



Matt Kolodzick, seventh grade science teacher at Macon Middle School, hands an award to Julia Williamson at Wednesday's farewell parade. The drive-thru parades were being held at schools all over the county to allow students and teachers to tie up loose ends and say good bye. For more photos, see page 12.
 Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Memorial Day: Honoring heroes past and present

National Commander Bill Oxford
 The American Legion

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today – America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like anyone of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who

See HEROES page 5

School Board weighs graduation options

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

When the Macon County School Board met on Monday evening, two agenda items were discussed at length – graduation ceremonies for Franklin High School (FHS) Seniors; and how to re-open schools in August.

Since the county is unsure of exactly when each phase of reopening the state will take place, the board came up with three different options for FHS Seniors. They decided to take a poll and ask graduating seniors which option they preferred. The poll will be sent to each senior via school email and the options will also be posted on Facebook. This survey was sent on Tuesday, May 19, with results tallied on the following Friday. The board asks parents to have a conversation with their child regarding the best decision for their family. The results of this survey are nonbinding. The decision to hold the ceremony will include input from students in the form of this survey. Other factors will include state and local guidance dictated by the rate of the COVID-19 outbreak. Survey results and a final decision regarding Franklin High School commencement ceremonies will be announced during the continued meeting of The Macon County Board of Education which will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at 9 am

in the Board Room of the Macon County Schools Administrative Offices.

The three options include:

– Option 1- June 13

Each senior would have a mask, which are being donated by community members. Each senior would be dropped off at a designated spot on campus. Social distancing would be required throughout the event.

Each senior would be allowed one car for their parents to ride in. These cars would be assigned a parking spot alphabetically. The cars would file in by the Senior's last name on a route through campus and entering the track.

As each Senior's name is called, the family, in the car the entire time, would then pull onto the track and have a "front row" view of the Senior receiving the diploma. Then the family would return to their parking spot and listen to the remaining commencement on the radio.

Seniors would be seated 8-10 feet apart on the football field. This social distancing would be maintained the entire commencement. Seniors would be seated so that no more than 10 are on each side of the field within each 10-yard line.

See SCHOOL BOARD page 2

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Group honors senior care workers, residents

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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

Once the commencement ceremony is complete, seniors would return to their families' respective cars, maintaining proper social distance. The cars would then have a drive-in event to showcase the seniors.

The ceremony would be recorded by BackLot Cinemas and aired at a later date for the community to view.

– Option 2 – June 6th or June 13th

Seniors would drive on to campus, with family in one car. The student would exit the car at a designated location and pick up their diploma. Photographs with school administrators would be allowed.

Students would reenter their car and leave campus

– Option 3 – August 1

An event on this date may be similar to Option 1 or 2 above. An event on this date might also allow for parents to be seated in the stands depending upon Executive Orders and state and local health requirements regarding social distancing and mass gathering limitations in place in August.

Re-opening schools

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin spoke at length about different scenarios that could be possible for reopening schools in August. A preliminary plan was issued to the board by the Department of Health and Human Services along with the CDC's interim guidance plan, to assist with discussion of the options. Some considerations, if everything goes well this summer, would be the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) for employees and students. The board could be required to supply the PPE's. This could include masks, hand sanitizer, gloves or possibly protective eyewear. Dr. Baldwin stated "it would be extremely expensive if that was something we were required to do." Screening is another issue, to help determine if anyone was actually carrying COVID 19. Purchasing thermometers could be required, but that might not be good enough because many people do not have symptoms of COVID 19 even though they may test positive.

Even though schools might open on Aug. 17, will families be comfortable sending their children to school?

"How will we address someone who is not comfortable sending their child where they might be contaminated by COVID 19?" said Baldwin. "Will we provide them with remote learning for those families? What will we do with staff who have underlying conditions and cannot work? What if a doctor tells

them they may not work if they have diabetes or a heart condition? Particularly bus drivers, many of the bus drivers are over 65 and have these underlying conditions. Will we be able to transport our students?"

The social distancing requirement that the CDC and the Department of Public Health recommends would make it difficult to transport children on buses. With the smaller mandated class sizes, it might mean the schools will have to provide staggered schedules. Some of the proposals that Dr. Baldwin has seen would have only elementary students (K-6) starting with in-person instruction and grades seven and up having remote learning from home. Alternate day scheduling may be implemented where one group of students come to school the first week and the next group comes the second week and another group the third week. The alternate day scheduling would allow for students to be quarantines for 14 days before coming back to school. During the remote learning the schools would have to provide both digital and non-digital instruction for those without internet.

"That would add a tremendous work load for teachers who would have to provide in person learning and then provide remote learning materials for those groups at home," noted Baldwin. "Another option would be when there are kids in the building the kids won't change classrooms; instead the teachers would go from classroom to classroom rather than move the kids."

Other considerations include meals for students. During remote learning how do schools provide students with their breakfast and lunches? If students are on campus, will they be able to eat in the cafeteria as they have done in the past? Many students might go hungry if there are rolling closures because a number of students test positive for COVID 19 and schools are forced to once again close. What might trigger that decision, how many kids need to test positive before the county decides to close schools?

"I am not ready to make that decision. I have not seen any guidelines on how to make that decision," said Baldwin.

School Board Member Fred Goldsmith posed another question.

"It might not be the kids, what if we have half a dozen teachers who are out sick with COVID, how do you find substitutes?" he asked.

Many of the substitutes themselves are over 65 and would be at risk.

Another issue is the sanitization of buses and facilities. Todd Gibbs, director of secondary curriculum, is working on obtain-

ing sanitizers that would work on facilities and buses if there is another outbreak.

And once school starts back up, how do educators address the trauma, depression, emotional distress and sometime abuse from the current and future quarantine that they may be dealing with?

"We know that kids have fallen behind academically, but we also know that this has been an extremely stressful event on our parents on our children and they have been at home together for over two months and they have another two and a half, three months to go. How is that going to impact them and how are we going to deal with those impacts when we start school in August?" said Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin said he was providing this information so that the board can make good decisions and put their students in the best possible scenario on Aug. 17.

