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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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East Franklin fourth graders recently held a North Carolina state fair for a social studies assignment. The students researched different topics related to North Carolina. This project was created as a way to get the students excited about learning and to present their research in a fun way. Creedence McAllister chose Richard Petty as the person he wanted to do his project on. See more photos on page 12. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

### IN THIS ISSUE



Local groups participate in litter clean up



SMCPA presents 'Winnie the Pooh'

## Safety Town to host 'Distracted Driving' demonstration, exhibit

Brittney Lofthouse — Contributing Writer

Memorial vehicle helping to raise awareness of dangers of distracted driving to be displayed in Macon County on April 24

Ten years ago, Buncombe County teenager Ashley Johnson was driving to a tutoring job when she crossed the center line and hit a truck head-on. Investigators determined that she was trying to read a text message on her phone when she was killed.

Ashley's father, Amos Johnson, joined Senator Kevin Corbin and North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey for a press conference on Tuesday afternoon to raise awareness of the devastating impact of distracted driving and to encourage North Carolina to support legislation to pro-

mote safer driving.

"It was a three-word text," Johnson said. "I never told nobody what that text was. The only thing it was, she retrieved it, she opened it up and it said, 'where are you.' That's all it said. While she was reading that text she went left to center and hit a truck head on. And after that, everything has been downhill since."

Rather than have her two-door BMW crushed, Ashley's family donated it to VIP Inc., a nonprofit, volunteer organization founded by Greensboro firefighters in 1998. The group reattached the roof that firefighters had cut from the BMW to free Ashley, then put the crumpled car, the airbag still deployed, on a trailer with signs explaining what happened to

See DISTRACTED page 2

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BOOTH  
BROTHERS  
SOUTHERN GOSPEL FAVORITES



APRIL 25

## DISTRACTED

Continued from page 1

her.

Ashley's car was displayed in front of the Raleigh Capitol this week and will remain there until April 23 when it travels to Macon County to be displayed at Safe Kids Macon County annual Safety Town event.

"Using a cell phone while driving is extremely dangerous and creates enormous potential for death or injuries on U.S. roads," said Safe Kids Macon County Coordinator Nick Lofthouse. "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2019 across the nation. Just last year, officials say there were nearly 44,000 crashes and 157 deaths were caused by distracted driving in North Carolina. These are preventable deaths that we need to work together to prevent."

Sen. Corbin introduced House Bill 144, the "Hands Free NC Act" in 2019 when he served in the House of Representatives. Now, in the Senate, Corbin has partnered with a group of bipartisan lawmakers to once again push for the Hands Free NC Act to become law. "We may not get this bill passed this year... it may be in two years... but I promise that we will get it passed," said Corbin. "I will continue to work on this until we get it passed and it's in place to make our roads safer."

Corbin's bill would prohibit drivers from using a hand-held phone to talk, play games, watch video or access the internet while driving, including while stopped at a traffic light.

Using a speakerphone or a Bluetooth system would still be allowed.

Causey supports the Hands-Free North Carolina Act which prohibits the hand-held use of a cellphone or other wireless communication devices but allows the driver to make hands-free calls. Drivers who are at least 18 years old would be able to use their cellphones if the phone is mounted in the vehicle and the call can be initiated or terminated by touching a single button, such as speed dialing.

Drivers caught violating the law face a \$100 fine the first time, with higher fines and points on the driver's license that could increase insurance rates for subsequent violations.



"Ashley's Car" is part of a traveling exhibit that warns of the dangers of distracted driving. Ashley Johnson lost her life when she was reading a text and went left of center and hit a truck head on. Instead of crushing the car, her family donated it to VIP Inc., who is encouraging North Carolina to promote safer driving.

On April 24, Ashley's car will be on display in Macon County at Safe Kids Macon County's Safety Town event at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Safe Kids Macon County's annual Safety Town event is hosted in partnership with various community and civic organizations and features all things safety and all things children. In addition to Ashley's car display, the event will feature a car seat checking station, free bike helmets, and an emergency vehicle car show.

## JWNC Sicklefin Redhorse Fish Spawning Event Draws Attention to Earth Day

Mainspring Conservation Trust is partnering with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to offer a public viewing and education of the Commission's long-term monitoring of Sicklefin Redhorse spawning migration on Earth Day, Thurs., April 22.

Those interested can join biologists from the two groups at either 8 a.m. or 6 p.m. on April 22 at Mainspring's Welch Farm public preserve along the Valley River between Andrews and Marble.

The Sicklefin Redhorse is a type of sucker that was not recognized as a distinct fish species by the scientific community until 1992, yet Cherokee had identified the fish as "jungihla" for centuries. It is an endemic species to the Little Tennessee and Hiwassee River Basins.

"Sicklefin Redhorse, like most sucker species, swim upstream into the headwaters to spawn each spring," said Luke Etchison, Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Coordinator with the NCWRC. "These aquatic events are similar to salmon spawning runs out west, where large numbers of animals swim upstream and their unfertilized eggs and waste help give a seasonal boost to the river ecosystem."

As the fish travel for their spawning run, they will be collected by the NCWRC using a type of fish trap that utilizes net wings to block off the river and funnels fish into the trap as they swim upstream.

"Each sucker species collected by the fyke net will be measured, weighed, and spawning

condition evaluated, and then will be released upstream to continue on their spawning journey," said Etchison. "Additionally, each Sicklefin Redhorse will have a small tag inserted, much like a microchip that many cats and dogs



Fyke nets are placed in the river to funnel Sicklefin Redhorse into the trap as they swim upstream in their spring spawning journey.

have, that can be used to uniquely identify it if the fish is recaptured in the future, to help estimate the population size."

This seasonal boost is very important to many fish species and aquatic insects during a time of year with limited food resources, explained Rachel Newcomb, Conservation Outreach Associate with Mainspring. "This is a great opportunity for people to learn more about local aquatic habitat," she said. "And it is fun for the public to see. Folks can expect to see high quantities of Redhorse in the Valley River and learn about their crucial importance to our natural and cultural resources."

The event is free and open to all ages. For more information, or for directions to Welch Farm, visit [mainspringconserves.org/events/](https://mainspringconserves.org/events/) or email Rachel Newcomb at [rnewcomb@mainspringconserves.org](mailto:rnewcomb@mainspringconserves.org).

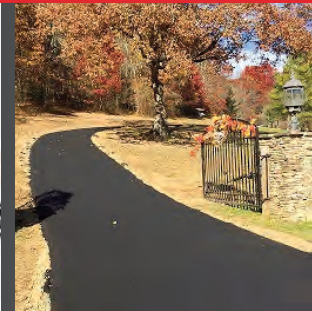
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### PUBLIC COMMENTS REQUESTED Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is seeking public input on the 2021 Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The document is available for review online at <https://regiona.org/macon-county-ctp/>.

Comments may be submitted until May 21, 2021, via email at [rose@regiona.org](mailto:rose@regiona.org), via phone at (828) 586-1962, or via mail at the following address: 125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779

Public comments will also be invited at the Southwestern RPO Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to be held on May 24, 2021.

# Local groups participate in statewide litter cleanup; over 4 million lbs collected

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

As part of its litter removal efforts, including the ongoing Litter Sweep, N.C. Department of Transportation crews, contractors and volunteers have now collected more than 4 million pounds of litter from roadsides this year.

