding

in the next fiscal year. This is at a time when the number of new cases is increasing. This is also when we are also trying to raise funds to build a new facility. If we have learned anything this past year, it is that we need more space! We have purchased property and raised a little more than \$200,000 for this purpose. But we need to raise about a million dollars to complete the project."

"KIDS Place is a private, nonprofit agency recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 agency. That means that donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. We accept donations through the mail at P.O. Box 693, Franklin NC 28744 or online through our website – www.kidsplacecac.org via PayPal. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is a mail-out campaign – our Imaginary Birthday Party. We mailed that in November/December. At this time there are no fundraising events planned. We will watch and see how things go with COVID-19 cases and re-evaluate. KIDS Place also raises money through public and private grant."



KIDS Place is planning to build a new facility behind the Franklin Fire Department once the required \$1 million is raised. So far, \$200,000 has been raised.

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April is designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month

AAA urges all drivers to pay attention and stay focus on the road during National Distracted Driving Awareness month and all year long. All it takes is one distraction and your life can change in seconds. Any distractions that takes focus off the road can put your life and the lives of others in danger.

“Distracted driving includes anything that takes the driver’s attention off the road,” said Montrae Waiters, spokeswoman, AAA – The Auto Club Group. “Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, texting, and talking on a cell phone are not only risky behaviors but also illegal.”

Top 3 risky distractions

- Cellphone use
- In-vehicle technology
- Passengers in the vehicle

Anything that diverts attention from driving – eating and drinking, adjusting the navigation, or picking your next podcast can result in a fatal injury. Over 22 percent of distraction-affected crashes involved con-

firmed use of a smartphone. This underscores that while smartphone use is most frequently blamed for driver distraction, there are many other causes of distraction-affected crashes.

According to 2019 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Distracted driving crashes killed 3,142 people in the United States – an average of 9 deaths per day.
- That number was up 10 percent from the year before (2,839 deaths in 2018).

Sobering statistics

- Looking away from the road for just two seconds doubles the risk of a crash.
- Five seconds of reading an email or text

is like driving across a football field while blindfolded.



Cellphone use is the number one cause of distracted driving.

• Mental distractions last longer than you think and can cause a dangerous crash or fatality. Mental distraction can last up to 27 seconds after dialing, texting or changing the radio station.

• New teen drivers are 3x as likely as adults to be involved in a deadly crash. Georgia has a graduated driver licensing system to help 15-year-olds gradually learn the rules of the road under less risky conditions.

Despite what some drivers may think, hands-free is not risk-free. Even with your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel, you are not safe unless your mind focuses on the drive.

Top tips to avoid distractions while driving

- Prepare for your drive. Set vehicle systems like GPS, seats, mirrors, climate controls and sound systems before hitting the road. Decide on your route and check traffic conditions ahead of time. And please, finish dressing and personal grooming at home – before you get on the road.
- Disable or stow electronics. Never use text messaging, email, video games or internet functions, including those built into the vehicle, while driving. Stow your smartphone away, turn it to airplane mode, or activate call/text blocking features.
- Stay focused. Do not let anything divert your attention. Be sure to actively scan the road, use your mirrors, and watch out for pedestrians and cyclists. If you have passengers, enlist their help as a “designated texter.” Ask them to answer your calls, respond to texts and program the navigation.
- Take the pledge to drive distraction free or learn more about distracted driving at aaa.com/dontdrivedistracted.

Safety Town coming back April 24

One in 10 children ages 19 and under will be seen in a hospital emergency room for a non-fatal unintentional injury this year, according to Safe Kids Worldwide. With the goal of reducing the number of preventable injuries to children, Safe Kids coalitions around the world work year round to raise awareness and educate the public on how to protect kids from unintentional injuries.

Safe Kids Macon County is gearing up for the annual Safety Town Event scheduled for Saturday, April 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building.

Safe Kids Macon County serves North Carolina as the westernmost Safe Kids Coalition in North Carolina and each Spring partners with local civic and community groups to host a large-scale Safety Town event for the community.

“Due to COVID19, we were unable to host Safety Town last year but we are planning to return this year,” said Safe Kids Macon County Coordinator Deputy Nick Lofthouse. “The event will be a little different and will be outside to promote a safer atmosphere for the community.”

The annual event encompasses all things kids and all things safety with focus areas being:

1) The Buckle Up, Baby car seat checking station where certified car seat technicians

will be on hand to check car seats to ensure they are properly installed.

2) Fire Safety information through partnerships with local fire departments.

3) Bike safety – Through a grant with the Governor’s Highway Safety Program Safe Kids Macon County will fit and distribute free bike helmets to the community while supplies last.

4) Operation Medicine Drop – There will be a fully staffed drive-thru medicine drop

for the community to properly dispose of their unused, expired, or unwanted medications.

5) An Emergency Vehicle Car Show – the first of its kind in the state. Safe Kids partners with fire departments, police departments, the hospital for air medics, highway patrol, the Forest Service, and other emergency services to host an Emergency Vehicle Car show that includes a trophy to the fan favorite. This event is unique for the area and brings all things public safety together for one fun event.

Chase and Marshall from Paw Patrol will once again be at the event for photo opportunities.



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MANAGER

Continued from page 1

manager so it was only a matter of time. I cannot begin to tell you how much I will miss her. She is not only a wonderful person to work with, and, over the years, she has become a great friend. I know the town employees feel the same way. So, it is with sadness on my part and pride that she will be a great asset to Reidsville.”

A Franklin native, Woodard holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and History from Western Carolina University, where she also secured a Masters of Public Administration. She also has completed the Municipal Administration Certification offered by the UNC-School of Government. Woodard has served as the Franklin Town

“I am forever grateful and humbled by the opportunities the Town of Franklin has given me over the past decade.”

– Summer Woodard, Town Manager

Manager since 2014, overseeing some 61 employees. Where she has overseen the hiring of key management-level personnel, used public-private partnership to secure property for a fire department sub-station and implemented a Comprehensive Improvements Plan.

“I am forever grateful and humbled by the opportunities the Town of Franklin has given me over the past decade,” said Woodard.

Woodard credited the accomplishments during her tenure to the leadership of Mayor Scott and the town council as well as the employees who work for the town.

“The Town of Franklin employees are the greatest asset to this organization,” said Woodard. “The Town of Franklin employees give their all every day to ensure residents and visitors are provided exemplary services. The Town of Franklin is a better place because of the employees that work here.”

The search for Woodard’s replacement will begin immediately with anticipation of having a replacement selected before Woodard’s June departure day.

Macon New Beginnings moves to CareNet facility to continue working for the homeless population

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Macon New Beginnings (MNB) will soon move into a 500-square-foot office space in the CareNet facility on Bidwell Street. Bob Bourke, president of MNB, said, “We had a good, long relationship with Timber Frame Homes, [where MNB offices have been, on Phillips Street] but they have other plans for the building. And it makes sense for us to be in the same building with CareNet. Food and housing insecurity go hand in hand.”

The new office space required only minor renovation, such as new paint, before MNB could occupy the space. Primarily, volunteers for MNB, which Bourke said are “always needed,” conduct intake interviews to learn of needs. Often, volunteers are able to direct them to other services offered by such organizations as CareNet or Macon Program for Progress, for example.

MNB operates under several scriptural mandates, including Matthew 25:35-40 that includes, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me ...”

While the number of people in Macon County needing homes has not necessarily increased, housing opportunities – especially affordable ones – have decreased, according to Bourke. “Homes and apartments are so difficult to come by right now,” he said. “And if we do find one, the minimum cost of a one bedroom place is around \$700, and the landlords often want a security deposit and first and last month’s rent, plus there are costs for water and electricity. And costs keep going up.”

He said one positive during this past year is that the moratorium on evictions, due to the pandemic, has been ongoing and was recently extended through June. People who are rent-



Macon County CareNet – and now Macon New Beginnings – is located on Bidwell Street, off West Main Street in Franklin. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

ing and cannot and have not been able to pay their rents are able to stay in their dwellings. “I don’t know how landlords are making it though,” pointed out Bourke.

With another round of stimulus checks being mailed out, he is hoping people struggling with homelessness will use the funds to take care of housing, electricity, etc. However, MNB is not able to mandate how people use those funds.

MNB’s volunteers try all angles to make sure the homeless population has a roof over their heads. If in crisis, a motel room is sometimes secured temporarily.

Prevention of homelessness, however, is a goal, so Bourke encourages citizens to contact MNB whenever problems begin. More often than not, MNB will work toward keeping someone in their home or finding a place that is affordable.

Besides conducting interviews and answering phones, MNB needs volunteers to provide website support and handle other miscellaneous tasks. Anyone interested in volunteering can email info@maconnewbeginnings.org or call 828-202-3103. Plus, monetary donations are always needed to assist the homeless population in securing housing.

VACCINE

Continued from page 1

CDC and FDA's joint statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine:

"Our primary concern is the health and safety of all North Carolinians. Out of an abundance of caution, we are following the recommendations of the FDA and CDC and have paused the administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine until we learn more. The safety system in place is working as it should. If you have an appointment for Pfizer or Moderna, please go to your appointment as planned. If you have an appointment for Johnson & Johnson, your appointment will be rescheduled."

"Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare," said Emily Ritter, Public Information Office for Macon County Public Health. "COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System."

Appointments for the Moderna vaccine are still available for those 18 years of age or older. If you would like to schedule an appointment, call 828-524-1500. The Vaccine Call Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

NCDHHS releases new data on COVID-19 vaccine adoption and public perceptions

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has released findings from recent public opinion research on COVID-19 vaccine risks, rewards and vaccination motivations across the state.

"With the public's health at stake, and health equity a priority, it was important for NCDHHS to understand where and how to focus outreach and education, and who our com-

munities look to for trusted information," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

Prior to the CDC's pause in the J&J vaccine, findings showed a clear and welcome improvement in North Carolinians' attitudes related to COVID-19 vaccines. When compared with the same survey conducted last fall, vaccine risk perceptions have dropped significantly overall, while the perceived rewards of being vaccinated have risen. The number of people who would recommend COVID-19 vaccination to family and friends nearly doubled from 30% in November to 59% in March.

The most widely shared motivations to get vaccinated were the desire to get back to normal life and to protect oneself and others.

"The good news is that the vast majority of North Carolinians want to get vaccinated and will recommend to their family and friends that they do the same," Secretary Cohen said. "We are focused now on making vaccination easier for everyone."

The majority of survey respondents, nearly seven in 10 North Carolinians, either have gotten vaccinated, have an appointment, or say they definitely or probably will. This is significantly higher than the six in ten who said they would last fall. Additionally, most unvaccinated respondents either do not care which vaccine they receive or feel that while some are better than others, the priority is to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Only 17% of respondents stated they will only take certain vaccines when it is their turn. Of those that do state a preference, most (56%) wanted the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

NCDHHS launched You Have a Spot. Take Your Shot., the state's ongoing community outreach and engagement initiative, in December 2020. In addition to public opinion research, the program is also informed by community groups, faith-based leaders and others as well as rural communities.

Findings from the research show that the top sources used to find information about getting a COVID-19 vaccine are NCDHHS, followed by friends and family, medical professionals and the county health department.