"I'm sure that you and your staff, this board, and our teachers will come through," Goldsmith added.

Superintendents will be in contact with Department of Education and legislators over the summer and Dr. Baldwin wants kids back in the classroom in August, but he wants it to be safe for students and staff. Right now there are a lot of questions about how to do that and few answers. He noted that this has been a tremendous burden on parents, students and teachers and if they have to do this again in the fall it would have a detrimental impact on the academic future of Macon County's school children.

Two more cases of COVID-19 in Macon County bring total to five

Macon County Public Health has received two positive test results this week for coronavirus (COVID-19) bringing the total number of cases in the county to five since the pandemic began.

On Friday, May 15, a resident between the ages of 25-49 tested positive, is symptomatic, and will isolate at home for 14 days. On Sunday, May 17, the fifth positive resident had close contact with another person who previously tested positive for COVID-19. They both are following isolation instructions and are under the guidance of MCPH. No further information will be released about these individuals.

Macon County Public Health is working to identify close contacts of the individual. The CDC defines close contact as being within approximately 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer. County health officials will assess risks of exposure, determine which if any additional measures are needed such as temperature and symptom checks, quarantine and/or testing.



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Crabtree observes firsthand impact of COVID-19 in New York

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After spending the last few weeks in New York City, Stephanie Crabtree returned home to Franklin over the weekend. Crabtree, who works in the trauma center at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center on her way to becoming a flight nurse, travelled to New York City to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of May.

After spending her wedding anniversary, Mother's Day, and three weeks away from her family and friends – Crabtree said the hardest part of her experience wasn't the long 12-hour shifts, but rather missing her family.

"Leaving my family and being away from my kids and husband was definitely the hardest part of the entire experience," said Crabtree.

Crabtree arrived in New York City during a time experts considered conditions around COVID-19 to be improving – something Crabtree was able to experience firsthand.

"When I first arrived up there I was taking care of pretty easy patients," said Crabtree. "But by the end we were orienting in ICU and ready to take full ICU patients. So it was interesting to see the full spectrum of patients that were there. Also, it was starting to loosen up as far as restrictions go and more people were beginning to get out towards the end of the four weeks. They are close to being able to open back up."

As the epicenter of the pandemic outbreak for the United States, much of what New York is experiencing is portrayed on the news and in the headlines. When asked what the biggest difference was in what she has seen on the news versus what she has experienced first-hand – Crabtree said it was the overall impact the virus has.

"I think the biggest thing is just seeing how this virus affects everyone differently," said Crabtree. "We had at least three people in their 30s in the ICU that were intubated on ECMO [Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation] on dialysis and very critical. And then we also had one of our guys who tested positive before he left and he spent two weeks on quarantine and did not have a single symptom. No fever, no cough, nothing. But we see that with other viruses too. It just depends on how your body responds to the virus. Some people respond in a good way and are able to fight it and some people's immune systems overreact and cause the damage to organs. But it's definitely not a death sentence if you get it and that seems to be something a lot of people think."

When Crabtree first headed to New York City, the hospital she works at in Georgia had yet to experience any significant number of COVID-19 cases. While in New York, Gainesville was identified as a "hot spot" and identified as a potential for an outbreak due to a rapid increase in case numbers. The number of new cases in the Gainesville area increased exponentially each week during April, according to state data. By the beginning of May, nearly four dozen patients had died in the area's dominant hospital system.

Hall County, which includes Gainesville, experienced a dramatic increase in confirmed cases in the past five weeks. Dur-



Nurse Stephanie Crabtree all decked out in her PPEs (personal protective equipment). Crabtree returned home last weekend from a stint in New York treating COVID-19 patients.

ing the week of March 29, the county recorded 86 new cases, or 12 a day. The daily average increased to 22 the following week, then 47 and then 61. At the beginning of May, Hall County confirmed 662 new cases, or 95 a day — more than a seven-fold increase in five weeks.

Georgia officials set up a mobile hospital and sending in reinforcements: as many as 100 physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.

Crabtree said despite the news surrounding Hall County, nurses are still being sent home from shifts, a sign of improvement.

"I actually have a week and a half off before I have to go back to Gainesville," she said. "But I have heard that it is picking up a little down there. But I still see on my schedule where they are canceling people's shifts. So it's definitely not crazy or overwhelming from what I hear."

Crabtree said the biggest question she gets asked is if going to New York changed her perspective on the virus, to which she answers, "no."

"I think the best thing we can do now is to focus on our immune health, eating healthy, exercising, doing things that boost our immune system and help us fight viruses," said Crabtree. "The healthier you are when you get this the more likely you are to beat it. And the

more healthy we all are the less of an impact this will have on our healthcare system."

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HEROES

Continued from page 1

sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was **Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams**. The Navy Reserve corpsman was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like **Lieutenant Sharon Lane**.

According to her biographer, Philip Bigler, Lt. Lane threw herself into her work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the

healthcare industry. Grocers, first responders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air – military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. **Corporal Jason Dunham** was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.

On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later.

Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in stateside camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19.

This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them.