"Only a week in, and already the Spring Litter Sweep has helped tremendously in keeping our roadways clean," said state Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette. "Keeping North Carolina clean requires everyone to do their part, whether that's volunteering in the ongoing Litter Sweep or simply securing your load when you drive."

NCDOT reports that the agency and its partners have removed 4 million pounds of litter since Jan. 1 and more than 1 million pounds since April 1.

North Carolinians who wish to help keep roads clean can volunteer for the ongoing Spring Litter Sweep, which runs until April 24.

Rotarian Road Crews (all three Franklin Clubs), Franklin High School Interact Club and Boy Scout Troop road cleanup service project collected trash along Roller Mill and Belden Circle over the weekend and in total collected 660 pounds (54 bags).

The Macon County Parents as Teachers program helped to teach the next generation of public servants the importance of a clean community after meeting on the Little Tennessee Greenway on

Saturday morning. From there, the volunteers split into various groups and cleaned up litter all around Macon County.

The Plateau Pickup litter sweep, hosted annually by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, targeted the trash along US 64 and volunteers reported dozens of bags of trash collected before noon on Saturday morning.

NCDOT's litter management programs are multifaceted. The

department makes use of state-owned forces and contract services statewide. NCDOT's Sponsor-A-Highway Program allows businesses, organizations and individuals to sponsor litter removal along roadsides. NCDOT is also proud to partner with the more than 120,000 participants in the Adopt-A-Highway Program, where volunteers pledge to clean a section of our highways at least four times a year.

Litter is unsightly, costs millions of dollars

to clean up and can hurt the environment, tourism and the state's quality of life.

#### Everyone should do their part by:

Securing their loads before driving. Unsecured trash can fly from a vehicle and end up as roadside litter.

Holding onto trash until it can be disposed of properly. Keep a litter bag in your vehicle so you can properly dispose of trash later.

Recycling when possible. Recycling protects the environment, saves landfill space and keeps the community clean.



Volunteers with the Parents as Teachers litter sweep.

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# Macon County honors its long time employees with Service Awards

Macon County recently honored its long-time employees with Service Awards.

### 10 years

- Amy Breedlove – Income Maintenance Caseworker II -- DSS
- Joe Holbrooks – Site Supervisor – Parks and Recreation
- Tony Hopkins – Sergeant -- Sheriff's Department
- Costin Jigla – Detention Officer – Sheriff's Department
- Chris Metrick – EMT Paramedic – Emergency Services
- Joshua Stewart – Sheriff's Department (inactive as of 03/14/21)
- Clay Vinson – Emergency Services (inactive as of 12/06/20)
- Frank Williams – Site Supervisor – Parks and Recreation

### 15 years

- David Blanton – Detective – Sheriff's Department
- Abby Braswell – Tax Administrator -- Tax
- Terry Browning – Parks Maintenance Worker – Parks and Recreation
- Jeff Bryson – Maintenance Worker II – Buildings and Grounds
- Tony Carver – Lieutenant/Training Officer – Sheriff's Department
- Tony Corbin – Detective/Criminal Investigations – Sheriff's Department
- John Fay – Director – Housing
- Simon Hyatt – Network Administrator – Information Technology
- Dereck Jones – Jail Administrator – Sheriff's Department
- Josh Randall – EMT Paramedic Supervisor – Emergency Services



25 years - Jennifer Alexander, Income Maintenance Supervisor III, DSS



20 years Seth Adams, Director, Parks and Recreation; Sheila Conley, Income Maintenance Supervisor III, DSS; Rhonda Blanton, Processing Assistant III, Senior Services/DSS; and Clay Bryson, First Sergeant, Sheriff's Department.

- Heather Conner – EMT Paramedic – Emergency Services
- Amber Wright – Detective – Sheriff's Department

### 20 years

- Seth Adams – Director – Parks and Recreation
- Rhonda Blanton – Processing Assistant III – Senior Services/DSS
- Lisa Browning – Environmental Health Program Specialist – Health Department
- Clay Bryson – First Sergeant – Sheriff's Department

- Sheila Conley – Income Maintenance Supervisor III -- DSS
- Jeffrey O'Dell – Detention Officer – Sheriff's Department
- Chuck Tallent – Telecommunicator with EMD – Emergency Services
- Jimmy Teem – Fire Marshal – Emergency Services
- Chrissy Wallace – Income Maintenance Investigator II -- DSS

### 25 years

- Jennifer Alexander – Income Maintenance Supervisor III -- DSS
- Darryl Jamison – EMT Paramedic – Emergency Services
- Shane McConnell – Emergency Services (inactive as of 01/03/21)
- Teresa McDowell-Gregg – Tax Collections Supervisor



15 Years - David Blanton, Detective, Sheriff's Department; Dereck Jones, Jail Administrator, Sheriff's Department; Simon Hyatt, Network Administrator, Information Technology; Terry Browning, Parks Maintenance Worker, Parks and Recreation;



10 Years - Amy Breedlove, Income Maintenance Caseworker II, DSS; and Costin Jigla, Detention Officer, Sheriff's Department



# Southwestern Community College 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.

"These 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 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.



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.

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## News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House and Senate were on a one week hiatus for the week beginning April 5.

The House and Senate returned to normal operations for the week beginning Monday, April 12. Various committees met beginning on Tuesday, including: Health, Local Government, Education K-12, and Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, the latter of which I am a member.

In committee we heard HB307, NC Time Zone/Observe DST All Year. HB307 would adopt Daylight Savings Time year-round in North Carolina if allowed by Congress. Currently under federal law, states may opt out of observing Daylight Savings Time by state law. Federal law does not currently allow any state to adopt Daylight Savings Time year-round. I voted for the bill and it passed committee. It has two additional committee referrals before it can make its way to the House floor for a vote.

On Tuesday, we voted on the following bills:

– HB20, 1998 Clean Water Bond Add'l Connections, would require the Secretary of Environmental Quality to authorize additional connections to waterlines funded by the Clean Water and Natural Gas Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998 from structures located on lots zoned for residential and mixed-use development. The bill passed by a unanimous vote of 117-0.

– HB32, Equity in Opportunity Act, would make changes to the K-12 Opportunity Scholarship Program by modifying eligibility requirements. The bill gives low-income families and families with students with disabilities the ability to choose the school that is appropriate for their child. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed the House by a vote of 69-49.

For Wednesday's House session, we voted on several bills, including:

– HB141, Promote North Carolina Sawmills, would direct the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings to allow dimension lumber that has not been grade-stamped to be used in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings when meeting certain requirements such as: (i) the lumber is sold directly by a sawmill to the owner of the dwelling to be constructed, (ii) the lumber otherwise meets or exceeds Code

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### We are a nation in crisis

*The Washington Post* recently published an article pointing out that trust in institutions - government, media, the law - has plummeted, and is having a measurable effect on Americans, especially young Americans. For many close observers, the Post reported, "a direct line can be drawn from today's civics crises to a long-standing failure to adequately teach American government, history and civic responsibility." Maybe - but even though a diverse collection of academics, historians, teachers and education leaders subscribe to that premise, I think the problem extends much further and far deeper.