"Our public education campaign is focused on addressing questions about safety and effectiveness and encouraging people to get vaccinated. It's working, but we must continue to reach out to everyone in every corner of North Carolina to help people find their spot to get their shot and ensure

equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines," Secretary Cohen said.

North Carolinians who have been vaccinated—or are in the vaccination pipeline—found it easy to get an appointment. Yet, half of those who have not been vaccinated but are eligible indicate difficulty with finding a convenient time and place when making an appointment. Other barriers to vaccine uptake include lingering concerns about potential side effects and not wanting to be a test case for the



vaccine.

"We continue to work with community groups and organizations to help people make appointments and provide access to free transportation, services for people with disabilities and Spanish-language translation," Secretary Cohen said.

North Carolina was among one of the first states in the nation to conduct market research across all populations to inform its COVID-19 vaccine outreach and education. To date, the state has partnered with more than one thousand faith-based organizations, community leaders, groups and organizations.

Find information on COVID-19 vaccines and make appointments at www.yourspotyourshot.nc.gov or by phone at 1-888-675-4567.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has been extended to **May 31, 2021** and includes forgivable loans for the self employed.

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State agency awards \$4.5M for emergency home repairs

More than 570 low-income homeowners in North Carolina will receive emergency repairs to their homes thanks to \$4.5 million from the NC Housing Finance Agency awarded through its Urgent Repair Program (URP) to 37 local governments and organizations serving 55 counties. These households will join more than 16,305 households across all 100 counties that have been assisted by this program since its inception.

URP operates statewide through local governments, regional organizations, community action agencies and other nonprofit sponsors. Funding is provided to these groups to allocate loans up to \$10,000 per household to very low-income homeowners for emergency repairs to correct safety hazards or to make accessibility modifications to homes for the elderly, veterans or people with disabilities.

Last year, URP assisted more than 600 homeowners, with an average household income of \$15,225. More than three quarters of those beneficiaries were elderly and nearly half were people with disabilities.

“The Urgent Repair Program provides essential support to our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Scott Farmer, executive director of the NC Housing Finance Agency. “These investments help North Carolinians remain safely in their homes and out of costly institutions, saving public health care dollars.”

The local entities impacting Western North Carolina receiving funding during the 2021 Urgent Repair Program funding cycle are:

- Baptists on Mission
- Macon County
- Mountain Projects, Inc. with locations in Sylva and Waynesville.

Consumers can learn more and search for a partner offering assistance in their area at <https://www.nchfa.com/current-homeowners/repairing-your-home/urgent-repair-program>.

The NC Housing Finance Agency, a self-supporting public agency, has financed 306,130 homes across the state.

To learn more about the Agency and its programs, visit www.HousingBuildsNC.com.

Nursing students establish annual scholarship

Last year, Nursing graduates at Southwestern Community College had already started raising money for their pinning ceremony before the pandemic canceled their celebratory event.

That money was passed on to members of this year’s graduating nurses, but they didn’t feel right about using it to benefit themselves.

Instead, they decided to pay it forward by creating a \$500 annual scholarship that will support an incoming Nursing student this fall.

“We know the class before us put in so much work, they were ready to graduate, they were ready to celebrate being done – and COVID happened,” said Heather Wilkes, a member of the 2021 SCC Nursing cohort and president of the SCC Nursing Club.

“Using this money to help someone else become a nurse and enter this profession seemed to be a fitting way to honor the class of 2020. Even though COVID happened, good things can come from it.”

Michelle Evans, a Nursing Instructor at SCC, said the new scholarship was entirely student-driven.

“This students have taken care of all this,” Evans said. “I am their faculty advisor, but they are the ones who actually got all this done. The decisions were theirs, the actions were theirs and the results were theirs.”

The Class of 2020 Nursing Scholarship is one of 11 new scholarships to be set up this academic year through the SCC



Representatives of the 2021 SCC Nursing cohort who recently established an annual scholarship are Lyndsey Starnes (left) of Granite Falls and class president Heather Wilkes of Sylva. They are pictured with, from left, Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation, Michelle Evans, SCC Nursing Instructor, and Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President.

Foundation.

It is the first scholarship to be created entirely by SCC students to benefit a future student.

“You can’t help but be impressed by these students and their passion for taking care of others,” said Dr. Don Tomas, President of SCC. “By establishing this scholarship, they have demonstrated with their actions – and not just their words – that they believe in and care deeply about the future of their profession.”


For more information about giving opportunities at Southwestern, contact Brett Woods at 828.339.4241 or b_woods@southwesterncc.edu.

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SCC plans a return to normal this summer

With encouraging signs regarding the COVID-19 pandemic across the country and throughout the region, Southwestern Community College administrators are planning for summer and fall semesters that will more closely resemble the typical academic experience prior to last spring.

SCC's goal is to return to normal in-person instruction starting this summer while keeping all necessary safety precautions in place, based on guidance from federal, state and local authorities and health departments.

"We are open and here to serve our students and our community," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC's President. "As more individuals receive vaccinations, and as COVID-19 case counts continue to drop, we are cautiously optimistic that we can provide students with the format of in-person

instruction we delivered two years ago. As always, the safety of our students and employees will remain our highest priority."

Through the remainder of the spring semester, which runs through mid-May, Southwestern will continue following the same protocols that have been in place since reopening last summer. All employees who have been teleworking will return in person to their SCC locations starting May 17, public health conditions permitting.

Registration for new and returning students will start on April 6. Summer classes will begin May 20, and the fall semester gets underway on Aug. 16.

For more information on Southwestern and the programs it offers, visit www.SouthwesternCC.edu, call 828.339.4000 or drop by your nearest SCC location.



Porch band to play on Saturdays

A group of musicians assembled on the porch of the historic Wayne and Sally's hand hewn cabin on Saturday to bring a little music back to downtown Franklin. The band will play from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The cabin is located in the courtyard of the Macon County Historical Museum.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

WCU hosts 'Star Party' at Jackson Airport

Western Carolina University's Department of Chemistry and Physics will host an evening telescope viewing party at the Jackson County Airport at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 16.

The viewing is part of the 2021 North Carolina Science Festival's Statewide Star Party and is free and open to the public. Astronomy faculty from WCU will be on hand with telescopes to show the moon, Mars, star clusters and galaxies. They will also teach viewers how to identify spring constellations and lead activities for children on this year's theme, "Moon and Mars."

The 9th annual North Carolina Statewide Star Party is a signature event of the 2021 N.C. Science Festival. In case of bad weather or overcast skies, the viewing will be postponed to Saturday, April 17, at the same time and location.

Details and updates on the event due to weather or a change in COVID-19 protocols can be found [HERE](#), or by calling Enrique Gomez at 828-227-2719. The N.C. Science Festival's Statewide Star Party is made possible through the support of the N.C. Space Grant.



Woods receives 332 birthday cards for 104th

Mildred Woods celebrated her 104th birthday on March 18. Since she was not able to have a big party, she requested the people send cards instead. Woods received 332 birthday cards that she "appreciated very much. It's good to know there are so many kind and thoughtful people," she said. "And I thank God for letting me live this long."

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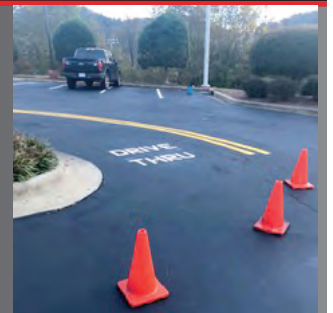
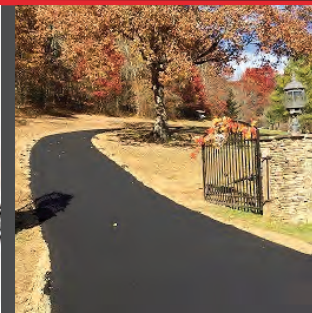
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Expanding Medicaid would save prison system millions of dollars

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Closing the health insurance coverage gap could save Macon County hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next two years

On average, counties in Western North Carolina spend just under a half a million dollars every year to provide medical care for inmates housed in county jails.

North Carolina general statute mandates that individual counties are responsible for providing healthcare to inmates and if that inmate doesn't have health insurance, that medical bill gets sent to the county. County taxpayers foot the bill for inmate healthcare, a moving target for county budgets.

Since 2017, Macon County taxpayers have spent more than \$1,140,000 — about \$300k a year — for inmate healthcare expenses. Being responsible for an inmate's medical expenses that exceed \$50,000 a month for a portion of this year, Macon County is bracing to spend close to \$600,000 this year.

During a recent town hall event covering the economic impact of closing the healthcare coverage gap held at Southwestern Community College, Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale addressed the impact the uninsured have had on county taxpayers as it relates to paying for the healthcare costs for inmates — many of whom would be better served in mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities.

"From 2017 through 2020 we spent about \$1.2 million on medical [care] for our inmates," Beale said. "Prisons have become our treatment centers for mental health."

Pregnant women require treatment before, during, and after delivery. And people on dialysis represent another big cost driver.

"It is not uncommon for us to get inmates with prior medical issues but once they are in our custody they become our responsibility," said Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. "It is also not uncommon for pregnant women who are 'wanted' to try and turn themselves in custody just prior to giving birth in an attempt to keep from having medical expenses."

Leaders in North Carolina are looking at options to close the health insurance coverage gap through Medicaid Expansion, which stands to save county governments a substantial amount on the cost of healthcare for in-

mates.

In North Carolina and nationally, county jail inmates tend to be older and sicker than the general population. Inmates who meet certain conditions such as a disability, pregnancy, or being older than 65 would qualify for state or federal Medicaid assistance when not in jail. But if they are held for more than a few days, their Medicaid coverage is terminated.

Federal and state inmates who have been convicted of crimes are eligible for Medicaid, but those awaiting trial — some for as long as three years — lose their eligibility. If North Carolina were to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, many more inmates

"From 2017 through 2020 we spent about \$1.2 million on medical [care] for our inmates. Prisons have become our treatment centers for mental health."

— Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner

could qualify under a plan developed by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and the state Division of Medical Assistance.

The State of North Carolina operates 57 prisons and provides medical, mental health, dental, and pharmacy services to inmates at a cost of \$322 million annually, an \$89 million increase from 10 years ago. The State spent \$6,923 per inmate on healthcare in Fiscal Year 2014-15, which was more than 31 other states and 21% more than the national median of \$5,720.

Currently, state officials say less than 5 percent of North Carolina's state prisoners qualify for Medicaid based on the state's restrictions on age, income, disability status and family status.

By expanding the types of people who can qualify for Medicaid, expansion in North Carolina would extend Medicaid access to 80 to 90 percent of state prisoners if it passes, according to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety — which would save the state an estimated \$10 million a year.

North Carolina is one of only seven U.S. states that cancels Medicaid coverage when they go to prison or jail. The one exception is when an inmate is hospitalized for more than 24 hours. The Department of Corrections or

county jails can apply for Medicaid funding to cover part of the cost if the inmate is eligible for the government health care plan.

By expanding Medicaid, states may be able to harness significant resources to address persistent criminal justice issues, including the opiate epidemic and the incarceration of people with severe mental illness who could more effectively be served in the community.

Medicaid expansion would also require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to help counties get jail inmates back on Medicaid after their release — which could substantially reduce the cost associated with repeat offenders. Once an inmate is no longer incarcerated and enrolled in Medicaid, the inmate

Why not expand Medicaid?