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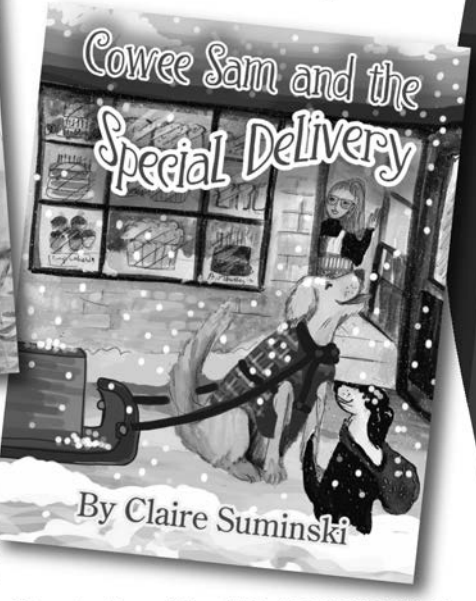
Donnie Clay, coordinator for the Town of Franklin's Pickin' on the Square, has posted a potential schedule. When the Town gets the go-ahead, notices will be posted in the media and on the town's website. The following is what is scheduled through August.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 30 | Frog Town (bluegrass) |
| June 6 | Michael Reno Harrel (Singer, songwriter, storyteller) |
| June 13 | Elderly Brothers (Beach, Oldies) |
| June 20 | Open |
| June 27 | Lisa & the Boys (Blues, Country, Variety) |
| July 4 | The Remnants (Motown, Oldies) Held at the Park |
| July 11 | Tugalo Holler (bluegrass) |
| July 18 | Friends (Conrad, Donnie, Mike & Sara) |
| July 25 | Darren Nicholson (Country/Bluegrass) |
| August 1 | The Upbeats (R&R and Oldies) |
| August 8 | The Moonpie (Variety) |
| August 15 | Hurricane Creek Band (Oldies) |
| August 22 | Aubrey Eysenman (Americana) |
| August 29 | Blue Eyed Soul (Oldies) |

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Macon County Schools look to be in good financial shape

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

With more than \$1 million in funding coming from the CARES Act, Macon County Schools said that not only is the school system in a good financial position in the coming year – but they should be in a good position for the next two years.

The Macon County Board of Education discussed budget challenges during Monday night’s school board meeting at which point Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin informed board members that CARES Act funding – federal funding budgeted for relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic – would help the school system continue operating soundly over the next two years. Dr. Baldwin noted that the planning allotment for the federal funds – which are being distributed by the state – is more than \$1 million and will be used over the next two years.

Statewide, \$75 million was allocated for school nutrition programs, \$70 million for summer learning programs and \$30 million for local schools to purchase computers and other devices for students. Dr. Baldwin said the funds for computers and other devices from the CARES Act will take the place of the \$275,000 in cuts to capital outlay on the county level with additional funding also budgeted for mental health services, which Dr. Baldwin said will likely cover the cost for employees to address mental health

needs of students for at least the next two years.

While \$275,000 was cut from the county’s capital outlay budget for the school system, the county intends to leave flat their allocation for the school board’s operating budget, which sits at \$8.2 million.

Macon County Schools finance director Angie Cook said that the additional CARES Act funding will help offset revenue losses at around \$20,000 that is generally allocated through federal timber fund sales as well as forfeitures and fines from the county.

One uncertainty in the school system’s budget surrounds pending legislation regarding K-3 classroom sizes. Over the last few years, the state has passed regulations regarding smaller classroom sizes, which has

left districts across the state hard-pressed to fund the mandates. Dr. Baldwin said that while hopeful the state will once again delay the requirements, which would require Macon County to hire additional personnel, in the event they do not delay implementation, Macon County will likely be able to fund the positions out of existing funds.

North Carolina House Representative Kevin Corbin noted that the House proposed legislation to delay the K-3 classroom requirement, however, the measure did not get approval in the Senate, leaving the mandate on track for implementation this fall.

CARES Act funding will help the school system continue operating soundly over the next two years

Franklin High School stadium sound equipment stolen; no leads

Diane Peltz
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, May 14, Franklin High School Coach Josh Brooks, was preparing for one of the upcoming Thursday Nights Under the Lights at the football field press box, when he discovered empty shelves which normally hold the loud speaker equipment. The shelves had previously held two amplifiers, a wattbox, and a processor, which were all missing.

“Without this stuff, there is no sound in our stadium – to host graduation or any other event. Right now there would have to be an external system set up outside the pressbox,” said Brooks.

The cost to replace the equipment will be between \$5,000-\$7,000. Insurance could cover the theft but the deductible is about as high as the cost to replace. A police report was filed with the Macon County Sheriff’s Department, but officials are not able to determine when the robbery took place. The last time Coach Brooks used the equipment was back in November at a football game. The equipment could have been taken anytime since November. It had not been used for the Thursday Nights Under the Lights, but there were plans to use it at the next Thursday event.

With athletics on hold during the COVID 19 restrictions, the replacement equipment is not as urgent an issue as it would have



Coach Josh Brooks discovered empty shelves when he entered the press box last Thursday at the Panther Pit. The missing sound equipment is valued at around \$7,000.

been during a normal school year.

The one pressing issue might be that if graduation ceremonies are going to be held soon, the speaker system would be needed for the ceremony.

FHS Athletic Director Blair King also said he would like for whoever stole the equipment to please just return it, drop it off at the football field and no questions will be asked.

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Franklin churches consider reopening in light of judge's ruling

Deena C. Bouknight, Contributing Writer

Under N.C. Governor Roy Cooper's May 5 order, retail businesses previously considered nonessential were allowed to open, but are required to be capped at 50% capacity. However, gatherings of more than 10 people are still prohibited, meaning church services are allowed only if they are outside and congregants remain at least six feet apart. Therein lies the rub for church leadership and the many people who attend churches in Macon County. In fact, several churches and pastors in other parts of the state filed a federal lawsuit last Thursday, May 14, challenging those restrictions and arguing that the limits violated their congregants' rights to worship freely.

Then, on Saturday, May 16, U.S. District Judge James Dever III granted a temporary restraining order for Gov. Cooper's restrictions. According to a local news report: "In the court order, Judge Dever said "plaintiffs have established that (1) they are likely to succeed on the merits of their claim that the assembly for religious worship provisions in EO 138 violates their rights under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment; (2) they are likely to suffer irreparable harm absent a temporary restraining order; (3) the balance of the equities tips in their favor; and (4) a temporary restraining order is in the public interest."

Judge Dever commented after the ruling, "This court does not doubt that the governor is acting in good faith to lessen the spread of COVID-19 and to protect North Carolinians,



First United Methodist pastor David Beam said that most churches in Macon County have not "closed" per se. Services and Sunday school are available online. Plus, First Methodist is still involved in ministry and missions. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

but restrictions inexplicably applied to one group and exempted from another do little to further these goals and do much to burden religious freedom."