In an interview in 1908, Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931, a U.S. inventor) stated that "the most necessary task of civilization is to teach people how to think." To paraphrase Edison, he believed the mind of a child is naturally active and develops through exercise. That then, he declared, should be the primary purpose of our public schools, to encourage original thought, reasoning and observation, and rely less on memory.

For a long, long time the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (through local PTA's) clearly endeavored to achieve that outcome. The specific aims of the NCPT were to: Promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community; To raise the standards of home life; To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child and (lastly); To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education. That will seem hopelessly passe' to some citizens, so 1940's.

Contemporary thinking insists that, as children skip kindergarten, because of the pandemic, the learning gap widens. Kindergarten didn't exist when and where I became of school age. We began 1st grade late in our 5th year, or early in our 6th, with basic skills common to the era. We knew the alphabet, could print and write in cursive, we knew the colors and knew how to play (never having heard of a play therapist). We also knew the numbers well enough to make change for a dollar. We had toy cash registers which required you to distinguish between coins in order to use it. Approximately 10 years ago I made a 74 cent purchase in a convenience store during a power outage. Imagine my surprise when, after handing the clerk a dollar bill (a girl I knew to be a high school graduate), she handed me back four quarters, four dimes and several pennies. She had no clue what the value of our coins were after 12 years of school. I could make change for a dollar (all of us could) before starting school. Let that sink in.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I entered 1st grade (1945), graduated high school (1957), retired from

the Navy (1980), and finished college (1986). All sorts of political, psychological, social and medical theories have been postulated over the decades to justify what people simply choose to do. The reasons for these classy cop-outs are many: political agendas (oppression as an excuse encourages shifts in political power structures); good business (make something a disease and you can collect insurance for treating in or sell tapes and run workshops about how to recover from it); a need to disavow evil intent (we have no control over evil therefore fear it out of helplessness). Physicians and therapists often use the "disease" classification to charge for treatment - the burden for any personal responsibility therefore - is removed.

The do-gooder, politically correct mentality teaches you never to hold anyone accountable for their behavior, immoral conduct, or mistakes. It means never make anyone feel bad about anything they do no matter how harmful it might be to others. Advocates of this dogma assume all actions are a response to conditions, never a lack of character, courage, conscience, morality, values, lifestyle or (Heaven forbid) choices. They're wrong.

The truth is, people choose their actions and can alter them at will. Nothing negates one's responsibility for or requirement to act with integrity. It's as simple as that. Albert Einstein (1879-1955) observed that "children don't heed the life experiences of their parents, and nations ignore history. Bad lessons have to be learned anew."

Throughout recorded history (some 4,000 years of it anyway) the greatest civilizations bequeathed to their posterity concrete faith supported by a tangible belief that the young would carry on the traditions and customs of their ancestors. In ancient Athens, upon reaching the age of 17, young men took an oath known as "The Athenian Oath." "We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City both alone and with many. We will revere and obey the City's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them of naught. We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only and not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

Once upon a time, America was a prosperous, magnificent federation of states and, like young Athens, had an incomparable sense of character, courage, eloquence and honor. We were a healthy, well-constructed sovereign nation and we were united and strong in a very large part because a lot was expected of our children. I really don't need to finish that thought for you - do I?

David Snell - Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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# GILLESPIE

Continued from  
page 10

requirements. The bill passed unanimously 118-0.

– HB279, COVID-19 Related Tax Changes/Unemployment Insurance Technical Correction, would clarify that the extra credit grants and federal stimulus payments received as COVID-19 relief are not considered income for determining eligibility for property tax exemptions based on income. The bill passed unanimously 118-0.

– HB352, Hotel Safety Issues, would clarify that occupants of accommodations provided by hotels, motels, or similar lodgings do not create a tenancy and are not subject to Chapter 42 of the General Statutes. Additionally, the bill would clarify that these occupancies are governed by the statutes relating to inns, hotels, and other transient occupancies. I voted in favor and the bill passed 81-37.

The House reconvened on Thursday to vote on several bills. Among the bills considered were:

– HB334, Temp Align PPP Treatment to Federal Treatment, would, for the 2020 tax year only, allow individual and corporate taxpayers an income tax deduction for expenses paid using a loan forgiven under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). I voted in favor of the bill and it passed the House by a vote of 111-2.

– HB328, Allow Trade or Exchange of Spirituous Liquor, would allow certain trades or exchanges of lawfully purchased spirituous liquor without obtaining a permit. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed 112-4.

After unanimous approval by the State House and State Senate, Gov. Cooper signed into law legislation that will create a new K-12 summer school option for students who have fallen behind due to remote learning. The Summer School options will include six weeks of in-person and fully-funded summer school and will be available to every family if they so choose.

## Did You Know?

– "North Carolina Train Service Back to Full Schedule" Here's some good news: North Carolina's rail service is back. Amtrak's service is back to its usual schedule with three trains between Raleigh and Charlotte each day with stops in Durham, Greensboro, Kannapolis and other cities along the route.

– "Celebrating the 245th Anniversary of Declaring Independence" On Monday, April 12, 245 years ago, in Halifax, North Carolina, North Carolina became the first colony to call for independence from Great Britain with the Halifax Resolves."

## Recently sponsored legislation

HB417: The Sergeant Mickey Hutches Act  
HB447: The Jeff Rieg Law/Patients Religious Rights  
HB463: 250th Anniv. Am. Rev./Preserve Hist. Properties  
HB476: Broadband Consumer Protection

## Let us know what you think

Do you have a suggestion? Concerned about a particular issue? Contact the office of Karl Gillespie and we will assist you in any way we can.

E-mail: Andrew.Bailey@ncleg.gov Telephone: 919-733-5859

Email letters to the editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

## Earth Day what can we do to help

Since last Earth Day the Atlantic hurricane season saw a record number of storms and the rapid intensification of storms. Dry conditions and record temperatures in the West produced one of the worst fire seasons ever. Sea level rises and entire villages have to relocate. So, what can we do as individuals? First, become informed about the reality of climate change and actions to combat it. Second, get involved personally. The websites of these nonprofits fighting to save our planet provide information and means for involvement: Citizens Climate Lobby, League of Conservation Voters, 350.org, Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council, Nature Conservancy, and others. Citizens Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization that seeks to build political support for climate action through the work of 594 chapters worldwide. We have a chapter here in Sylva (check it out on Facebook at wncccl.weebly.com) and consider joining. Our goal is passage of HR 2307: " To create a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund for the American people in order to encourage market-driven innovation of clean energy technology and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations." The tax on carbon emissions is returned to citizens as a dividend. This bill has 35 co-sponsors in the House but no Republican! The survival of our planet shouldn't be a political issue! In addition to joining a climate advocacy organization there are other specific things we can do as concerned citizens. Plant trees on your land. Do you know that trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen into the air? Another reason we must protect our forests! Do you know that methane gas traps 28 times more heat than carbon dioxide and that the 1.4 billion cattle and other grazers produce methane. Consider using an alternative to dairy milk like Silk - almond, oat, soy, or coconut milk. These products use 80% less water to make than dairy milk and are healthy. Do you know that 18 billion pounds of plastic ends up in the oceans each year, that some of the marine life we eat ingests it, and we do by eating them? More than 40% of the plastic items we use are used just once and less than 10% is recycled. We all can practice the 3 Rs - Reuse, Refuse, Recycle. Take your own tote to the grocery store! Ingles plans to eliminate plastic bags. Refuse plastic straws! Recycle all the plastic that you must use! This Earth Day pledge to make every day an earth day by doing something to protect the only home we've got: learn, sign petitions, recycle, call/write/email Senators Burr and Tillis and Rep. Cawthorn asking them to support HR 2307, join an organization that fights climate change, elect candidates that are pro-environment, plant trees, etc. Together we can win the climate war!