The federal government has pledged \$2 billion in additional funding being channeled into North Carolina every year. But even with those pledged dollars coming in, it would still cost an estimated \$600 million each year, or two percent of the state's \$22.3 annual budget. And, there's no guarantee the federal government will continue their part of the funding.

Advocates have touted the gains to be made in Medicaid revenue and the reductions in uncompensated care, the state budget would be spared \$318 million, which is nearly \$300 million short of being fully funded.

Another potential roadblock is the possibility of individual tax increases. With the estimated cost of the recurring expense of Medicaid, that money would have to come from somewhere and that means higher taxes or shortfalls across the board like teacher salaries, education spending and infrastructure.

With the expansion of Medicaid, nearly half a million low income people would get healthcare coverage. That could reduce the number of emergency room visits if low income folks had access to affordable healthcare. The downside is that there are fewer doctors who will take Medicaid because of the 20 percent reduction in reimbursement mandated by the federal government in 2014. Because fewer doctors are willing to see Medicaid patients, the ones that do have to see more patients a day or lose money. Doctors are moving to larger hospitals to save money and rural hospitals are suffering, which means disadvantaged rural patients have less access to care, not more, because of fewer local doctors.

North Carolina has one of the fastest growing states in the U.S., which also means a growing population of Medicaid recipients. Expanding those eligible for Medicaid could increase the program by 25 percent, which arguably will crowd out care for those who need it most. Expanding Medicaid would force traditional Medicaid populations to compete for limited access to care with hundreds of thousands of mostly childless, able-bodied adults.

Info for this section taken from www.fiscalhealthnc.com and nccivitas.org

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Erlanger first to offer telepsychiatry services

Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital (EWCH) is the first North Carolina facility to implement extended services of the North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP). Regardless of their ability to pay, EWCH patients now have access to critical follow-up behavioral health care coordination after they are discharged from receiving telepsychiatric and teletherapy services in the emergency department.

East Carolina University (ECU) is home to NC-STeP, which is led by nationally-recognized telepsychiatry leader Dr. Sy Saeed. Since 2015, ECU and EWCH have been partners in offering telepsychiatry services to patients in the western North Carolina region. NC-STeP was recently awarded a \$1.2 million federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to expand telehealth-based mental health services to rural North Carolina emergency departments, where patients who present with acute mental health crises often experience barriers to community resources and ongoing care coordination.

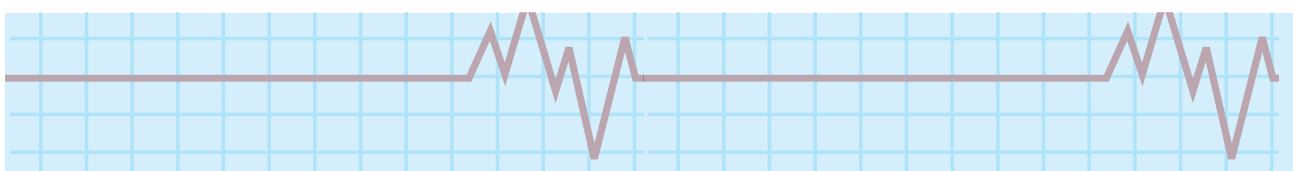
“ECU recognized the vital need for this program in our region and EWCH is thrilled to pilot it for our community,” said EWCH Director of Operations and Associate Chief Nursing Officer Teresa Bowleg, MSN, RN. “Because most people who visit any emergency department do so in a time of crisis, it can be a stressful time for our patients and their families. This service is especially helpful for those patients who suffer from anxiety, depression and situational stressors.”

This expansion project has allowed NC-STeP to provide telebehavioral counseling and care coordination in at least five rural hospital sites, including EWCH. Follow-up care coordination after discharge is critical to ensure that patients have access to additional treatment resources.

“NC-STeP is excited for EWCH to be our first site in the state of North Carolina to offer these new services for patients in need of mental health care,” said Dr. Kalyan Srinivas Mupparapu, clinical assistant professor of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Brody School of Medicine at ECU. “EWCH has been an outstanding partner as NC-STeP grows to provide mental health services to rural and underserved areas across the state. EWCH is always open and willing to explore potential solutions that will provide additional mental health resources to the people of western North Carolina. Our team looks forward to working with EWCH to bring these much-needed resources to the region.”



EWCH patients now have access to critical follow-up behavioral health care coordination after they are discharged from receiving telepsychiatric and teletherapy services in the emergency department.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

After this past vaccination clinic on Saturday, Tom Neal sent out a message to volunteers that it was time to shift strategies in getting people vaccinated. While there may still be opportunities for mass vaccination events like those that have been done over the last several months, it is time to encourage everyone to get vaccinated at the several locations where vaccinations are available.

Tom Neal, the CEO of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital, has done a wonderful job in organizing the 250 volunteers that have put on the vaccination clinics. Tom is an expert and a professional who has effectively addressed the challenge of quickly vaccinating as many folks as possible.

He is now encouraging everyone, all adults, to get a vaccination using the following resources.

Anyone can call the Macon County Public Health Department at (828) 524-1500, or the Jackson County Public Health Department at (828) 631-4357 to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated. Both departments have the resources to vaccinate all who want a shot.

Also, pharmacies are now able to vaccinate people. Call the Highlands Pharmacy at (828) 526-1310, or the Cashiers Valley Pharmacy at (828) 743-3114, or the Ingles Pharmacy at (828) 746-6312 for an appointment.

To date 5,419 people and counting have been fully vaccinated in the Highlands and Cashiers area. While this is a great number, Tom and his army of volunteers urge everyone to get vaccinated. Using the resources cited above folks can schedule a vaccination time around work schedules and other commitments. There is no excuse at this point not to get a vaccination. Honoring the spirit of the folks that operate the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccination Clinic, we all need to do it for ourselves and for others.

On another note, there will be construction crews patching degraded areas on NC 28 and US 64. This work is in preparation of Harrison Construction Company returning to the area to repave the entire roadway on NC 28 and US 64. The areas being patched are those spots with the "alligatoring" patterns. That pattern is emblematic of roadbed failure. In order for the new paving to last, the roadbed in these areas has to be reworked and strengthened followed by an asphalt patch. The actual

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Current minimum wage is inhumane

While lawmakers at the federal level stall on a \$15/hr minimum wage, let's remember that we don't have to wait for the federal government to act. We can do what 29 other states have done and raise our state minimum wage. We just need the political will to do it.

The minimum wage hasn't gone up in almost 12 years and workers can't wait anymore. North Carolina's economy can't wait anymore. Continually asking workers to get up early with their families, go to one job for eight hours, get off, go to their second job until the early hours, and then turn around to start all over again – this is inhumane.

No one should have to work two jobs to support a family they barely have time to see or sacrifice the health of themselves or their loved ones. The minimum wage sits, stagnant, at \$7.25 an hour while rent and the cost of basic everyday goods go up. The living wage (how much it actually costs to live) in Macon County is over \$19, over three times the minimum. It is time for lawmakers to stand up and make a change.

Abby Shuler – Highlands, N.C.

A quote that will live in infamy!

On April 8, 2021, Comrade Joe Biden laid bare the Socialist/Communist agenda that his party is working to implement in order to destroy the foundational freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights to all Americans.

Standing in front of the cameras, he stated, "No Amendment to the Constitution is absolute."

It is readily apparent he was intentionally lying and committing the criminal act of perjury when on January 20th he put his hand on a Bible and took a solemn Oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

Now let's see if there are any members of the House of Representatives who took the same Oath willing to step up and file Articles of Impeachment against this man who is, by his own admission, an existential threat to all of the American way of life.

It is probably a waste of time to hope a Federal Prosecutor will file criminal perjury charges against Comrade Joe.

Among all of the other abhorrent and Anti-American acts Comrade Beijing Biden and his cabal are perpetrating is endeavoring to take all firearms away from law abiding Americans.

Let us carefully explore the words "shall not be infringed" the Framers placed in the 2nd Amendment.

Shall - used to express what is inevitable or seems likely to happen in the future, express determination, an imperative command, used in laws, regulations, or directives to

express what is mandatory.

Not - used as a function word to make negative a group of words or a word, used as a function word to stand for the negative of a preceding group of words.

Be - equal in meaning; have the same connotation as; to have identity with; to constitute the same idea or object as; to have, maintain, or occupy a place, situation, or position.

Infringed - to encroach upon in a way that violates law or the rights of another.

It is abundantly clear that the context and importance in which the Framers placed this mandate are absolute. The prior so-called decisions by various courts run by the black-robed imposters have been used to denigrate this Right, but that is an argument for another day.

The next time some armed criminal kicks in the front door of your house, tries to hijack your car, walks into your business to rob you of your hard-earned money, kidnap your child, rape your daughter, or burn down your city, call Comrade Beijing Joe Biden and implore him to come protect you or send his armed guards to do it. How will that work for you?

So, all of you who voted to put this Socialist/Communist regime into office, how do you feel about being a partner in the pernicious Socialist/Communist Party's long term effort to try to create a process to force all Americans to bend their knee to the CCP and march in lockstep to the Marxist agenda Comrade Beijing Joe Biden and his minions are working to implement? Are you going to volunteer to be the ones to be first to give up your guns to the whacko who Comrade Beijing Joe Biden just appointed to head the ATF?

If you think this unprecedented move against our Rights is okay, just take the front door off of your house and toss it away. Obviously you don't need it. Hey, call me and I will help you do it!

Peter K. Stern
USAF Retired – Franklin, 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: maconcountynews@gmail.com

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We are surrounded by ‘superior beings’

Unfortunately, our country is now loaded with folks who consider themselves superior to everyone else.

It consists of part pretentious “know it all folks” to those who are simply hungry for power. Few of them are really intelligent and controlling others is all they live for.

Most are neurotics and believe in goofy things. CNN the other day announced that you can’t tell the difference between newborn boy or girl. Golly gee, they need to notify the millions of doctors who didn’t know that.

Recently, it was announced that people are leaving religion in droves. Well, heck, why not since a Biden’s Socialist government can replace God. Who needs God when you’ve got Joe Biden?

Just look at some of their accomplishments.

Hollywood awarded Gov. Cuomo an Emmy for his outstanding leadership in causing the deaths of some 15,000 deaths of folks in retirement homes when he moved a bunch of victims of Corona virus victims in with the old folks.

Already losing about 80,000 folks a year to illegal drug deaths President Biden decided we needed more to die and ordered the border opened to let more drugs in from Mexico.

Interestingly he worries more about guns than drugs.

And now we have millions of illegal immigrants spreading the Covid 19 virus all over the U.S. And this on top of tens of thousands of kids smuggled in for sex trafficking. Oh happy days!

Now you gotta admit that’s sweet.

On the other hand, one must wonder if some critics were right when they said Biden’s campaign was financed by the Mexican drug cartels?

Then we’ve got those brilliant mayors and governors who are working to eliminate the police departments. At the same time they are taking citizens rights to protect themselves from the bad guys by taking their guns.

Without guns for self-protection citizens will have no choice but to submit to tyranny and allow the military to control things, just like China.