Gov. Cooper's press office responded with, "While our office disagrees with the decision, we will not appeal, but instead urge houses of worship and their leaders to voluntarily

follow public health guidance to keep their members safe."

According to the judge's ruling, the order shall remain in place for no longer than 14 days. Another hearing is set for the case on May 29 at 11 a.m.

"I'm happy about the judge's ruling," said Fred Balke, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran. He plans to listen to Gov. Cooper's press conference regarding the end of Phase 1 of the Stay at Home Order, which officially ends at 5 p.m. Friday, May 22; but Balke is hopeful Good Shepherd will be open for a service this Sunday.

He explained that since the church building is large and the congregation is small, hosting a safe service is doable. "We will be able to spread out, and we will have plenty of hand sanitizer."

Balke said he expects his elderly attendees to "trickle in" over the next several weeks as they become more comfortable with venturing out.

Discover Church pastor Ben Windle announced Sunday that after meeting extensively with staff members a questionnaire would be mailed out to attendees to learn what scenarios might be readily acceptable when the church building reopens. For example, he stated that the lobby coffee station may not be, at least temporarily, self-serve, and that there could be hand sanitizer stations and seats spaced apart.

Windle said the most asked question is "When will school start back?" indicating people are anxious to begin fellowshipping in person again. He said in his Monday May 18 e-mail communication with attendees: "I know that most of us

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want a rock solid date. But as you know, things are changing every day. While it's within our rights to gather for services, it's also completely legal to have a brown bear as a pet. We just want to make sure we do so in a way that's safe and a win for everyone. Not the bear thing, the church thing. We've ordered extra hand sanitizer stations, more and specialized cleaning supplies to completely sanitize the entire building between services, forehead thermometers to quickly know if volunteers or kids have a fever, masks for volunteers, prepared to have a different no-contact greeting at the door, serve coffee to you instead of self-serve ..."

David Beam, pastor of First Methodist, pointed out that even though Judge Dever granted a temporary restraining order for Gov. Cooper's restrictions on church gatherings, he and other church leaders have no immediate plans to offer in-person services.

"Just because you can doesn't mean you should," said Beam. "We have many at-risk who attend church here, both older and younger, so we have been talking to three medical professionals in our church and right now do not have plans worked out regarding dates. It may be July before we meet again. The great leadership here is keeping in mind practical, commonsense, pragmatic, and sensible considerations."

Beam stressed that First Methodist, like most churches in Macon County, have not "closed" per se. Two services and Sunday school are available online on Sundays; plus, First Methodist is still involved in ministry and missions. "There is no doubt we are all looking forward to being back together, but we're just going to be cautious and calculated in how we do that."

First Presbyterian Church is following the advice of its denomination, health experts, and governmental phasing plans, according to Pastor Tempe' Fussell. "This is consistent with the gospel imperative to reach out to and support the vulnerable and suffering, and to protect as many as possible from the same suffering. To this end we are not worshipping outside as there are impediments to safe distancing. When the state guidelines permit up to 50 to gather, we will have two services in our facilities (in two different worship spaces). Worshipers will be coached to arrive in staggered ways and to practice safe measures. There will be music, but no singing of hymns. In the future we will continue online services that will be aired on our website and our Facebook page. As long as we are unable to come together as a full congregation, we will also continue, Monday mailings, Tuesday and Thursday emails, and Friday Bible study."

"This time, although tragic for many, has refocused us on our mission to share the love of Jesus and serve our community," said John Gibson, pastor at Franklin Covenant Church. "As for what fellowship looks like going forward, we will continue to use and expand our online presence. Facebook and YouTube have been tremendous tools for us to both stay in contact with each other and let the community know what we are doing to help. We are also in the planning stages to reopen our fellowship building, with the expected safety measures in place. We do not have a date yet, but should announce soon. We will not do so until we believe it is safe."

St. Francis of Assisi offered that they have no planned time frame when services will begin again. Many churches in the area are taking a wait-and-see approach.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The May meeting of the Highlands Town Board will be held tonight [Thursday] at 7 p.m. by way of ZOOM.

The information for accessing the meeting is on the town website.

As always, the meeting will begin with public comment. Also, we will hold a long delayed public hearing concerning three changes to the UDO [Unified Development Ordinance]. Anyone wishing to make comments concerning these items can raise their hand, and the session moderator will recognize that person and open their microphone. To make sure all comments are made, please feel free to email me and indicate you want to make a public comment. My email is: mayor@highlandsc.org. Written comments can also be sent, and I will read them to the other commissioners. The only requirements for written comments is that the writer has to be identified. The ZOOM meeting will also have a chat option where an attendee can make comments that commissioners can see during the meeting.

As I have stated several times now, the best way to get all the information about the meeting is to request to be placed on the town's Sunshine list. Simply call town hall at 526-2118 and ask to be added to the list. Name and email address are required.

Small businesses across the state are struggling during this state of emergency. The state legislature recently approved COVID 19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program for small businesses and municipalities. The governor signed the bill, and now the distribution of these funds are underway. The funds will be prorated and sent to the counties. County boards have the task of distributing the money to businesses and municipalities.

Jackson and several surrounding counties have partnered with the regional nonprofit, Mountain BizWorks, to administer and distribute the loans to qualified businesses. I hope Macon County will follow suit and establish a similar plan through the Macon County Economic Development Commission or Mountain BizWorks.

As for the Town of Highlands receiving support, I believe the funds should be directed to our business community. The town has the ability to adjust our budget to get through this difficult economic situation. Many small businesses need support immediately.

On a sad note, Dr. Don Mullen, a former Highlands mayor, passed away this week. On behalf of the Town of Highlands let me express our condolences to his wife Patsy and his family. On a personal note, Don was a great mentor to me. On numerous occasions, including last month, I would have discussions with Mayor Mullen about the issues and situation in Highlands. Under his leadership the process for reorganizing the structure of town government to the current town manager and board system was begun. Dr. Mullen loved and served this community as an elected official, physician and as a minister.