Gene Tunnell – Franklin, N.C.

## Same old stuff

Well, I see that for the last few weeks the opinion letters were fresher and then the staleness returned.

Same old stuff shoveled out that this person is the smartest, brightest, most moral, holiest, and insightful person to ever walk this earth. Hmm...

Along those lines did you know:

That President Lyndon Johnson was absolutely wrong in signing the Civil Rights Act. I mean why allow blacks to vote when they need to be out in the fields picking cotton?

That all hippies in the 60's and 70's were full of all types of drugs and never did anything positive and were all atheists. Darn those long-haired types and that drug-fueled acid rock music they listed to like Grateful Dead and Pink Floyd. Just dreadful! Give me some polkas any day.

That anyone, and I'm dead serious about this, that is NOT a Republican and goes to church on a regular basis is a Commie-loving, morally depraved, pedophile anti-Christ who should be thwarted and extinguished. There is no in between, you are either with the right wing or you are no wing. If you want to try out your gun, you know the variety that has absolutely no use in hunting, then line up a Democrat in your gun sights for Pete's sake. Why are you waiting?

That only certain people in this world, like some that write opinions to this paper, are correct and should be headed without question or hesitation. We should bow down to their wisdom and advice and do everything we are told...pronto! How dare that you should ever doubt!

Now if you believe all of the above that is your prerogative. Of course I will offer you some swamp land to purchase if this fits.

Am I a know at all? Hardly. Let's put it this way...In the highway of life I get in the right lane to allow the scores of people that are way smarter, progressive and creative to pass by me to try and create things that help us all like medicines and labor saving inventions that benefit us all. I do that instead of hanging in the passing lane and inhibit and obstruct those that need it to do much greater things than I will every do.

Yep, there's a lot of people like me in this world. Not the brightest, but smart enough to smell what other people are shoveling and know what the source is.

Robert Wilson – Franklin, N.C.



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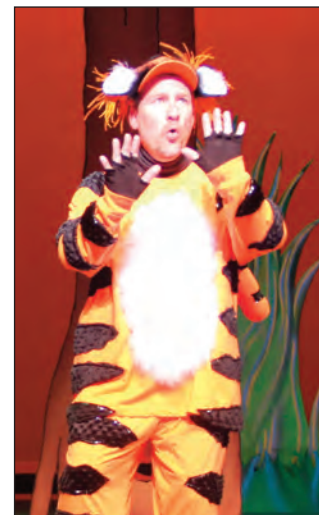
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# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 9 - 19. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



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

### **April 9**

John Paul McCall, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Hedi Johanna Dreml, was charged with all other offenses, warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction, possession of drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

### **April 12**

Jeffery Scott Johnson, was charged with breaking and entering. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

James Cope, was charged with sex offense 1st degree of child. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Robert Brandon Clark, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Jess Harvey Cagle, 48, of Grape Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession/display/altered/fictitious/revoked/drivers license, expired registration card/tag. An unsecured bond of \$250 was set.

### **April 13**

Chastie Ann Cable, was charged with speeding, driving while impaired. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Dennis Paul Kramber, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of methamphetamine. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

### **April 14**

James Walsh, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

### **April 15**

Jody Ray Allen, was charged with driving while license revoked impaired revocation. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Bruce Zachary McDonald, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Clarissa Anne Smith, was issued warrant service, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

### **April 16**

Kyle Jordan Jenkins, was issued warrant service for out of state felony. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

### **April 17**

Dwayne Keith Vitaliano, was charged with felony driving under the influence out of Florida. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Davin Lane Eldridge, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, altered/steal/destroy criminal evidence, possession with intent to sell/distribute marijuana. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

### **April 19**

James Richard Atkinson, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, destroying criminal evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear for probation violation and possession of methamphetamine. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Michael Austin Henry, was charged with possession of stolen goods. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

## **Franklin Police Department**

### **April 11**

Amber Lynn Williamson, 35, was issued a true bill of indictment. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Sargent Ashe made the arrest.

Kendall Luanne Jackson, 26, was issued an order for arrest for indictment for trafficking methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver heroin. A secured bond of \$125,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, 35, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, alter destroy criminal evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia. A secure bond of \$15,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

### **April 12**

Kristian Alexander Dreml, 41, was charged with felony breaking or entering. A secure bond of \$4,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

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

### **April 12**

Lacy Alexis Normand, 25, of Oak Hill Rd., was charged with failure to appear for fail to stop for steady red light, speeding. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Justin Reeves Lambert, 39, of Sunset Farm Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for resist/obstruct/delay, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, exceeding safe speed, reckless driving, felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set.

James David Friedley, 32, of Brandon Dr., Delray Beach, Fla., was charged with breaking and entering of a motor vehicle non-forcible, attempted larceny after breaking and entering, communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$1,000

### **April 13**

Timothy David Kibel, 36, of Sutton Branch Rd., was issued warrant for arrest for domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Greta Lynn Pheasant, 42, of Enoch Oocumma Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Trestan Lavar Moses, 28, of W. 28th St., Charlotte, was charged with failure to appear for drive/allow motor vehicle with no registration, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Lehua Joan Walkingstick, 42, of Snap Lane, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Chadwick Errol George, 47, of Poplar Tree Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for plant

conservation act violation, larceny of ginseng, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Nina Marie Otero, 23, of Mockingbird Rd., was charged with driving while impaired. A \$500 bond was set.

### **April 14**

Nathan Kenneth Ellsworth, 20, of Cross Creek Court, Mills River, was charged with resisting a public officer, drive after consuming under 21, assault with a deadly weapon on a government official, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jacob Nathaniel Bigwitch, 24, of Painttown Rd., Cherokee, was issued warrant service for failure to appear for other jurisdiction, misdemeanor probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

James Robert Justice, 43, of Joe Branch Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to inform of new/changes to online social media accounts.

Mark Allen Winstead, 34, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possible trafficking heroin, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

### **April 15**

Bryson Andrew Perry, 23, of Bourbon Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, felony conspiracy, larceny from the person, conspire to commit felony larceny, robbery with a dangerous weapon. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Colby Edward Bennett, 27, of Grace Court, Tuckasegee, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

### **April 16**

David Ray Sims, 45, of Grassy Creek Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Philip Trevin Young, 30, of His Way Hendersonville, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jacob Hunter Rattler, 28, of Elsie Rattler Rd., Cherokee, was charged with simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, failure to appear for felony breaking and/or entering. A secured bond of \$27,000 was set.