Now Biden proposed spending another 2 trillion for what he calls infrastructure when in truth 90% of the money will be spent on socializing citizens. Little will actually go into infrastructure. Forbidden to mention is the fact that all the jobs created to build new highways and bridges are temporary jobs.

Just like Roosevelt in the ’30s when they finished a project they were out of work and thus a whopping 19% unemployment.

Without WW-2 the unemployment rate would have stayed the same.

And don’t forget the planned \$15 minimum wage will kill jobs for millions of unskilled school kids learning how to work.

What the heck, kids don’t need to work anyway in our new bright Socialist world.

Don’t forget in the Socialist world you don’t have to work hard, strive for something better and surely don’t try to create something new and needed. Joe will take care of you.

But with that minimum wage China’s minimum wage is only \$2.00 an hour giving them a competitive advantage. So what if we lose more industry to China. Right?

Oops, let’s not forget Joe Biden is a full time racist and he proved it by telling all of us that Black Americans are not smart enough to comply with the voting rulers in Georgia.

The same rules, by the way, as used in his own state and even Colorado where the MLB [Major League Baseball] went this year.

Hmm, could the China virus carry an infection that turns Dems into mass liars? Sure got a lot of them lately.

Bob Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

were also frequently observed in conjunction with one another.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TAYLOR

From previous page

repaying might go faster than the patching of these many problem areas.

Tonight is the Highlands Town Board meeting at 7 pm at the Highlands Conference Center. The meeting is in person with public comment at the first of the meeting. COVID protocols will be in place. The meeting will also be available through ZOOM for those who would like to be a remote visitor. No interaction will be available through the ZOOM option. The agenda for the meeting is light, but there is a public hearing concerning the new Performing Arts Center. The board will also review where we are on combating COVID.

Last Saturday the Highlands Plateau Pickup of the main corridors was postponed due to rain and fog. It is rescheduled for this Saturday. Volunteers should call the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at (828) 526-2112 to sign up and get information.

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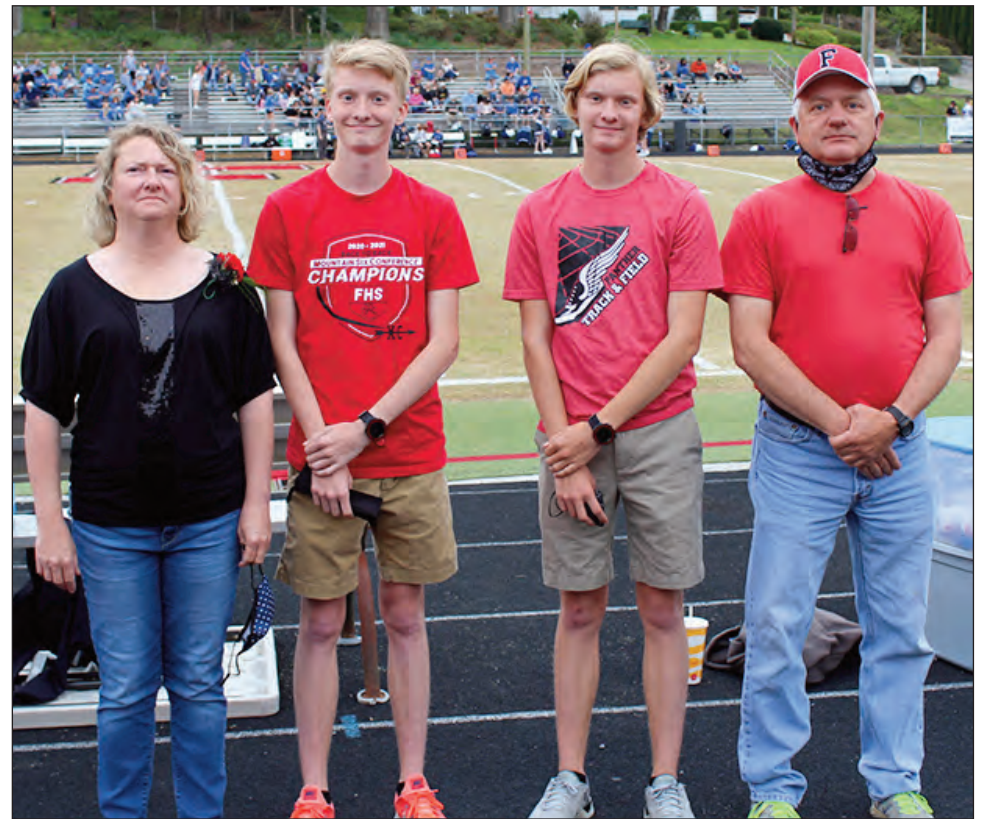


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FHS honors its Senior Athletes

Franklin High School senior athletes were honored prior to Friday night's game against Smoky Mountain. Athletes from football, cheer, band, cross country, swim and dive, golf, wrestling, women's tennis and track lined the track for the recognition. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



FHS Panther Football

The Franklin High School Panthers played its last home game of the regular season on Friday night in The Panther Pit. It was the age-old rivalry deemed "The Battle of Cowee Mountain" and Franklin took the win, 34-11, for the first time in three attempts against the Smoky Mountain Mustangs. The Panthers ended their Mountain Six Conference play with a record of 3-2 and 4-3 overall record beating out last year's record that showed only one win.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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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 April 1 - 11. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 5

Ryan David Finn, was charged with failure to appear.. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Thomas Howard Giesey, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Steven Joe Cochran, was charged with second degree trespass. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

April 6

Rickie Lee Keener, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Tamara Beth Dills, was charged with simple assault. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Adam R. Sackman, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Kaleb Michael Stidham, was charged with assault on a female. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Kristian Alexander Dreml, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

April 7

Branden Henry-Thomas Meadows, was charged with communicating threats, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, probation violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

April 8

Kevin Dwight Tallent, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Christopher Shawn Ledford, was charged with assault and battery. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Chrystal Queen, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Danielle Nocole Mathis, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery or participates in simple affray.

April 9

Dean Allan kreis, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Christopher David Marr, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Tim Holland made the arrest.

April 10

Nadya Elise Rogers, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 2

Adam Lee Collier, 42, was issued an order for arrest for misdemeanor. A secured bond of \$250 was set. Officer Bing-

ham made the arrest.

April 3

Oscar Vanegas Cruz, 23, was charged with driving under the influence. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. Sargent Beegle made the arrest.

Keri Linda Vephula, 55, was charged with possession of marijuana, drug equipment violations. A secure bond of \$2,500 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

April 5

Jamison Lawrence Lassiter, 38, was charged with failure to appear for a misdemeanor. A secure bond of \$250 was set. Officer Cabe made the arrest.

April 6

Kelly William Brasier, 26, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secure bond of \$20,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Tristan Justice Davis, 24, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver heroin, resist delay obstruct. A secure bond of \$45,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Andrew Phommakisone, 28, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to sell/deliver synthetic cannabinoids, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, carrying a concealed gun. A secure bond of \$1,500 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 1

Megan Emily Tate, 26, of Race Lane, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of more than 1/2 oz of marijuana, possession of a schedule III controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle or dwelling place for the sale of a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, trafficking in opium or heroin by possession, trafficking opium or heroin by transportation. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

April 2

Jonathan Michael Freeman, 31, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was issued a warrant for arrest for possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 25, of Pyramid Place, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, felony conspiracy, utter a forged instrument. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

April 3

Brad Steven Ohlson, 56, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault by pointing a gun. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

April 4

Cole Ray Carter, 42, of Hickory, was issued a warrant for arrest for felony flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Jeremy Lee Gunter, 36, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin, obtain property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Taurus Marquies Jackson, 40, of Mt. Zion Rd., Atlanta, Ga., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Reyna Mae Owle-Perez, 21, of Arrow Head Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

William Manuel Rodriguez, 27, of Arrowhead Lane,

Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Kawalski Tremayne Washington, 43, of Hunters Chase, McDonald, Ga., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

April 5

Ollie Ray Nichols, 58, of Lucy Long, Whittier was issued a fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set.

April 6

Austin Cain Ross, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Cole Ray Carter, 42, of Catawba, was charged with assault causing physical injury to law enforcement/probation/parole officer, assault with a deadly weapon on a government official. A \$5,000 bond was set.

April 7

Rashonda Lashae Bradley, 33, of Burchfield Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Jonathan Michael Freeman, 31, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with attempted first degree burglary. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Amber Carrol-Leigh Bradley, 30, of Sim Taylor Rd., Cherokee, was charged with destruction/damage of property, attempted first degree burglary, attempted breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

April 8

Emery Lee Littlejohn, 35, of Tsali Crossing, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of a firearm by a felon, probation violation out of county.

Joshua Issac Robinson, 41, of Chipper Curve Rd., was issued a child support purge. A \$1,200 bond was set.

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 25, of Pyramid Place, was charged with all other offenses, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. No bond was set.

Margie Lynn Toineeta, 51, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Megan Emily Tate, 26, of Race Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance in prison and/or jail premises, trafficking in opium or heroin. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

April 9

Haley Regen Mobley, 24, of Marble, was charged with conspire to traffic opium, opiate or opioids by transportation, conspire traffic opium, opiate or opioids by possession, trafficking opium, opiate or opioids by transportation. A secured bond of \$131,000 was set.

John Banton Legere, 44, of Brown Ridge Rd., was charged with conspire to traffic opium, opiate or opioids by possession, conspire to traffic opium opiate or opioids by transportation, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, carrying a concealed gun, possession of a firearm by a felon, maintaining a vehicle or dwelling place for a controlled substance, trafficking opium, opiates or opioids by possession, trafficking opium, opiates or opioids by transportation. A secured bond of \$144,000 was set.

April 11

Joseph Brandon Hall, 27, of Ferguson Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, trafficking opium heroin. No bond was set.

Juan Manuel Rodriguez, 23, of Cumberland Trail, Whittier, was charged with communicating threats, simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jackson County NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17, at 10 a.m. The topic for discussion is "Self-Care for Activists." Email jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome to join the meeting.

Mothers of Macon and Macon County Parents as Teachers Community Spring Clean UP will be held on Saturday, April 17, 9:30 a.m. at Wesley's Pavilion/Greenway. Rain date will be April 24. All ages are welcome to attend. Families with children are encouraged to attend. Groups will be spread out amongst the communities. Supplies will be provided.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on Saturday, April 17, with an elevation change of 300 ft., along the East Fork of the Chattooga River, starting at the Wahalla Fish Hatchery and descending down the East Fork to the Chattooga River to have lunch. This trail is an up and down one. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 a.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. For more information or reservations, call Leaders Mike and Sue Kettles, (828)743-1079.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 4-mile Meditation Hike on Sunday, April 18, with an elevation change of 100 ft., on the Greenway in Franklin with a Meditation stop at Charlie's Gazebo for beginner hikers and meditators. Meet at the Tasse Shelter at 1 p.m. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call leader Deborah Gregory (828)421-0008.

Gem Country Republican Women's Club will meet on Tuesday April 20, 11:30 at Fat Buddies BBQ. The guest speaker will be Danny Reiteimer, mayoral candidate. The treasure table will be gardening items and plants.