As a minister and physician Don helped many people throughout the world on his numerous mission trips. He embodied the great Christian ideal of love and service to his fellow human beings. He was a great Highlander.

Letters to the Editor

Trump spreading virus around the world

Reading one of the letters in April 30th – Must be the writer hasn't read about the people Trump has released from prison, His friends he didn't want to get the virus. Saying stupid is as stupid does. And there is no cure for that, must be why when Trump tells people that ingesting toxic disinfectants as a treatment for the virus. There were people who took his advice, drinking bleach or Lysol. Poison Control saw a 40 percent increase in cleaning chemical exposure. He says the virus will go away, like a miracle, which illustrates his stupidity, which there's no cure for. Not to mention the damage he is doing to the people of this country. He said himself he should have been a scientist instead of president. He really thinks he's a genius. He asks German scientist working on a cure if found, to give it to the U.S. only. How can you deny the rest of the world that is suffering also. Meanwhile a Mexican citizen with Covid 19, who was deported from the U.S. is believed to be the source of the outbreak in the border city of Larado, Mexico, at least 14 cases at the shelter have been traced to this person. 50 migrants deported from U.S. to Guatemala and 3 people to Haiti. Trump is essentially spreading it around. A global pandemic to poor countries, as the U.S. had the world's largest outbreak.

No. 2. Trump has spent 13 hrs in 3 weeks on daily briefing on Covid 19, he devoted 2 hrs. to attacks. 45 min to praising him self and his administration, and only 4.5 min to 57,000 Americans who died. Only 4.5 min of offering his condolences to these families.

In one third of his questions Trump answers attacked some one, including his governors and yes, he can't forget President Obama and the press. It's a shame Trump can't be at least just one third the man Obama is. At least Obama was and is a caring and decent man. He didn't just look after the wealthy, he looked after the poor. He didn't grab women by the crotch and degrade women. There's no comparison to the sickie we have in our beautiful white house now.

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

Fresh voices and opinions encouraged

Do you have a cap on the number of letters an individual can write to your newspaper? It seems one very frequent writer is in about every other edition and it's really getting stale to read blatant lies, misinformation and downright ignorance. Some publications limit their readers to a set amount of feedback to encourage fresh voices and opinions. Without it opinions and misinformation come to the fore and will have me ignoring your publication for good.

Robert Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

Wonderment and awe are reasons for believing

Trying to understand our earth and visualize just what lays beneath our feet is a daunting task. It's something like the working of our human bodies. The great deposits of coal, oil, salt and iron, are like organs in our bodies, each has their place in a helping effort to sustain our lives. Deep veins and arteries flow with water from unknown places and can be as small as a bubbling spring to a great cascade of life giving water. All brings to the surface of our hearts and minds the beauty, enjoyment and awesome wonderment of all we are part of. Honestly, at least for me, it shows that something or someone exists behind all that there is. It's beyond all my capability to give reason that all this started in some type of preexisting soup which gives us all we see, touch, taste, hear, and mostly what we feel or sense from within. The beauty in the simplicity of nature, yet behind this simplicity is the complexity of governing laws and such intricate workings, we've yet scratched the surface of how all this works together and for what all this means. It overloads the mind in this small endeavor and then more so when we think of the universe and what lies beyond.

Believing can be anything the mind wants to make up. There are some pretty strange theories that come from some highly regarded people, which reminds me of my wishful thinking back as a child, but we all believe what we wish. Believing gives a reason to carry a trusted truth to a final destiny or conclusion. This is where my faith is built upon, although some will disagree, and that's the free will for each to find and decide.

The questions can go deep and long, and discussions are all welcomed, but reasoning gives direction to a fuller understanding. As the questions of: In the beginning God created, and all he created was good, but within this, humanity is plagued with the struggle of good and evil, in the absence of God how do we define what is good? To end the never ending cycle of this evil we are part of, just how do we do this? Christ came to place all the evil upon himself so justice could be served, why would he do so, and why is it we look for justice when we know none of us are perfect, where does this justice come from? History reveals the Jewish people both past and present who have been minimized and persecuted as no other, they've been scattered throughout the world, and then gathered back as a nation to themselves (Israel) starting on May 14, 1948 ... why such hatred? I could include so much more but I'm not afforded the space to do so. All this gives credit for a reason to believe God is here, something I can follow and trust. Some of the above is fact and undeniable, some builds on a reason of thought that makes a connection of understanding, but all is under the same story of history and speaks directly into us as individuals and all is told within scripture. As in the wonderment and awe of life, nature, creation and all history and us being in the midst of it. This all makes believing in God, a simpler thing to grasp and a reason to believe. He's the artist and author of everything and deserves credit where credit is due. Re-thinking Life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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The difference between quarantine and tyranny

A quarantine is when you restrict the movements of sick people. Tyranny involves restricting the movements of healthy people. A quarantine is done in the interest of public health. Tyranny is only about the benefits to the tyrant(s).

This quote from musician Ted Nugent says it all: "Why do I have to stay home just because **you** are scared? How about **you** stay home....**you** stay in **your** house indefinitely, **you** wear a mask, **you** socially distance yourself from me, **you** avoid restaurants, **you** avoid baseball games, **you** stay off the roads, **you** avoid malls and beaches and parks..."

"I'm done playing **your** dumb game ... I'm no longer going to be a prisoner of your fear. I'm no longer staying in my house or catering to **you** because **you** are scared..."

"**YOUR** fear is not an excuse to destroy America. **YOUR** fear is not my fear and your fear does not have the right to interfere with my life, my job, my income or my future as a free American citizen." Amen to that!

America is beginning to wake up. We are watching states like Georgia, which opened up for business threeweeks ago, despite grave warnings that they would see a resurgence of Covid-19 if they did so. They are seeing the opposite.

We are noticing that back in March, at the peak of this virus, the "experts" Drs. Fauci and Birx, were not wearing masks. Now that the peak is past, they have donned them.