### **April 17**

Mark Stephen Bennett, 50, of Pincushion Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

Sean Thompson Stribling, 22, of Wilson Cemetery Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with trespass of real property, injury to real property, attempted breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Amanda Dawn Clawson, 40, of Hallie Manor Court, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on jail premise, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 40, of Cornis Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

### **April 18**

Austin Eugene Langley, 26, of Heady Mountain Rd., Cashiers, was charged with parole violations. No bond was set.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**St. John's Episcopal Church & Macon New Beginnings** will serve a free meal on April 22, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Franklin First Assembly. The church is located at 1150 E. Main St.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will take an easy 4 to 6 miles hike on Friday, April 23, with an elevation change of 300 ft. on Winding Stair Gap Forest Service Rd., hiking along the logging road for 2-3 miles. This is an in-and-out hike on a wide rolling footpath with some gravel for a leisurely day. Dogs are welcome. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10 a.m., drive 22 miles round trip. For more information or reservations, call Katharine Brown at (828)421-4178.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike on Saturday, April 24, with an elevation change of 1200 ft., on Buckeye Branch, hiking the old Bartram Trail to the new section looking for wildflowers along the way. It is a continuous climb for 2.5 miles where we will have lunch and return. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 10 a.m., drive 18 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call Gail Lehman at (828) 524-5298.

**Macon County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Drop** will be held on Saturday April 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you would like to dispose of your unused, unwanted medications, you will be able to drive thru the parking lot at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building to safely dispose of your medications to the department. This event is part of Safe Kids Macon County's Safety Town event and will be following COVID19 safety protocols.

**Franklin Covenant Church Free Lunch, Food Pantry and Prayer Tent** will be held on Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m. until supplies last. The church is located at 265 Belleview Park Rd.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Food Pantry** will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Drive thru only. Masks are required.

**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](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

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

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

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

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

**CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

**Spiritual Light Center** on Sunday, April 25, 11 a.m. Doug VanOrsdall will speak on "Love & Spirituality." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

**Joyce Igo will Sing at East Franklin Baptist Church** on Wednesday, April 28, 6 p.m. The church is located at 2059 Lakeside Dr.

**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](mailto: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.

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

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

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

**Franklin First United Methodist Church** 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](http://www.firstumcfranklin.org)



**PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE 2021**

The town manager got in touch with me and she said to go ahead and plan to start scheduling bookings for the 2021 season. She had already had it in the budget, so if the state gives us the go ahead, the plan is to start on Memorial Day Weekend. A schedule thru July 4, will follow soon. I'm sure there will be some rules but I'm just excited we get to do it. We have some great concerts booked. A variety of different music. So, like you, I'm looking forward to a great season.

*Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square*

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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

## Plant bulbs now to see Naked Ladies in the fall

**Dr. Bob Gilbert**  
Columnist

In late summer, Naked Ladies will be in bloom all over town. They do have other common names such as Resurrection Flower, Spider Lily, Surprise Lily and Hurricane Lily. These showy plants belong to the Amaryllis family. The genus is Lycoris (lie-core-is) with close to 11 species. There are two general groups — one whose leaves appear in the fall (*Lycoris radicans*) and the other whose leaves are evident in the spring (*Lycoris squirmier*). What is unique about both groups is that the foliage disappears in the late spring to early summer. The bulbs bloom without foliage and seem to appear suddenly. This accounts for one of the common names. In Florida they tend to bloom at the height of hurricane season, hence another common name. Now is the time to plant these bulbs.

The most common Lycoris is the species *radicans*. It has showy 12-18 inches tall red blooms with long stamens that look like spider legs. There are white forms and a dwarf only 6-9 inches tall. Once these are established the bulbs multiply evidenced by the masses of blooms in front of the late Barbara McRae's house. Lycoris have been hybridized resulting in a large number of exotic colors such as blue, golden, various shades of red, pink, orange and yellow. I found these to be short lived. The most reliable Lycoris is the species *radicans*, the red flowering Spider Lily. It is hardy from Zone 5-8, likes full sun and are best planted about 6 inches deep. They can be over planted with annuals or low growing perennials. The bulbs need summer moisture to bloom. During a long dry summer, they



Dr. Bob Gilbert

may not bloom heavily or at all. A good source for Lycoris is Plants Delight Nursery, [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com). They have a large selection and many hybrids. These are popular plants and can be found easily. I think the fun part is that Lycoris is forgotten most of the year and then it surprises you in late August and September with a big display.

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

*Karen Lawrence is a professional photographer from Franklin.*



Naked Ladies (*Lycoris*)

## Black Oral History Project brings 1980s-era recordings to digital age

Western Carolina University's Special and Digital Collections at Hunter Library has digitized a collection of interviews conducted between 1986 and 1989 with Black residents from Western North Carolina, all of whom were older than 69 at the time.

Recorded as part of the Western North Carolina Tomorrow Black Oral History Project are memories of interactions during segregation, life in the mountains as a Black person and the importance of church and school in the community. Their stories are of days spent sharecropping, service in the military and fighting in world wars, the civil rights movement and integration and other social changes in their lifetimes.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to offer interviews conducted by the Western North Carolina Tomorrow Black Oral History Project as part of Hunter Library's Special and Digital Collections," said Jason Brady, interim chief of Special and Digital Collections.

"These interviews give fascinating glimpses into the experiences of African Americans in Western North Carolina through much of the 20th century and contribute to our goal of providing inclusive content to the study of the history and culture of Southern Appalachia."

The recordings are of African American residents who lived in Jackson, Swain, Haywood, Cherokee and Buncombe counties. An example is Dr. Howard Harrison, who was interviewed in 1987. Born in 1903 on Hill Street in Asheville, Harrison later worked his way through college as a barber and a Pullman porter on the railroad. He recalled starting a medical practice in 1941, being drafted into World War II in 1942, and how he returned to

a very segregated Asheville in 1946, where he continued practicing medicine. Dr. Harrison died in 1992.

Another example closer to WCU was Carrie Howell Scruggs (1909-2007) who discussed attending Hill Street School in Sylva and Allen School in Asheville. Scruggs recalls



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892-1669	16	1651	

AME Zion Congregation

church services, wakes and celebrating Fourth of July and Christmas. Scruggs also remembers taking in washing and ironing, and her husband working in the tannery. The collection also includes nine interviews with members of the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cullowhee.

The hope, Brady said, is to further share documentation of the important contributions and historical experience of Black people in WNC, which too often is largely unknown and unrecorded.

For more information, contact Hunter Library's Special and Digital Collections at (828)227-7474 or [specialcollections@wcu.edu](mailto:specialcollections@wcu.edu).

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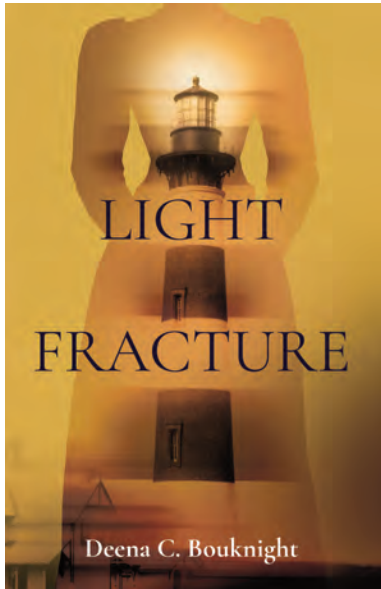


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# New historical novel by local author partially set at Wayah Bald

Lias Larsson, the fictional character in author Deena C. Bouknight's new historical literary novel, *Light Fracture*, to publish April 28, was "fashioned for heights." Trained as a lighthouse keeper in Sweden, Lias takes over the Morris Island lighthouse near Charleston, S.C., just eight months before the most powerful East Coast earthquake on record devastates the historic low country city. A tragic event exiles him to Western North Carolina, where he secures a job at the Wayah Bald fire tower.