Democratic Women of Macon County April Online Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. Contact jean.work.wright@gmail.com to obtain a Zoom link.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, April 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

Applications are Currently being Taken for the Macon County School's PreK Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications may be picked up at the Macon County School's Central Office or at one of the 3 PreK school site locations. A child is eligible for NC PreK funding if they turn four on or before August 31 of the program year (2021), but is not yet five years of age and the family meets income guidelines. Private pay spots may also be available for 3 year olds. Deadline to turn in completed application will be April 30, 2021. For more information, call Valerie Norton at 828-524-3314 ext. 1041

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The

church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

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

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, April 18, at 11 a.m. Alexander III and Bishka Ravenell Alexander will talk about "The Many Dimensions of Life's Gifts." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

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

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

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets at 9:30 a.m., on Sundays for in-person worship or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. Note that COVID-19 health protocols are followed for in-person worship. Plan to arrive early for check in; masks are required. 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

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Eagle family at home on Lake Emory

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While eagles are not a common sighting in Western North Carolina, Macon County is home to at least a few. And, for the past few years, a pair have been returning to a private property on the shores of Lake Emory in Franklin. They have built a massive nest in a pine tree that provides an ideal view of the water as well as the shoreline.

The family who owns the property named the eagle parents, America and Bountiful. Last year, they hatched out two eaglets, named Glory and Hallelujah, or Hal for short. The parents have raised other eaglets over at least the past four years. This year, one eaglet has shown its fuzzy head. They named it Joy, in honor of Barbara McRae, vice mayor of the Town of Franklin and a local bird expert and historian, who lost her life March 2 after battling cancer. The new eaglet is nicknamed Barbara Joy due to the “joy” that property owners said McRae brought to Macon County.

The N.C. Wildlife Commission is aware of the eagles and monitors their life and

habits.

North Carolina Wildlife Diversity Biologist Chris Kelly, who is based in Asheville, pointed out that the eagle’s nest is sturdy and shared, “The antics of young birds, especially as they approach fledging, can be quite humorous. It takes them a while to get the hang of handling prey (e.g., plucking fur or feathers, tearing a carcass, not dropping it) and this usually seems to be accompanied by noisy fussing. It sounds like a temper tantrum to our human ears.”

The property owners and their friends and family members have enjoyed learning about and observing the eagles, which mate for life and share in parenting responsibilities. The property owners and wildlife experts are on the lookout for a possible nest mate. Another name is picked out just in case another eaglet is spotted: Independence, to be nicknamed Indy.

The location of the eagles’ nest is not disclosed due to the sensitive nature of the birds and the possibility that too much human activity will disrupt the eagles’ ability to raise their young successfully.



The new eaglet has been christened “Barbara Joy” after bird expert and historian Barbara McRae who passed away last month. Photo by Cheryl Binnall

Applications open for bicycle, pedestrian planning grants

The N.C. Department of Transportation is accepting applications from communities for the 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian plans.

All North Carolina municipalities are eligible to apply for a standard bike or pedestrian plan. Additionally, the following options are available:

- Counties with populations of less than 50,000 may apply for a bicycle or pedestrian plan.
- Smaller municipalities with populations of less than 10,000 can also apply to develop combined bicycle and pedestrian plans.
- Municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 may apply for a Project Acceleration Plan – an abbreviated plan primarily focusing on priority project identification and implementation.
- Municipalities (and counties with populations of less than 50,000) with a bicycle or pedestrian plan may also apply to update their plan if it is at least five years old.

The deadline for electronically submitted applications, is June 30 at 5 p.m. Recipients will be notified by September.

Since 2004, approximately \$7 million have been awarded through this program to 226 municipalities and six counties statewide. Proposals are divided and judged in geographical groups to help establish equitable distribution of funding across the state. Selected awardees commonly include a diverse mix of municipalities from large cities to small towns.

Plans funded are not for one specific project but represent a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within a given municipality. The plans may address facilities, programs, policies and design guidelines that encourage safe walking and bicycling.

A short webinar is scheduled for May 12, to describe the grant program and respond to questions from applicants.

For more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, contact Bryan Lopez at 919-707-2606 or balopez@ncdot.gov.

VNS Series: Nurturing Life in your Backyard

The Village Green and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust co-hosts a speaker series called the Village Nature Series (VNS), which features experts in their field presenting on wildlife, habitats, conservation, and local cultural heritage. Traditionally, these events are held at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers, on the last Tuesday of every month during the summer season, however, at this time, the programs are being presented virtually.

The first VNS of this year will be on April 27 at 5 p.m. In honor of this year's Earth Day theme, "Restore Our Earth," presenter, Sonya Carpenter, co-owner of Cauty Worley and Company, will present on “Nurturing life in your backyard; choices within our control.” Carpenter describes her presentation:

"Over the past year, most of us have had our lives significantly disrupted by forces beyond our control. World-wide crises such as the pandemic and the climate crisis may leave us feeling hopeless and helpless. Let's celebrate Earth Day by focusing on choices we can make for a better world. By committing to changes in our own gardens and communities we can nurture the other species by improving the environment that we share. Learn more about how native plants support native species of insects, birds and other wildlife and how practices in your own garden can lead to big changes."



Participants can register and receive a Zoom link prior to the event by emailing Ann Self, director of the Village Green, at director@cashiersgreen.com.

The remainder of the Village Nature Series line-up will include a presentation about Hemlocks by the Hemlock Restoration Initiative on May 25, a talk about Hellbenders by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission on July 27, and a presentation about Red Wolves by the WNC Nature Center on Sept. 28. (June and August TBA). Follow Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green on social media for more information and updates about these upcoming presentations.

Highlands Cashiers Land Trust is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that has conserved over 3400 acres of our most treasured natural resources in over 100 places on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. To learn more about the important work the Land Trust does, visit www.hicashlt.org.



Film grants fuel strong start for production in N.C.

After pressing pause in 2020, film production has resumed in North Carolina with six recent grant recipients. With production levels at a six-year high so far this year, the latest productions to be announced as North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant recipients will have a combined spend of more than \$134.8 million in the state while creating in excess of 5,700 job opportunities, including 1,681 well-paying crew positions for the state's highly skilled film professionals.

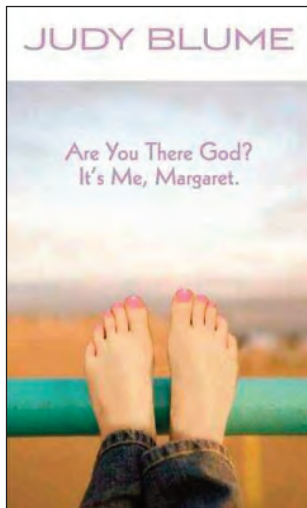
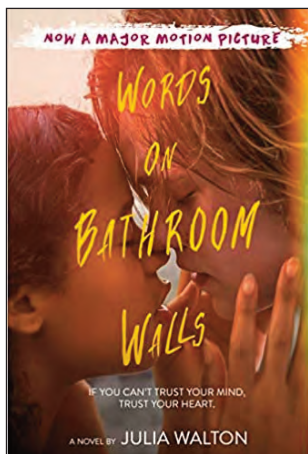
"The film industry has been able to safely resume production and we are pleased to see more productions coming to our state," said Gov. Roy Cooper. "Film activity provides good jobs and opportunities for local businesses, while also providing a compelling global showcase for North Carolina and its abundant natural beauty."

LD Entertainment, whose N.C.-filmed production "Words on Bathroom Walls" was recently released, returns to the Tar Heel State with a new feature-length film "I.S.S." The thriller features six astronauts living aboard the International Space Station (ISS) and follows their actions after receiving distressing information from Earth that threatens their missions and their lives. Filmed in Wilmington at EUE/Screen Gems Studios, this project has been approved for a rebate up to \$3.6 million.

The second grantee, which has been approved for a rebate of up to \$8 million, is the Lionsgate Television series "This Country." The series is set to air on FOX, and recently wrapped filming with location shoots taking place throughout New Hanover and Pender counties.

Blumhouse Entertainment also returns to the state with the feature "Static," a story about a young boy who fights to escape the clutches of a serial killer with the help of past victims through a magic phone. The production is approved for a rebate up to \$4.7 million after filming in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Columbus counties.

Also returning to the state for filming is Lionsgate's project



"Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," a film based on Judy Blume's best-selling novel. Production begins this Spring in the greater Charlotte area and has been approved for a grant rebate up to \$7 million.

Finally, the Charlotte area is the backdrop for the independent feature "Evolution." Approved for a film rebate of up to \$3 million, the feature tells the story of a mom determined to find a way forward for her family when her daredevil teenage son suffers a freak accident, finding hope

from the most unexpected source.

In addition to the five projects currently in production or that recently completed production, a grant award has also been extended to another Blumhouse feature-film production. This yet-to-be-named project has been approved for a grant of up to \$7 million and will begin production in the second half of 2021.

"Despite some setbacks last year, it's great to see filming in the state finish strong in 2020 with projects to help kickstart what is expected to be a very successful 2021," added North Carolina Film Office director Guy Gaster. "As our film professionals follow proper safety protocols and guidance, the industry is able to help create substantial economic opportunities in the communities in which they film."

In addition to the announced grant recipients, production continues with two other grantees, "Virginia Cold Case" and the second season of the television series "Hightown," and recently wrapped on grant-receiving series "Delilah." Several non-grant recipient productions for national commercials and reality series as well as work done by local filmmakers have also been taking place since the industry's restart.

The North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant provides is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and promoted by the North Carolina Film Office, part of VisitNC and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C.

Mountain Heritage Day returning to WCU

Mountain Heritage Day, the festival of cultural traditions presented by Western Carolina University, is again being planned as a live, in-person event on Saturday, Sept. 25.

The annual community celebration on campus regularly draws thousands to enjoy music, dance, food, and arts and crafts, but was cancelled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a performance by Summer Brooke and the Mountain Faith Band and a series of digital programs were viewed via university livestreams.

With an announcement March 11 that WCU would resume "close to" normal operations for the fall semester, Mountain Heritage Day was included in campus events and activities being reset.

The festival will adhere to its Catamounts Care protocols and the governor's guidelines that are in place at the time of the event, organizers said. While still in the early stages of planning, there is an expectation of bluegrass, old-time and traditional music performances throughout the day, a morning 5K race (organized by students in WCU's sport management program), chainsaw competitions, the classic car show and popular tractor rides, along with storytelling and sing-alongs.

The Mountain Heritage Awards, presented by WCU's Mountain Heritage Center, also are on tap to honor an individual and an organization for contributions to or playing a prominent role in research, preservation and curation of Southern Appalachian history, culture and folklore.

The festival started as Founders' Day on Oct. 26, 1974, at the inauguration ceremony of WCU Chancellor H.F. Robinson and became known as Mountain Heritage Day the following year. The event has been named one of the top 20 festivals in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society and is known for family activities, with free admission and free parking.

Vendors are being sought for Mountain Heritage Day - Arts & Crafts vendors, nonprofit organization vendors or food vendors.

For more information and updates, go to www.mountainheritageday.com.

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Plan and design a productive vegetable garden

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Whether planning your first, second or 10th vegetable garden it can be overwhelming. There are so many tasty vegetables and never enough space and time to grow them all.

Start with a plan. Locate your garden in a sunny location with moist, well-drained soil. Save those partially sunny areas for greens like lettuce, chard and kale as well as root crops like radishes and beets. These prefer full sun but will tolerate more shade than tomatoes, peppers, squash, broccoli and other plants we eat the flowers and fruit.