Some state governors, like Michigan's Whitmer, New York's Cuomo, and California's Newsom, are extending their draconian lockdowns for as long as three more months. If President Trump were a tyrant, he would have done this at a national level. But he wisely turned over the responsibility to the states. We can all see who the real tyrants are.

Someone noticed that back in 2005, Dr. Fauci was touting the use of anti-malaria drugs like chloroquine for treating and preventing corona viruses. According to the August 22, 2005 edition of "Virology," chloroquine is a potent inhibitor of the SARS corona virus. (<https://virologyj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1743-422X-2-69>) So why all the hostility against doctors like Dr Yvette Losano, the Dallas physician who says she learned her successful treatment for COVID-19 not from the AMA, but from the president of the United States back on March 19, 2020? She says pharmacies were trying to force her to give them the diagnosis of her patient when she prescribed hydroxychloroquine for them. Didn't they want word to get out that this drug, combined with an antibiotic and zinc, works wonders for COVID-19 patients? You can listen to her powerful message here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SjZAsT43MI&feature=emb_title

Dr Dan Erickson, an epidemiologist from California got over five million views in his powerful criticism of the lockdown approach. Youtube didn't like it, so they censored it. But you can still see the banned video here: <https://banned.video/watch?id=5ea4994ea881fd00808e95ad> He argues that countries like Sweden, which remained open for business, have not seen significantly more COVID fatalities, than neighboring countries like Norway, which opted for a complete lockdown. He says that what we are seeing is a high number of cases (much higher than reported) and a low number of fatalities. He says this quickly leads to "herd immunity" which happens when 60-80% of a population is exposed to a virus, and develops antibodies. The virus then dies out, because it can't "find" any more hosts.

Meanwhile, Dr Birx admits COVID fatality numbers may be inflated by as much as 25%. And a volunteer nurse from Elco, Nev., Nicole Sirotek, reports that people are being deliberately killed by things like putting a defibrillator on a patient with a pulse. They are then counted as COVID-19 fatalities, and no one cares. Nobody knows what has happened, because visitors are not allowed.

We have seen the politicization of everything else. Now

we are seeing this virus and the response to it being politicized. It's time to follow the true science and end the shut-downs and treat victims of COVID-19 with the now proven winner: hydroxychloroquine.

President Trump was right when he ordered a travel ban from China to the U.S. on January 31, one day after WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern. But WHO was wrong to conspire with China's Communist Party to delay this declaration for an entire month, causing disaster for the entire world. President Trump was right to suggest hydroxychloroquine might be useful for treating and/or preventing COVID-19 as many other countries have done. But Dr Fauci was wrong for hypocritically disparaging its use, even though he had 15 years ago touted its effectiveness against corona viruses. Maybe we should give our President credit for the many times he has been right. Thousands of lives could have been saved if we had all listened and taken notes, like Dr Lozano did. Millions of jobs could have been saved, along with untold suffering caused by the lockdown, and its resultant economic depression. I hope we can learn from our mistakes.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

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I know you love the Greenway, because I've never seen so many people and families using it in this time of the virus pandemic. Isn't it a great resource for our community?

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**George Kaye
Board Member of the Greenway**

What does stimulus bill have to do with pandemic?

Once again I find myself compelled to write in order to share facts that the mainstream media will not tell. This time it concerns Nancy Pelosi's stimulus bill. Sean Hannity calls it the "Three Trillion Dollar Extreme Radical Socialist No Covid Relief Hardly at All" bill. He has good reason for it. Here are the facts as I understand them.

First of all, adding \$3 trillion to a frightening \$25 trillion dollar deficit should rattle anyone. We are in serious hot water now as it is.

Secondly, a stimulus bill is supposed to alleviate the sufferings of Americans affected by the pandemic, people who have lost jobs and/or their businesses. So how do the following provisions address this? According to Bill O'Reilly's research team:

(1) It provides protection from deportation for nearly every undocumented worker in the country, as well as protecting their employers from consequences during the Pandemic. It does not define what the end of the Pandemic is. So if even if one American has the virus the bill could seemingly still be effective.

(2) It allows for other things that would give undocumented people citizenship in a very short period of time.

(3) The word "Cannibis" is mentioned 68 times. For ex-

ample, it would give pot merchants access to Federal Banks where they don't have it now. Why?

(4) It would eliminate the \$10,000 limit on local and state tax deductions opening the way for unlimited tax exemptions for billionaires who would no longer pay any taxes on multiple properties they owned anywhere in the country. How would this help those suffering financial hardship from the virus? Could it be to help billionaires like George Soros, who is funding the Biden campaign? A fair question in light of other considerations.

(5) It would allow tens of thousands of criminals to be released from prisons, having nothing to do with the virus.

There is and should be a big question: WHY? What does any of this have to do with the Pandemic?

My point is, consider the intentions of the bill as a whole: Is Nancy Pelosi really interested in helping struggling Americans or is the Democratic Party only interested in winning the next election?

I used to wonder why liberals were so adamant about unlimited immigration into our country. Well, now I know why. The answer is simply that many foreigners coming into our country need help and the Democratic party is the party of entitlements, so by an overwhelming margin, foreign nationals are going to vote Democratic. It follows, then, the more that come in, the more votes they have. It does seem to be a matter of power rather than to help Americans.

Consider California and New York. Both states are one party states. If you are Republican you have no say in either state. Both populations are 45% foreign born. And they control all that happens in these states. So if the Party can switch both Texas and Florida to Democratic states in November, we will have four huge populations controlling the country. According to Bill O'Reilly, if that happens, our country will never be able to have a Republican President again, and we will be changed forever. A sobering thought for sure!

Go to states like California or [Illinois] for a look at what America will become under Democratic rule. Would you like to see our cities overrun with homeless people, many of whom are drug addicts and who are subject to spreading disease? Do you want criminals roaming the streets, threatening your family, indeed your very life? Do you want your property overrun or damaged because the government will do nothing to protect you? Do you want to live under socialism and have our economy destroyed all together? Gone forever would be the incentive to work, to enrich the culture with new, innovative ideas. We would be subject to Washington for everything and private property could be a thing of the past. Doesn't this frighten you?