*Light Fracture* is the result of several years of research at historic South Carolina libraries and plantations, as well as tours of numerous lighthouses and earthquake-affected buildings. A career writer, Bouknight spent countless hours perusing newspaper articles

from 1886, when the earthquake occurred, and reading first-hand accounts of people who experienced the overwhelming event.

Bouknight, in the book's prologue, explains the motivation for the novel: an assignment 15 years ago to write about, for a South Carolina state magazine, the now-decaying lighthouse at the entrance to Charleston harbor. Plus, little is known about or has been written about the 1886 earthquake. Her intention in writing the novel was to not only capture what author and naturalist Henry David Thoreau dubbed as "sense of place," but also the tenacity of an area that experienced slavery, a Civil War, Reconstruction, and then an earthquake, all in the span of 26 years.

"While living in South Carolina, I delved into the state's 'ugly-beautiful' past through

many of my writing projects and freelance articles, and I try to share in this book both the difficulties and the poignancy," said Bouknight. "*Light Fracture's* plot centers on a teacher hired to educate the children of the lighthouse keeper. I absolutely love history,

so I also desired that readers understand the culture and fascination of lighthouses and fire towers that – pre-modern-technology – were absolutely essential in saving lives. These jobs required strong, dedicated men like Lias Larsson. Lighthouse and tower keepers, in fact, understood that their jobs were lifestyles, not just employment."

Bouknight, who resides in Franklin, bookends her novel's settings at Wayah Bald. In 1913, the first ranger station in the Nantahala National Forest was completed on Wayah Bald, off Wayah Road. In the 1930s, the historic stone Wayah Bald Fire Tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps; it burned in the 2016 fires but was rebuilt.

*Light Fracture* is prose-driven historical fiction, but with a mystery twist. Bouknight pointed out that the teacher's observations and experiences are central to the plot, yet readers are able to ascend lighthouse steps, walk the tower's gallery, feel for themselves the earth move, and see and hear the results of a natural disaster's catastrophic circumstances.

*Light Fracture* will be available locally, beginning in May, at Books Unlimited, as well as at other area retailers and through Amazon.com. Learn of upcoming author book signings by visiting DeenaBouknightWriting on Facebook.

## Gem Capitol

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Carol "Connie" Constance Litteral

Carol "Connie" Constance Litteral, 86, of Franklin, NC, passed away on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. She was born November 22, 1934 in Monroe, N.Y. to the late Donald and Dorothea Smith Calnan. She was the first lady mail carrier in Rochester, NY and she worked for the postal service until her retirement. She loved quilting and knitting. She is survived by her son, William Garland Litteral of Franklin, N.C.; grandson, Alexander Tallmadge, sister, Shirley Mackintosh of California and brother, Edward Calnan of California.



**Carol Constance Litteral**

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Garland Litteral, and a half sister, Linda Burnett.

No services are planned at this time.

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

### Carolyn Juanita Bates Emory

Carolyn Juanita Bates Emory, 77, of Franklin, went home to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Grady and Pearl Watts Bates. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Tabitha Roxanne Emory; brother, Roger Bates; and two sisters, Gail Bates, and Wanda Bleckley. Carolyn lived most of her life in Franklin and was a member of Prentiss Church of God. She loved to sew, shop and will always be remembered for her warm smiles, while meeting people at Angel Medical Center.



**Carolyn Bates Emory**

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, William Perry Emory; son, Randy Emory; two daughters, Melissa Emory, and Rebecca Emory; sister, Connie Conley; and two brothers, Rev. Don Bates, and Rick Bates all of Franklin. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Ryan Coggins, Daniel Bottoms, Katrina Bottoms and Dylan Tallent; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service will be Monday, April 19, at 2pm in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Don Moffitt will officiate.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to one's favorite charity.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Mary Myers Morrow

Mary Myers Morrow, known to family as Mary Frances, went to be with Jesus on Good Friday morning. She was born on October 16, 1945 in Franklin NC to the late Lillie "Pie" and James Charles Myers. She married the love of her life, Jim Morrow, in 1968, and together they shared 45 years of marriage and raised three children in Fairview, N.C. After Jim's death in 2013, she lived in Delaware with her son and his family. In addition to her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by her older brother, Charles.



**Mary Myers Morrow**

She was a graduate of Western Carolina University, where she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education. She taught elementary students in the classroom and as a reading specialist for 30-plus years, primarily at Claxton Elementary. She was an active member of Grassy Branch Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., where she enjoyed many years volunteering as an AWANA teacher, nursery caregiver, and served on the sanctuary flower committee. When Jim was diagnosed with cancer, Mary and Jim together became active participants and leaders of their Asheville Relay for Life Team. Mary was a devoted wife and caregiver for Jim during his battle with cancer.

She loved family vacations at the beach and treating her grandchildren with tokens of her love. She was an avid gardener, and spent many hours weeding her day lilies and irises, and working in the family vegetable garden. She was a connoisseur of green beans, and saved seed each year for her favorite variety, greasy cut-shorts. She loved making pretty things for family and friends, and over the years tried her hand at cross stitch, knitting, polymer clay, beading and more. She loved new experiences, new technology, new places and meeting new people, and was quick to connect and share whether you were another teacher at a national conference, or a vendor at her local farmer's market. And, Mary was feisty – she loved fiercely competitive family card games, spirited conversations and independently breaking the mold for what you might expect from a woman of her time and place.

She is survived by her son, Stephen and his wife, Angela of Middletown, Del.; her daughters, Heather of Portland, Ore., and Holli of Iva, S.C.; her five grandchildren – Andrew, Ethan, Rose, Will and Asa; her brother, Johnny Myers of Franklin; and many nieces and nephews.

A private memorial was held in Franklin and a family graveside service in Fairview.

The family requests memorials be directed to the American Cancer Society - Relay for Life or Meals on Wheels.

### Dorothy McCutcheon Lill

On April 5, 2020, Dorothy McCutcheon Lill passed away in New Orleans, following a brief illness. A New Orleans native, she was 92. She graduated from Newman High School and then from Wellesley College. She went on to earn a Masters Degree in English from Tulane University, along with one in Library Science from Loyola University. She was the head librarian at Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans prior to her retirement in the 1990s. Mrs. Lill had been the beloved wife of Winston C. Lill, Sr. for 62 years prior to his death in 2012. She was predeceased by her mother, Helen Wilson McCutcheon and her father, Dr. Roger Philip McCutcheon. She was the mother of Winston C. Lill, Jr. and Helen Halliday Lill Craige; grandmother of Winston C. Lill III, Branch Craige IV, Dr. Helen Halliday Craige McDonald, and the late Dorothy McCutcheon Craige. Mrs. Lill was also the great grandmother of four.

Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin, North Carolina on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 10:00am.

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

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Peggy A. Houston

Peggy A. Houston, 71, of Franklin, N.C., went to her eternal heavenly home on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Born in Bryson City, Swain County, to the late Ed and Stella Johnson Parton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Flevia Parton; two brothers, Sterling "Blue" Parton and Sam Parton; and three infant siblings, Robert, Nathaniel, and Cora Lee Parton. She was also preceded in death by her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Bernice Bradley Houston, and Garfield Houston.