Make a list. Review your favorite recipes and make a list of family favorites and those vegetables most often used. Then check the list to see which vegetables are suited to your climate and growing conditions and those that make the most economic sense to include in your garden.

Tomatoes and peppers produce lots of fruit from one plant and are common ingredients in many recipes. Sweet corn is fun to grow but needs lots of space for a relatively small harvest. If space is limited, consider buying your sweet corn at the farmers' market and use that space to grow other edibles.

Every gardener struggles with determining how many of each type of vegetable to grow. This depends upon the productivity of the variety selected, your family's eating habits and of course the impact of weather on the harvest. It is always better to start small, build on your successes and expand the garden in the future. Track your planting and harvesting results to help when planning future gardens.

You will need to plant more if you plan to preserve or donate a portion of your harvest. Purchasing vegetables from your local farmers' market is a way to ensure you have sufficient fresh produce when you are ready to can, freeze and ferment.

Sound overwhelming? Consider enlisting help from Gardener's Supply by using one of their vegetable garden plans (gardeners.com). You'll find customized plans for those who



Incorporate trellises into garden plans so beans, peas, tomatoes and even squash can be trained to grow vertically.

Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply Company

like to cook, want to grow ingredients for a garden-fresh salad, salsa or cocktails, or are following a Mediterranean diet. Many come with seed packets for all the featured plants.

Maximize the available space by growing vertically. Train pole beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers and even squash and melons up trellises. Growing vertically not only saves space, but also increases disease resistance by increasing light and airflow through the plants. And picking beans at waist height is much easier than harvesting from low-growing, bushy plants.

Increase space with containers. Consider growing some of your frequently used herbs and vegetables in pots on the patio, balcony, or deck for convenience. You can quickly grab what you need when creating your favorite meal.

Grow multiple plantings in each row. Start the season with cool season veggies like lettuce, peas and radishes. Once the temperatures climb and these plants are harvested and enjoyed, replace them with warm weather vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, squash and melons. Finish off the season by filling any vacant rows with fall crops like greens, beets and radishes.

Take some time to plan a garden that will provide you and your family with fresh produce you can enjoy all season long. Involving everyone in the planning process just might get them to show up and help weed.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *"Birds & Blooms"* magazine. Visit her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Deaths & Funerals

Alvin Watson Jr.

Alvin Watson Jr., 70 of Franklin, N.C., died on Saturday, April 10, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of the late Hayes and Villa Mae Woodard Watson. Spending most of his life in Western North Carolina, he was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Sylva, N.C. He was known for his outstanding masonry skills; he used to love to golf and fish.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Freda Hyatt Watson; daughter, Angela Torres of Franklin; and two granddaughters, Zoe Torres, and Alex Torres both of Franklin; a brother, Alfred Watson of Sylva; a sister, Sue Schultz of Lake Jackson, Texas; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Alvin Watson Jr.

Mildred Guest Coward

Mildred Guest Coward, 64, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2021. She was born Sept. 4, 1956, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late James Wiley Guest and Lou Ogle Guest. She retired DeRoyal a medical equipment company. She enjoyed writing and publishing books, gardening in her flower garden and was a hard worker, but most of all, she loved her kids and grandkids. She was of the Christian faith.

She is survived by her companion, Howard Lethco; a son, Curtis Earl Guest; a daughter, Levia Lee Guest; four grandchildren, Madison Alee Guest, Divinity Guest, Shelby York and Lathen T. Flennigen; brothers, Robert Ramsey, Wade Ramsey, Gene Ramsey and Bud Guest; four sisters, Linda McMahan, Josie Woodall, Margie Gregory and Pearl Parton. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister, Mary Floyd.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Coward/Guest family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Mildred Guest Coward

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Dora Ann Vinson

Dora Ann Vinson, 69, of Otto, N.C., passed away Saturday, April 10, 2021, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. She was born May 10, 1951, in Macon County, N. C. to the late Grady Dalton and Edna Raby Dalton. She worked as a substitute teacher and was a housewife. She loved the warm weather, flowers and gardening. She had a smile and a laugh that would liven any room. Most of all she loved her family and her family loved her. She was a member of Newman Chapel Baptist Church.



Dora Ann Vinson

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Jerry T. Vinson of Otto; and her children, Jennifer Vinson Johnson (Alan), April Vinson Osborne (husband Jeff and stepdaughters Elizabeth and Devon), and son Stacy Vinson (Ashley) and one grandson Tyler Vinson; one brother, Lane Dalton; and two sisters, Jean Ray and Mary Catherine Cook.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Arthur Dalton, Lewis Dalton and Bobby Dalton.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 14, at Windy Gap Baptist Church, Franklin, N. C. with the Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial was in the Coweeta Baptist Church Cemetery, Otto.

Pallbearers were Tyler Vinson, Stacy Vinson, Brent Vinson, Brian Vinson, Alan Johnson and Jeff Osborne.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Vinson family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Franklin Alex Palmroos

Franklin Alex Palmroos, 78, of Otto, N.C., passed suddenly of heart failure on March 29, 2021. He was born on Feb. 25, 1943, in Binghamton, N.Y., to the late Alex and Ruth Palmroos. He spent most of his career working as a service tech for IBM corporation.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Joan; a son, Franklin F. Palmroos, his daughter Rachel and son Grant, all of Huntersville, N.C.; a daughter, Jody Palmroos of Key West, her daughter Cricket (Mike) Luna and their daughter Kaydence of Roseville, Calif. and her son Michael of Cohos, N.Y.; a stepdaughter, Connie (Mark) Scheunemann and their daughter Allyson of Millville, Pa.; a stepson Thomas (Mary) Miller of Pace, Fla., their daughters, Melissa (Micky) Caudell, children Shannon, Sawyer and Saydee of Milton, Fla., and Kinsey (Garrett) Monday of Mobile, Ala.

He was happiest either working on or driving his classic cars. He was laid to rest in Endicott, N.Y.

Richard Thomas Merritt

Richard Thomas Merritt, 55, passed away April 4, 2021.

He was born in Haddon Heights, N.J., to John and Anne Fay Merritt. He was an avid reader and enjoyed writing poetry. He loved being outdoors in nature and playing his guitar.

He is survived by wife Sandra; step-children, Greg Dills of Pfafftown, N.C., and Johnny Dills of Churchton, Md.; and siblings, Dorothy Johnson of Barrington, N.J., Mary Quinn of St. Thomas, Pa., Peggy Mason of Voorhees, N.J., John Merritt Jr. of Arlington, Va., and Susan Merritt of Haddon Township, N.J.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Richard Thomas Merritt

Walter Reid Bumgarner

Walter Reid Bumgarner, 84, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of the late George Clarence and Lavinia Mann Bumgarner. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, WillaMae Jones Bumgarner; brother, Bill Bumgarner; and a sister, Evelyn Childers.

He was a longtime member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church; where he was former Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Director and had held numerous other positions within the church. He and his wife WillaMae started Bumgarner Electric in 1969. He has helped numerous electricians get their start in the electrician profession. He was a member of the Dogwood Bowling League, loved playing softball and was an avid Dallas Cowboys and North Carolina Tar Heels fan.

He is survived by a daughter, Donna Sanders (Jerry); a son, Jerry Bumgarner (Angie) both of Franklin; four grandchildren, Stephen Sanders, Kaitlin Williams, Alex Bumgarner, and Morgan Bumgarner; and two great grandchildren, Grayson Sanders, and Reid Williams; two sisters, Martha Thelma Arnold, and Dorothy James both of Seneca, S.C.; and a brother, Earl Bumgarner of Griffin, Ga.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, April 15, at 2 p.m., at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Rev. Guy Duvall and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate. Seating inside the church will be limited, social distancing will be practiced, and masks should be worn. The service will be broadcast on the church FM transmitter and will be available outside in the church parking lot. Burial will be in the Ridgecrest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Stephen Sanders, Alex Bumgarner, Allen Corbin, Mark Dryman, Eddie Robbins, Tommy Bennett, Roy Ashe and Bobby McMahan.

Honorary pallbearers will be the deacons of Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Homer 'Charlie' Barfield

Homer "Charlie" Barfield, 70, fell asleep in death March 27, 2021, at home with his family by his side.

He was born in 1951 in South Florida. He spent his youth and young adulthood in Palm Beach County before moving to Franklin, N.C., in the early 1980s. He loved the outdoors, gem mining, hunting, fishing and lived out his dream of having a small farm and family. He was extremely active and outgoing.

He also had a love of God and the Bible. After studying the Bible for many years, he was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 2012. Despite being confined to a wheelchair for the last decade of his life, he had a zest for life and enjoyed being with others.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Barfield; daughter, Sabrina So and son-in-law Kieming So; sisters, Patricia Neilson and Joan Miller; sister-in-law, Judi Efland; brothers-in-law, Jim Efland and Jay Waldroup; and beloved nieces and nephews.

He looked forward to the Bible's promise of the earth being restored to paradise conditions, and to being resurrected there. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family who look forward to seeing him again in that new world.

Services will be held online Saturday, April 17, at 1 p.m. For log in information, text (267)384-9132.



Walter Reid Bumgarner



Homer 'Charlie' Barfield

Stanley Q. Coss

Stanley Q. Coss, 83, died on April 9, 2021. He was born in St. Petersburg, Fla., on April 2, 1938, to Clement J. Coss, a WWII vet, and Ruth Craven Coss.

He entered the United States Army in 1958, retiring in 1980 as an Infantry Major, a Senior Parachutist, and a Senior Army Aviator. He served two combat tours in Vietnam, and his decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a bronze palm leaf for gallantry, and the Expert Infantry Badge as an enlisted soldier.

During and after his military career, he attended college and graduated with a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

After retiring from the Army, he became a partner with his brother, Jack, and his sister, Pat, in Franklin, N.C., as co-owners of Realty World-Mountain Homes. In 1987, he returned to a flying job as a civilian flight instructor for the U.S. Army. He also flew for Petroleum Helicopters Inc., from Louisiana to platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. He began his final flying career in 1991 as a pilot and manager in the air ambulance industry, retiring again in 2010. He returned to Franklin in 2016 where he operated Battle Group Quartermaster, a retail sales business. He attended Franklin Covenant Church.

He is survived by his former wife, Sallee Coss, of Franklin; his sons, Stan Jr., of Evans, Ga., Brian of Franklin, and Reed of Atlanta, Ga., and their wives; seven grandchildren, Michael of Loganville, Ga., Hailey of Greenville, S.C., Davis and Kayla of Grovetown, Ga., Jackson of Augusta, Ga., Van and Jesse of Atlanta, Ga., his brother, Jack Coss of Hendersonville, N.C., a veteran of the Korean war, his sister, Pat, of Hartwell, Ga., along with several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Donald Coss who died in battle in Korea.


A memorial with full military graveside honors will be held on Saturday, May 8, at 1 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the Coss family.



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Late pass gives Martin Truex Jr. third NASCAR Cup victory

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Martin Truex Jr. passed Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin on Lap 485 of Sunday's rain-delayed Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 at Martinsville Speedway and pulled away to win for the third time in his last four starts at the .526-mile short track.