These are realistic questions to ask ourselves. People come to America from all over the world seeking a better life because Socialism does not work! Why would we give up Democracy and freedom for entitlements that run out and a system which has failed over and over again? Biden has aligned himself with Bernie Sanders and Alexandria O'Casio Cortez, both extreme socialists. And it's obvious that he will be accountable to the likes of Nancy Pelosi and her friends.

These are serious times. Even if you do not like Donald Trump, the Democratic party does not give us any good alternatives. At least, before this Pandemic, he helped bring economic prosperity, record low unemployment, fairer trade agreements, lower taxes so businesses could return home, fewer threats of terrorism and a hope for a saner and safer immigration policy.

Keep looking for the facts and the truth. I don't want to lose the America I love...she may not be perfect but she is still a beacon for freedom. We are losing the ideals of our founding more and more each day. We have to be alert to the threats around us or we will lose everything we cherish as Americans.

Loretta Hastings – Franklin, N.C.

Macon County Schools hold farewell parades for students



Macon County Schools conducted farewell parades this week to hand out awards, goodie bags and good wishes until students are able to go back to school. Teachers dressed up as story book characters, wrote special notes, returned belongings and distributed yearbooks. Parents were able to drive through the car line at their student's school to say goodbye to their teachers. The school board is working on a plan to return students to school on Aug. 17, but the reopening of schools depends on many factors including the status of the COVID-19 outbreak and the protocols necessary to allow students to go back to school.



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 May 9 - 17. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

May 11

Amanda Wheller Crowe, was charged with possession of stolen Goods/property. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Phillip Eugene Nix, was charged with breaking and or entering, felony larceny, larceny after break/enter, possession of stolen goods/property. James E. Crawford made the arrest.

May 12

Casey Ray Murphy, was charged with domestic Violence protective order violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Heather Marie Buchanan, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Kristian Alexander Dreml, was charged with drug equipment violation, no operators license. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

May 13

Dean Allen Kreis, was charged with assault on a female. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

Sally Louise English-Scheffelin, was charged with probation violation. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

May 14

Joseph Daniel Toneges, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Shawn Christopher Casey, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Holly Michelle Breedlove, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

May 15

Stephen Ashley Mathis, was charged with felony possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, domestic violence protective order violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Michael Edward Littlejohn, was charged with probation violation. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

May 17

Austen Jeffery Caiata, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Pascual Cuatlayol-Tochihuitl, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Ty Ashley Ellett, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

Camelita May Pike, was charged with simple assault. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

May 9

Damian Quin Dulton, 24, of Mountain Side Rd., was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

May 10

James Daniel Pressley, 50, of Hensley Dr., was charged with resist/delay/obstruct. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

May 12

Kristeena Byrd Gray, 49, of Maple St., was issued a warrant for embezzlement. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 11

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 31, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with violation of court order.

Andrew Lawrence Smathers, 41, of Asheville, was issued an order for arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

May 12

Jeffery Allen Best, 31, of Rufus Robinson Rd., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Lisa Renee Toineeta, 54, of John Sriver Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Phillip Jordan Andrews, 22, of Independence Blvd., Asheville, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon causing serious injury, first degree burglary, possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

May 13

Charles Randolph Nash, 61, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Heath Nichols Morgan, 25, of Quin Holcombe Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

May 14

Timothy David Kibel, 35, of Dumpling Flats, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Anthony Scott Moffitt, 51, of Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female, simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 15

Baron Houston Sutton, 34, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of burglary tool, larceny after breaking or entering, breaking or entering. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Anthony Luke Graham, 31, of Dublin Ridge Rd., Canton, was charged with possession of burglary tool, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Kevin David Ritchie, 31, of Hayfield Dr., was charged with failure to appear for no vehicle registration, no liability insurance, fictitious registration. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set.

Wilburn Harrison Caldwell, 47, of Beckas Branch Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault on a female, simple assault. A secured bond of \$1000 was set.

Vladimir Vivanco, 49, of Harp Dr., Cashiers, was charged with school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

May 16

Ashley Nicole Davis, 32, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for reckless driving to endanger, drive left of center. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Elizabeth Ann Watty, 37, of 129 Street Fork, Cherokee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

May 17

Brandon Michael Ray, Hill, 20, of Webster Rd., was charged with assault on a female. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Katrina Lynn Cook, 32, of Sylva, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

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WHT finds way to recognize senior care facilities, healthcare workers

Theresa Ramsey
FHAMC Board Member/WHT Team

As we struggle during this pandemic with the vast challenges people are uniquely facing, many of us are feeling the loss, not only in the workplace, but also in a broader sense – the loss of connection to our loved ones. The Women’s History Trail (WHT), a project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC), wanted to do something for the community and our thoughts turned to the elderly living in senior care facilities in Franklin and the many dedicated healthcare workers taking care of these wonderful residents.

How it all began

Barbara McRae, one of the WHT co-chairs who is also the Town of Franklin’s vice mayor, sent out a personal email encouraging a response to this question, “What can we strong, energetic, intelligent women do to help our community now? Most of us are stuck at home ... if you’re like me, you may feel straightjacketed by the restrictions. I welcome all your suggestions. If you have an idea for how the town can help its struggling citizens, please let me know. If you have an idea for how we of the Women’s History Trail, as a group (socially distant!) can help, I’d love to hear it... We are all in this together and we can rise together, holding each other up (virtually!).”

WHT members began brainstorming on a plan of action. Member Claire Suminski suggested as a group we do “something that might help support the oldest members of our community.” As FHAMC’s main purpose is to provide living history experiences and preserve our heritage, and with the WHT’s goal to recognize distinguished women who have helped shape a better future for Macon County, it was only fitting that we chose to show appreciation to honor our older generation.