She was a longstanding member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for many years, introducing Jesus to many children. Through the years, she spent many years employed as a caretaker, and was also employed at several manufacturing companies, as well as part time at the Cowee School lunchroom. She enjoyed gardening, canning, cooking, and helping others. She was an amazing wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

She was the beloved wife of 47 years, to Dewey L. Houston. She is survived by five sisters, Louise Dyer of Bryson City, Elta Caulder (Melvin) of Randleman, Doris "Dot" Dyer (Thurman) of Bryson City, Jessie Brendle (Lonnie) of Bryson City, and Brenda Stephens of Bryson City; and two brothers, Harold Parton (Marilyn) and Danny Parton (Joanne) both of Bryson City. Peggy is also survived by a sister-in-law, Wanda McWilliams (Richard) of Franklin; special family friend and caregiver, Jody Crisp of Franklin; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Rev. Tom Nahlen and Rev. Charles Stevens officiated. Burial was in the Oak Grove Baptist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Cowee Fire and Rescue Department Officers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Cowee Volunteer Fire and Rescue, 208 Mason Branch Rd., Franklin, NC, 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.



Peggy A. Houston

## Emma Jean Wood Taylor "Mimies"

Emma Jean Wood Taylor "Mimies", 78, of Dillard, Ga. passed away Thursday, April 15, 2021. She was born April 22, 1942 in Highlands, N.C., to the late Eugene C. Wood and Mamie Houston Wood. She was a Co-owner/Secretary for C Taylor Construction for many years. She was a Godly lady, and was a member of Newman's Chapel Baptist Church. Throughout her life, she has been an active member of the Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher and choir member. Jean was a true light in the lives of her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Teresa Dodgins and husband Terrell; five grandchildren, Steven, Taylor (Kayla), Preston (Lauren), Brandon (Alex) and Jeanilee Fenoglio; four great-grandchildren, Remington, Juliana, Hunter and Hiker Fenoglio. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Taylor. She is survived by her lifelong, faithful friend Opal Dodgins.

Funeral services were held at Newman Chapel Baptist Church with the Rev. Dennis Ledford officiating. Burial followed at the Newman Chapel Cemetery, Otto, NC.

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



Emma Jean Taylor

## Marshall P. Henson

Marshall P. Henson, 80, of Franklin, N.C., went to his heavenly home on January 6, 2021.

Born in Highlands, NC, he was the son of the late Frank and Edith Norton Henson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Jennings Henson and daughter, Sabrina Garner.

He had a love of gospel music. He started the music profession as The Happy Tones, and later as Marshall Henson and the Temples, and then went on to tour with Gem City. He was the owner of Henson Tire in Franklin.

He leaves behind many family and friends, who will miss him dearly.

A Celebration of Life will be 7 pm, Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m., at Sonny's Music Lounge, 203 Sloan Rd., Franklin, N.C. Former Gem City musicians will be performing. Doors will be open at 6:30pm.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Marshall P. Henson

## Fred R. (Buddy) Hobbs

Fred R. (Buddy) Hobbs, 78 of Franklin, N.C. passed away on April 12, 2021, after a long battle with cancer. He was born in Jacksonville Fla.; raised on a cotton farm in Harlingen, Texas; before returning to Jacksonville when he was 9 and in 3rd grade where he met his future wife Linda Wiesenfeld.

After his Air Force days, he settled in Jacksonville, but his adventurous side would no longer be silent. He pulled his trailer up to Alaska and never looked back. He built a log cabin and went to work as an accountant for the State Ferry System; and then managed the State Educational center supplying schoolbooks and other educational needs of children who lived out in the bush. He climbed mountains and glaciers. He stayed till he retired, then meandered back south. After retirement he went to Peru and went down the Amazon with a small college class studying entomology (specifically spiders.) He then got them to drop him off to spend two weeks in the jungle alone. This is an example of his lifestyle. While home in Jacksonville visiting family, he re-met Linda (after 30 years.) they were married and enjoyed 3 years meandering together up to Alaska, until settling here; near her parents.

His favorite place to be was with his wife Linda or in a sleeping bag in the woods of Alaska.

He had a caregiver's heart. He enrolled at Southwestern to become a CNA. For 15 Years he cared for and loved all his patients. He found last year he had cancer, but he would not leave his patients. He was a kind and honorable man. A true gentleman.

He was also very creative in poetry, woodworking and landscaping.

He always had a special love for animals. He was a longtime and very active member of the International Wolf Center. For the past 20 years, he would often take in "any dog or kitties who needed help". He and Linda would take them to Dr. Stagnitta for their shots, meds, to get them chipped, spayed or neutered; then would look for a good home for them. They would often keep those that they couldn't find a home for.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert S. Hobbs and Daughter Cynthia Ann Trask.

He is Survived by his wife Linda of Franklin; his son, Michael Hunter of Jacksonville Fla.; his step-son, Michael Verner of Jacksonville, FL.; grandsons, Ryan, Nicolas and Jacob; granddaughter, Breana; and his great grandchildren, Amelia and David. Also surviving are two cousins, Kim Hoffecker and Mark Alden; who Buddy was really close to.

A memorial service will be at a later date.

Memorials can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Fred R. (Buddy) Hobbs



View obituaries online at [themaconcountynews.com](http://themaconcountynews.com)

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## John Hunter Nemechek leads KBM 1-2-4 finish at Richmond

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

John Hunter Nemechek earned his second NASCAR Camping World Truck Series win in the last four races and had to hold off his boss Kyle Busch to do so Saturday afternoon. Nemechek scored the victory by a slim .307-seconds over Busch in the ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway.

Nemechek, 23, led a race best 114 of the 250 laps in his No. 4 KBM Toyota, reclaiming the lead for good with 17 laps remaining after racing back from a late race pit stop. Busch, who has 12 wins overall at Richmond – six in the NASCAR Cup Series and six in the Xfinity Series – was pushing for his first truck series win at the three-quarter mile track.

The KBM truck team has now won four consecutive races – two for Nemechek (Las Vegas also), Busch (Atlanta) and Martin Truex Jr. (Bristol).

For a while it looked like KBM may earn a sweep – with Nemechek, Busch and teammate Chandler Smith running 1-2-3 in the waning laps, but Tyler Ankrum got around Smith with a handful of laps remaining to take third place. Smith held on for fourth place – the 19-year old's best finish of the season.

Former series champion Johnny Sauter finished fifth, followed by Todd Gilliland, Ben Rhodes and last year's Richmond winner Grant Enfinger. Sam Mayer and Austin Hill rounded out the Top-10. Reigning series champion Sheldon Creed was 11th.

The victory for Nemechek comes just three weeks after his wife gave birth to their first child, daughter Aspen, and they were trackside in the family motorhome for Nemechek's first win as a dad.

"It's a never give up attitude," a smiling Nemechek said after the race. "I just can't thank Kyle, everyone at Toyota and all our great partners. It's pretty cool to be able to come out and

here do what we did. We had a really fast truck and I'm super proud of all my guys and thankful for them."

The race featured two very different halves. Defending winner Enfinger led 71 of the first 73 laps and earned the Stage 1 victory – his first of the year – in a clean opening to the event. The first caution was the stage break.