The victory was Truex's second this season, ending a streak of seven straight different winners to start the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series season. The driver of the No. 19 Toyota triumphed for the 29th time in his career and for the fifth time in his last 11-short track starts.

Truex finished 1.972 seconds ahead of runner-up Chase Elliott, who passed Hamlin for the second spot on Lap 495 of 500. Hamlin held third, 2.364 seconds behind, to post his seventh top-five finish (including four third-place results) in his eight starts this season.

"I can't believe we won again here, after not having the dominant car today, for sure," said Truex, who led for the first time when he beat Hamlin out of the pits on Lap 455 but surrendered the top spot to Hamlin's short-run speed after a restart on Lap 459. "It was a lot of fun there at the end racing with Denny.

"We raced clean, and we were able to come out on top. It's definitely difficult. We try to race hard, race clean. He was making it difficult on me—I was loose coming off the corners. His car got tight, so we kind of had opposite things going on, and it made it difficult to pass. We played nice. (Team owner) Coach (Joe Gibbs) will be happy. It'll be a cordial meeting tomorrow."

In a race that produced 15 cautions for 102 laps, the 42-lap green-flag run to the finish proved Hamlin's undoing. The driver No. 11 Toyota didn't have the long-run speed to hold off his teammate.

"It's just the cards we were dealt," said Hamlin, who led 276 laps. "We had a really good short-run car. We just didn't have a good long-run car. We just couldn't get our car to turn in the long run. That was the bugaboo of it, I guess you could say.

"We had a really fast car for 20 laps or so, and then it would just kind of go away."

Hendrick Motorsports teammates William Byron and Kyle Larson finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Joey Logano, Christopher Bell, Tyler Reddick, Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch completed the top 10.

Ryan Blaney won the first and second stages and led 157 laps, but his No. 12 Team Penske Ford dragged an air hose out of the pit box on his final stop, earning a penalty that sent him to the back of the field for the Lap 459 restart. He fought back for an 11th-place finish.

"We've had an issue the last three times we've been here with a car to win, so that's frustrating, but I'm real proud of the effort," Blaney said. "I just wish we could close one out."

A 15-car pileup worthy of a "Big One" at Talladega thinned the field of potential winners and blocked the track as effectively as the forlorn container ship stopped traffic in the Suez Canal. Then melee started with side-to-side contact between the cars of Chris Buescher and Kyle Busch and collected a baker's dozen of cars behind them—and setting the Chevrolets of Daniel Suarez and Ryan Preece on fire.

The wreck, which stopped the race under a red flag that lasted 21 minutes, 47 seconds, was the coup de grace for two-time Martinsville winner Brad Keselowski, who had sustained damage in two earlier accidents.

"It's just unfortunate that we got caught up in it," Keselowski said. "The track was blocked. I think I was just barely going to get stopped in time, and somebody clobbered me from be-



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Bass Pro Toyota, celebrates with a young fan in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 at Martinsville Speedway on April 11, 2021, in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images



hind and just tore us up. It's a bummer. I think we were really good.

"We drove up into the top five and lost the power-steering. I was able to manhandle it around the race track, but I couldn't get down pit road where you go to turn in your pit box... Just one of those compounding, frustrating short-track days, but we had decent speed."

The race was halted by rain after 42 laps on Saturday night and resumed under caution at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Josh Berry claims first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory at Martinsville

Josh Berry had to wait nearly two days for the Sunday conclusion of the Cook Out 250 at Martinsville Speedway, but it was a worthwhile delay for the late model ace.

Driving for JR Motorsports car owners Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kelley Earnhardt Miller, Berry took the lead from Ty Gibbs on Lap 223 of 250 and held it the rest of the way to win his first NASCAR Xfinity Series race in his 13th start.

In a race that was halted by rain after 91 laps on Friday night and restarted at noon on Sunday, Berry beat JR Motorsports teammate Noah Gragson to the finish line by .590 seconds. Both Gragson and Daniel Hemric passed Gibbs during the closing run to finish second and third, respectively.

believing in me, everyone on this No. 8 team.

"Man, they've been through a lot the last couple of years. Had a ton of different drivers. Man, I wanted to win so bad for these guys. They're such a great group. I knew this would be a

For Gragson, that meant an extra payday of \$100,000 as the highest finisher among four eligible Xfinity Dash 4 Cash drivers.

But the day belonged to Berry, who led a race-high 95 laps, 10 before the rain arrived on Friday and 85 on Sunday. Berry is the first driver to win an Xfinity race in the No. 8 car since Earnhardt Jr. prevailed at Michigan in 2006.

"Oh, gosh, I have so many people I could thank I could be here until tomorrow morning," Berry said after climbing from his car on the frontstretch at the .526-mile short track. "Just Dale, L.W. (Miller), Kelley, everybody for be-



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/True Timber/BRCC Chevrolet, drives during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Cook Out 250 at Martinsville Speedway on April 11, in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images



Josh Berry, driver of the #8 Chevrolet Accessories Chevrolet, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Cook Out 250 at Martinsville Speedway on April 11, 2021 in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

good opportunity to win. (Crew chief Taylor (Moyer) called a perfect race. The car was good, and we just kept tweaking on it. The tires were pretty worn out there at the end. I was struggling a little bit with wheel-hop... This is just unbelievable.”

Gragson had good reason to feel mixed emotions about finishing second to a driver he called “a legend in short-track racing.” The driver of the No. 9 JRM Chevrolet had to play defense during the final run to keep Hemric behind him.

“I really wanted to win there,” Gragson said, “but I was having to protect the bottom to keep the guys behind me from moving me out of the way. I couldn’t open up my arc the way I needed to and make speed with that.”

The Dash 4 Cash bonus was a welcome consolation.

“One hundred thousand dollars richer,” Gragson said, displaying the big check. “I’m pumped up. Great 1-2 finish for our team at JR Motorsports.”



Gibbs held the fourth spot, followed by Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Brandon Jones, who had just taken the lead from Berry when storms stopped the action on Friday night.

Series leader and defending champion Austin Cindric ran sixth, with Harrison Burton, Justin Haley, Justin Allgaier and Michael Annett completing the top 10. All four JR Motorsports drivers finished in the top 10 (Berry, Gragson, Allgaier and

Annett).

Though he’s not driving in the series full-time, Berry also earned eligibility for the Dash 4 Cash bonus in the April 24 Xfinity race at Talladega, along with Gragson, Hemric and Jones.

Kwik Trip named presenting sponsor for NASCAR Cup Series Race at Road America July 4

ELKHART LAKE, Wis., April 13, 2021 – Kwik Trip, a La-Crosse, Wisconsin-based convenience store chain, has agreed to become the presenting sponsor of the NASCAR Cup Series race at Road America on the Fourth of July. This year’s race will be known as the Road America 250 presented by Kwik Trip. The green flag will fly on the event at approximately 1:30 pm CST, and the race will be aired LIVE on NBC.

“The opportunity to partner with a NASCAR Cup Series race at Road America on Independence Day is a thrill as race fans across Wisconsin and the Midwest flock to Elkhart Lake for this premier event. NASCAR fans are some of the most enthusiastic in all of sports... we look forward to sharing in the excitement of race weekend, July 1-4,” said Mark Meisner, Kwik Trip’s Director of Marketing and Advertising.

Kwik Trip is a family-owned company and home to more than 30,000 co-workers. If you’ve been in Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Iowa recently, there’s a good chance they’ve seen you at one of their 700+ stores.

“Kwik Trip is a tremendous fit for Road America,” said Mike Kertscher, Road America’s President and General Manager. “They are an incredible brand, dedicated to the communities they serve. We feel that Kwik Trip will incorporate itself very well in the racing community through this partnership, and we are very excited to have them on board in such a prestigious capacity.”

The multi-year partnership between Road America and Kwik Trip also includes several shared multi-state marketing and promotional initiatives designed to help both entities increase brand awareness and promote their products throughout the Midwest and the racing community.

Race day will feature NASCAR Cup incredible wheel-to-wheel racing when the green flag drops for the Road America 250 presented by Kwik Trip. The NASCAR Cup Series features thrilling door-to-door and wheel-to-wheel action through stage racing, which ensures more highlight-reel moments during a race, increases the sense of urgency, and emphasizes aggressive racing strategy. Fans will have the opportunity to watch NASCAR’s future stars such as Cole Custer, Tyler Reddick, Christopher Bell, and Erik Jones battle it out with superstars such as Kyle Busch, Martin Truex Jr., and 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Champion, Chase Elliott, on the storied 4-mile, 14-turn road circuit.

The NASCAR Cup Series will be joined by the NASCAR XFINITY Series Henry 180 on July 3 and the Trans Am Series once again as the series will host two 100-mile races during the weekend.

Tickets are now available, and fans are welcome. Additional event details, ticket pricing, and camping information can be found at www.roadamerica.com or by calling 800-365-7223. Anyone 16-years-old and under is FREE with a paying adult at the gate.

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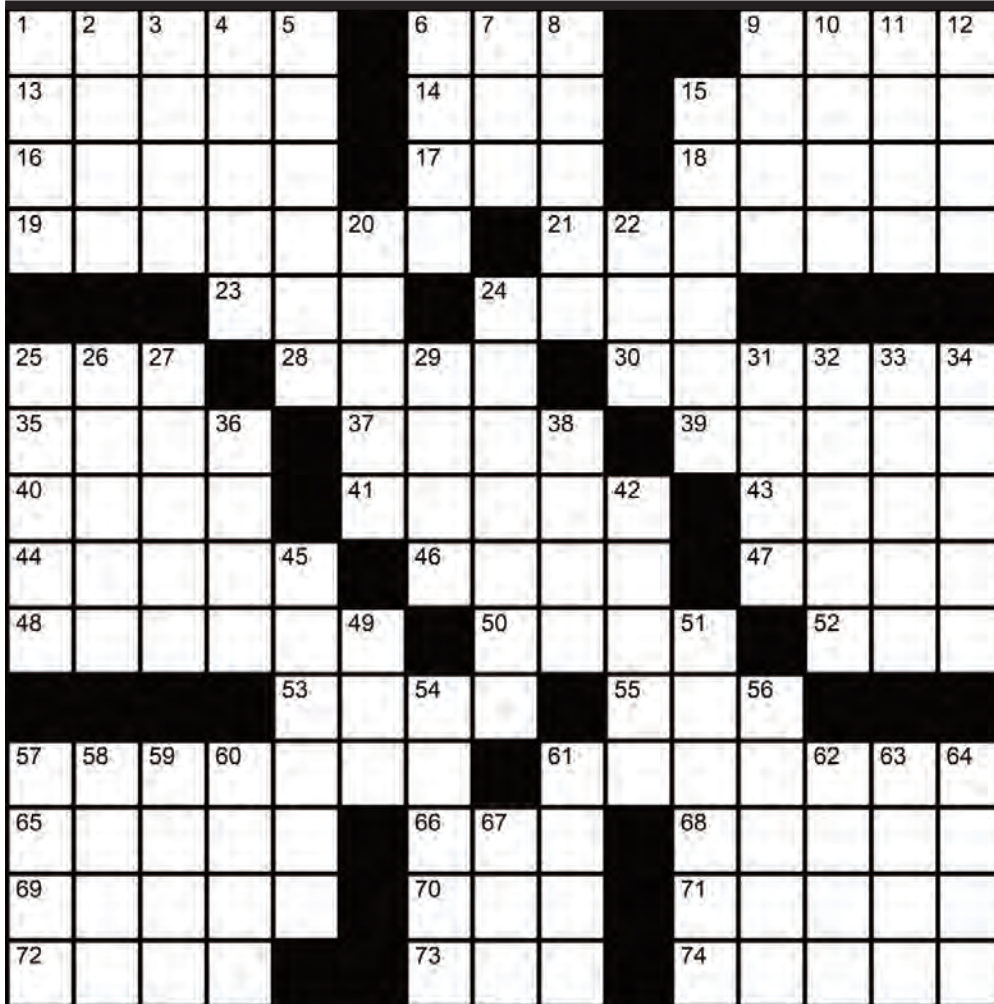
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1. Hedgehog of video games
6. And so forth, acronym
9. *Oscar-nominated black and white movie
13. Treeless plain
14. Grazing field
15. Moses' mountain
16. Sty sounds
17. Nelson Mandela's org.
18. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
19. *Posthumous nominee
21. *Anthony of "The Father"
23. "What's up, ____?"
24. Huge pile
25. Protestant denom.
28. Feed storage cylinder
30. Load again
35. Relating to ear
37. Flighty one
39. Proclaimed true without proof
40. Musician David Lee
41. Ascetic holy Hindu
43. Eastern European
44. Plural of #10 Down
46. 500 sheets
47. Looking for aliens org.
48. Kitchen whistler
50. Wails
52. Bad-mouth
53. Medieval torture device
55. Pied Piper follower
57. Politburo hat fur
61. *Daniel of "Judas and the Black Messiah"
65. Raspberry drupelets
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare
68. Void, as in marriage
69. Defective car
70. Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
71. ____ of Honor



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72. Adam and Eve's first residence
 73. Money in Myanmar
 74. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
- DOWN**
1. Undesirable roommate
 2. Medley
 3. Grannies, in UK
 4. Tattooed
 5. Universe
 6. Panache
 7. *Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9 Across
 8. Secret storage
 9. Stole fur
 10. One opposed
 11. Indian restaurant staple
 12. U.S. customary unit of

- force, pl.
15. Soaked
20. DNA and RNA
22. Argonaut's propeller
24. Shared work surface at an office
25. *Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
27. Pita, in UK
29. *Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
32. Checked out
33. Stradivari competitor
34. **"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
32. Checked out
33. Stradivari competitor
34. **"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
36. Poker ante
38. **"Nomadland" director
42. Shadow

45. *The Trial of the Chicago 7" screenwriter
49. Greek "t"
51. Sandwich sausage
54. Necklace lock
56. Radio receiver
57. Nutritious leafy green
58. Got A+
59. Ice on a window
60. Happening soon, old fashioned
61. Caffeine-containing nut tree
62. Editing arrow
63. Chinese monetary unit
64. Friend in war
67. *Nominee for Billie Holiday role

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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.

The Classifieds

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.

GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. (828)524-5475.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

MELTON'S ROOFING and Gutter Cleaning. Give Us a Call at cell# (828)421-6712 With All Your Roof and Gutter Needs.

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

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

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

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

LAWNS MOWED in Macon County Area, 25 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$35. Call (828)524-0114.

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

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

Help Wanted

NOW HIRING Experienced Line Cooks. Apply in Person at 145 Highlands Rd. Between the hours of 7am-2pm Ms. Lois Restaurant.

OLD EDWARDS INN & Spa, Highlands NC. Now recruiting for Reservation Specialist, Overnight Security, Houseman, Turndown Attendants, Overnight Housekeeper, 2nd Shift Laundry, Bartender, Host, Server, Bussier, Club Server, PT Banquet Server, Line Cook, Baker, Pastry and Bread Cook, Spa Concierge, Spa Attendant, Cosmetologist, Massage Therapist, Fitness Manager, Front Desk, PT Warehouse Asst., PT Retail Sales, Seasonal Culinary Gardens Crew. Benefits offered after 90 days employment Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

CAROLINA MOTEL Housekeeping, Day Shift, Must Work Weekends. Smoke Free Environment. Great Hourly Rate, Tips and Bonuses. For Interview Call (828)524-3380.

WATAUGA CREEK Furniture Warehouse and Delivery; Able to carry furniture upstairs. Have a good driving record. Be a team player. Available for overtime when needed. Off Sundays. Competitive pay depending on experience. Email resume to: julie@wataugacreek.com

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.

HIGHLANDS COVE Property Owners Association is looking for full-time 3rd shift Gate Attendant/Guard 40 Hrs. Sunday Night through Wednesday night Benefits include Insurance and paid vacation. Call Mon-Thur 8am-3pm to schedule appointment (828)526-9026.

AUTO BODY MAN/PAINTER Wanted Also Auto Detail/Cleanup Person. Apply after 3pm at 69 Mill St. Franklin.

SEEKING FULL-TIME experienced receptionist/clerical assistant to join our fast-paced office team. We are a well-known, respected law firm in Cashiers specializing in real estate transactions. We offer comparable pay and excellent benefits. Requirements are excellent communication skills, attention to detail and well organized. Email resume to snorris@cashierslaw.com.

Rentals

SMALL CABIN Suitable for 1 or 2 Persons, Prefer Medical, Students or Short Term Stays. Includes Power, Water, Cable, internet. Completely Furnished, Short Term Lease Only. Non-smoking/pets. \$325/weekly, \$625/monthly plus Deposit. (828)342-4897.

2BD/1.5BA One level, new carpeting, paint, carport, utility room. Cowee. Landlord on property. Owner does yard work. Perfect for retired couple. No pets. First/Last/Security, \$1,200/monthly, Reference. Must meet lease requirements. Available May 1 (828)371-7760.

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

Commercial Rentals

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY for lease on 441 south. 2 Full bays, 2 story office space, all for lease separately. \$1500 per bay, \$1500 for office space, monthly. Call (828)369-5333 for more information.

Motor Vehicles

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

Auctions

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO. online bidding. Smokeymountainauktioncompany.hibid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat (828)634-4271.

Animals

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

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.

FISH FRY Friday April 16, 4:30 - 7 p.m. St. Francis Catholic Church, 299 Maple St., Fried and grilled fish filets, whole Tilapia, French Fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw and more. Take-outs Available.

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.

FROG FAIR Saturday, May 8, 573 E. Main St, Franklin (at the Town bridge). Stop by Wednesday-Saturday between 9-2, to become a registered vendor or to purchase 50/50 drawing tickets or email frog28734@gmail.com

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 Spring Season 9-12, 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. Blueberry & Blackberry Bushes, Peonies. 200 Block East Palmer.

Garage & Yard Sales

MULTI-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD Sale April 17. 8am, Rain Or Shine, Big Stuff, Small Stuff and Everything in Between! Appliances, Furniture, Small Antiques, Albums and Lots More! Even a Motorhome 2011 Fleetwood Discovery 40G. Iotla Church Rd., turn Right on Windy Poplar. Sales will Be on Spring Blossom Dr. and Windy Poplar.

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Classifieds

The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide

\$8.00
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BASED ON RETAIL SEGMENT SHARE GAINS, 2020.



2020 TRAX



17% OF MSRP CASH BACK¹ THAT'S **\$5,053** CASH BACK ON THIS TRAX LT²

2021 EQUINOX



15% OF MSRP CASH BACK¹ THAT'S **\$6,015** CASH BACK ON THIS EQUINOX PREMIER²

2021 TRAVERSE



10% OF MSRP CASH BACK¹ THAT'S **\$5,203** CASH BACK ON THIS TRAVERSE PREMIER²

2020 BLAZER



10% OF MSRP CASH BACK¹ THAT'S **\$7,752** CASH BACK ON THIS BLAZER RS²

2021 TRAILBLAZER



10% OF MSRP CASH BACK¹ THAT'S **\$4,970** CASH BACK ON THIS TRAILBLAZER ACTIV²

1 Excludes L models. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 5/3/21. 2 2020Trax LT based on \$25,265 MSRP. 2021 Equinox Premier based on \$40,100 MSRP. 2021 Traverse Premier based on \$52,030 MSRP. 2020 Blazer RS based on \$51,685 MSRP. 2021 Trailblazer ACTIV based on \$28,960 MSRP. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 5/3/21. ©2021 General Motors. All rights reserved.



COUNTRYSIDE
CHEVROLET
FRANKLIN, NC



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HOMETOWN DEALER

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

1997 Chevrolet Camaro	16,606
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	3,987
2019 Chevrolet Colorado	6,928
2019 Chevrolet Corvette	3,023
1972 CHEVROLET CORVETTE	91,171
2019 Chevrolet Cruze	14,078
2014 Chevrolet Equinox	108,214
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	21,036
2018 Chevrolet Equinox	48,398
2016 Chevrolet Equinox	107,191
2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	43,966
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	16,818
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	30,179
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	39,385
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	11,584
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	6,147
2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	25,168
2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	2,821,214
2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD	22,009
2018 Chevrolet Spark	33,334
2017 Chevrolet Spark	29,568
2015 Chevrolet Suburban	103,523
2015 Chevrolet Tahoe	160,428
2015 Chevrolet Traverse	101,068
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	91,874
2017 Chevrolet Traverse	37,692
2019 Chevrolet Traverse	24,449
2016 Dodge Dart	37,024
2019 Dodge Journey	16,576
2019 Ford Edge	45,478
2012 Ford Edge	136,822
2016 Ford Escape	33,265
2013 Ford Explorer	135,416
2018 Ford F-150	27,491
2018 Ford F-150	25,756
2007 Ford Focus	158,109
2017 Ford Fusion	127,731
2016 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW	191,167
2011 GMC Sierra 1500	208,162
2017 GMC Sierra 3500HD	55,539
2020 GMC Yukon	40,952
2012 GMC Yukon	163,871
2019 GMC Yukon XL	37,969
2002 Honda Accord	217,842
2017 Honda Civic Sedan	49,543
2016 Honda HR-V	85,731
2019 Hyundai Elantra	36,506
2019 Jaguar XE	22,558
2019 Jeep Cherokee	9,020
2019 Jeep Cherokee	38,039
2015 Jeep Cherokee	138,767
2019 Jeep Wrangler	6,867
2018 Jeep Wrangler JK	47,132
2017 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited	88,737
2018 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited	52,471
2019 KAUFMAN TRAILER	
2012 Kia Optima	102,804
2019 Kia Sorento	21,976
2017 Kia Soul	91,896
2016 Land Rover Range Rover Sport	55,302
2016 Lexus GX 460	81,717
2019 Lincoln MKC	33,369
2015 Mercedes-Benz GLA 45 AMG	36,859
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander	49,318
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander	39,416
2020 Nissan Altima	38,911
2019 Nissan Frontier	39,039
2013 Nissan Frontier	136,148
2019 Nissan Rogue	39,871
2019 POLARIS SLINGSHOT SL	
2020 Ram 1500	25,556
2020 RAM 1500 Classic	18,621
2020 Toyota Camry	17,59
2019 Toyota Corolla	27,529
2008 Volkswagen New Beetle Convertible	107,001
2018 Volkswagen Tiguan	19,002