Busch's team got his truck out first from that opening stage caution period, but Nemechek took the lead from his team owner on a restart at lap 100 and held it for most of the duration of the event. Nemechek won Stage 2, finishing just ahead of Enfinger and claiming his series best sixth stage win.

Nemechek had to really earn the top position from there on out – holding off the field again and again and again. There were seven cautions in the last 110 laps of the race.

Matt Crafton and his ThorSport Racing teammate Johnny Sauter – along with Smith – gambled not to pit late on a caution with 55 laps remaining in the race. Nemechek and Busch and most of the frontrunners opted to pit. The KBM teammates restarted ninth and 10th with Nemechek reclaiming the lead with 17 laps to go.



John Hunter Nemechek, driver of the #4 Safeway Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series ToyotaCare 250 at Richmond Raceway on April 17, 2021 in Richmond, Virginia.

Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images



Busch made a run at Nemechek after getting around Smith, but was ultimately unable to get close enough to attempt a winning pass.

"It's awesome," Busch said of his truck team's streak. "I joked with John Hunter at the beginning of the year that if you win one and then I win one and you win one and then I win one – it would be pretty good to go back and forth.

"I didn't think he was serious, but so far that's kind of the way it's going so I guess I get Kansas (win)."

The two-win tally equals the second-generation NASCAR driver's season best – and this is only the sixth race of 2021. Nemechek now holds a 20-point advantage over fellow two-race winner Rhodes in the championship standings with the next race set for May 1 at Kansas Speedway (7:30 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Alex Bowman steals Richmond win from dominant Hamlin  
An emotional Alex Bowman could only shake his head and give kudos to the crew of his No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet following a dramatic victory over Denny

Hamlin Sunday in the Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway.

Bowman took the lead for the first time all race on a restart with 10 laps remaining and easily pulled away from Hamlin, who had been the day's most dominant driver. Bowman's .381-second winning margin earned the 27-year old his first victory of the season, third of his career and first ever on a short track. He is the eighth different race winner in nine NASCAR Cup Series races this season.

"To be honest with you, we were terrible on short runs," said Bowman, who had to overcome a pit road speeding penalty as well. "We restarted third and I'm like, if we get out of here with a solid top-five we'll be good. We overcame a lot today.

"I don't know if [crew chief] Greg [Ives] pumped the pressures way up or what he did, but that's more grip than I've ever had in a race car at Richmond and it worked out really well."

It was an especially tough runner-up finish for Hamlin, considering how strong he'd been all day, and all season. Hamlin, who swept the two stages wins and led a race high 207 of the 400 laps, had to be thinking he may have finally secured his first victory of 2021. He held the race lead taking the green flag for that last restart, only to be passed easily by Bowman.

The second-place finish is the eighth top-five finish in the opening nine races for the Joe Gibbs Racing driver Hamlin – an all-time record for top fives to start the season without a win.

"We just didn't take off quite as good there at the end," an obviously disappointed Hamlin said. "I tried to warm it up and do everything that I could – just the 48 (Alex Bowman) had a little more on those last few laps and I couldn't hold the bottom."



Alex Bowman, driver of the #48 Ally Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond Raceway on April 18, 2021 in Richmond, Virginia.  
Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

"Once he got the position, we were just shut down there. Great job by this FedEx Ground team. First and foremost, we want to think of all of the families in Indy right now. Awful tragedy to happen there. Our thoughts and prayers are with these names. We will get them. We will keep digging. We are dominating – just have to finish it."

Penske Racing's Joey Logano, who led 49 laps and for much of the closing portion of the race looked as he would settle the trophy with Hamlin, instead finished third, followed by Hamlin's JGR teammates Christopher Bell and Martin Truex Jr., who led 108 laps.

Stewart-Haas Racing's Aric Almirola finished sixth – his best effort of the season, followed by Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron, JGR's Kyle Busch, Wood Brothers Racing's Matt DiBenedetto and Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon to round out the top 10.

The late race caution – and the drama it created – was especially ironic considering most of the event had gone caution free.

Early on it was a duel between the Gibbs teammates and then Logano, who took the battle to Hamlin late.

"The adjustments they made on that final pit stop definitely made it start firing off really well," Logano said of



Bowman. "He started to pay the penalty the last couple laps but he was so far out, it didn't matter.

"We were just so close with the Shell Pennzoil Mustang and wanted to get our Ford in victory lane here. We led some laps, made the pass on Denny Hamlin. He and I had a lot of fun with it going back and forth.

"I just hate being that close," Logano added.

With his runner-up effort Hamlin holds a commanding 81-point lead over Truex and 82-point advantage over Logano in the championship standings.

The series' next race is the GEICO 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway on Sunday (2 p.m. ET, FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FICTIONAL MONSTERS

#### ACROSS

1. "Turkey" dance
5. X minus III
8. Accounting acronym
11. Angel's glow
12. Like list of chores
13. Inside info
15. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
16. Heavy Metal band Quiet \_\_\_\_\_
17. \*Worn by monster hunters and dragonslayers
18. \*Sea monster with atomic breath
20. Brooms and cauldrons to a witch, e.g.
21. Subject of biographies, pl.
22. \_\_\_\_ of Aquarius
23. Saudi's southern neighbor
26. Ceremonial flight
30. "I" problem
31. Sweet-talk
34. Marine eagle
35. The Revenge of the \_\_\_\_\_, 1984
37. \_\_\_\_ you sure?
38. Desires
39. Russia's Romanov, e.g.
40. Comfy pants
42. Preceding month
43. Google Maps predecessor, pl.
45. Blackbird-like birds
47. Crow sound
48. Group of professionals
50. Like a bow string
52. \*Witch of Russian fairytales
55. \_\_\_\_ con carne
56. G in 1000 g., e.g.
57. Loose hood
59. Was rebroadcasted

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60. Prospector's mother?
  61. Bassoon cousin
  62. Nod up and down
  63. \*He played Dracula and Count Dooku
  64. \*Like Sendak's Things
- #### DOWN
1. England's favorite drink, in French
  2. \*Addams Family's Lurch: "You \_\_\_\_?"
  3. A dish of stewed meat
  4. Waddle
  5. Bridal veil fabric
  6. Objects of worship
  7. Just a little
  8. Michael Douglas' 1978 mystery thriller
  9. Like the Weasleys of
  10. Second qtr. calendar month
  12. Alex Trebek's forte
  13. Drooping
  14. \*Jeepers \_\_\_\_, sing.
  19. Coats with Zn
  22. Tap order
  23. Yiddish busybody
  24. Opposite of digest
  25. Like high ground
  26. Pestilence pest
  27. Lock horns
  28. Darlene or Jacob of Ozark
  29. MCAT and LSAT
  32. \*Amity Island fish
  33. Bonanza find
  36. \*Transylvanian blood-sucker
  38. Shylock's practice
  40. Use a Singer
  41. Up until now, 2 words
  44. Like luxurious sheets
  46. Another name for manatee, 2 words
  48. Not kayak
  49. Follow rules
  50. Shakespearean "you"
  51. What snob puts on
  52. \*Minotaur is half man, half \_\_\_\_
  53. Mongolian desert
  54. Deserter's acronym
  55. \_\_\_\_, The Beloved Country
  58. Zeppelin predecessor

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