Reflecting firsthand insight into the toll Covid-19 has taken on families with loved ones at residential senior care facilities, I can personally say, these restrictions are hard on everyone. On Mother’s Day – a time when families typically come together to show love and gratitude to the wonderful women in their lives – in-person contact with loved ones at senior care facilities wasn’t possible due to the Governor’s mandate restricting visitors and Covid-19’s high risk to this vulnerable population.

Additionally, recreational large group gatherings have been temporarily suspended to comply with social distancing guidelines, thereby limiting even further, outside community-led activities typically planned for the residents. While the need



Anne Hyder and Claire Suminski compile flowers for nursing care facility residents.



Henrietta of the Women’s History Trail helps deliver appreciation bags to Macon Valley staff.

to protect our loved ones is certainly necessary and understandable, it is still disheartening for all involved.

In order to connect in a meaningful way with these older residents to celebrate Mother’s Day and the arrival of spring-time, the WHT committee started working on ways to give

recognition. Marty Greeble, another of the WHT co-chairs along with Mary Polanski, took on the role of producing cards, signs and posters and reached out to committee members and WHT supporters for monetary donations to personally cover the cost for this project. Various volunteers came together (via email and phone calls) to organize gifts of flowers and cards for all residents at Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation, Grandview Manor Care Center and The Franklin House. We wanted residents to know that they are being fondly remembered during this time when outside visitors are limited due to health concerns. In addition, according to Anne Hyder, FHAMC Chair/WHT member, “The committee is working out final details to develop a “pen pal” program for residents who would benefit from cards, letters, kid’s drawings, etc. at the above-mentioned facilities.”

Wishing to continue recognition to show appreciation to healthcare staff at the three residential senior care locations in Franklin, the WHT also showered workers with thank you cards, inspirational signs and special goodies.

“I particularly liked the idea of doing something nice for nursing care workers... I think that they’re some of the ones having to do the most extra during this



Nursing Home resident Clara Dean



A nursing care resident takes a break from her reading to place the proffered blossom in her hair.

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Macon Valley activity director displays Mother's Day card given to residents.



Theresa Ramsey delivers treat bags for Macon Valley staff.



An appreciation sign was posted for Macon Valley staff.

crisis," said Susan Ervin.

As May 10-16 was designated National Skilled Nursing Care Week, we wanted to thank the dedicated staff serving at these residential senior care facilities in Franklin (skilled nursing and assisted living/memory centers). We deeply appreciate the compassionate commitment of all dedicated

healthcare workers, and we extend special heartfelt thanks to those who continue to provide loving care to senior residents all year long, especially during these trying times. As our donations for the project exceeded expectations, the WHT decided to donate remaining funds to CareNet to help those in need in our community.

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Biltmore featured in American Gardens stamp series

The new American Gardens stamps just released features a garden from the Biltmore Estates.

The natural beauty of American gardens is being celebrated by the U.S. Postal Service by issuing stamps that feature gardens ranging from botanical to country estate and municipal gardens. All the gardens featured on the 10 stamps are open to the public. The American Gardens Forever stamps are available for purchase nationwide May 13.

This pane of 20 stamps features 10 different photographs taken between 1996 and 2014. The gardens include: Biltmore Estate Gardens (North Carolina); Brooklyn Botanic Garden (New York); Chicago Botanic Garden (Illinois); Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Maine); Dumbarton Oaks Garden (District of Columbia); The Huntington Botanical Gardens (California); Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park (Florida); Norfolk Botanical Garden (Virginia); Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Ohio); and Winterthur Garden (Delaware).

The gardens were photographed by Allen Rokach. Ethel Kessler was the art director and designer.

The love of gardening stretches back to the earliest years of our country, in-



spiring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other Founding Fathers to plant some of America's most iconic colonial-era gardens. From the 19th century to today, landscape designers have continued that tradition. Conceived for many reasons—for food or pleasure, as places of education and scientific study, as an expression of the owners' artistic sensibilities, as spaces for the public to commune with nature, or simply for the love of gardening—American gardens capture our imagination and satisfy a yearning for beauty and order.

Every year, millions of Americans visit gardens, public and private. Many public gardens are open year-round; in addition to the plants and trees on display, classes, exhibits, and other events encourage visitors to experiment and create their own gardens. During the spring and summer, planned tours and open garden days allow visitors to step into private enclaves and see how homeowners have enhanced and designed their spaces, be they large estates, small suburban yards, or rooftop aeries.



Deaths & Funerals

Daniel 'Caleb' Pait

Daniel "Caleb" Pait, 31, of Franklin, N.C., died Thursday, May 14, 2020 due to complications of an automobile accident in Jackson County, North Carolina.

He was born on March 28, 1989, in Knoxville, Tenn., to Ernie and Becky Workman Pait and had lived most of his life in the Macon County area. He worked as a Service Writer at Meinke. He enjoyed hunting and snowboarding; he loved adventure in and around rivers and the mountains. He was a member of Cowee Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brother, Ernie Pait III of Fort Mills, S.C.; sister, Jessie Pruett (J.P) of Katy, Texas; two nieces, Elaina and Paisley; two nephews, Paiton and Parker; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of Caleb's life was held Monday, May 18, at Cowee Baptist Church. Rev. Jason Smith officiated.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Cowee Baptist Church Missions, 6301 Bryson City Rd Franklin, NC 28734.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Daniel 'Caleb' Pait

Clara Kathryn Fisher

Clara Kathryn Fisher was born in Jasper, Ind., on Oct. 18, 1928. She was taken to heaven while sleeping peacefully on May 14, 2020. She was the daughter of Rev. Edward Byrd and Clara von Graf Byrd. She studied piano and organ and while in high school, performed each Sunday as an organist for her father's services. She attended Parsons College and received her RN degree in geriatric nursing from the Presbyterian Nursing School, Chicago, Ill. She became the charge nurse at a New Hampshire nursing home. She was a devoted wife to Rev. Dr. George Thomas Fisher for 67 years. She also assisted her husband in weekly worship services as an organist and as piano accompanist for the 4H tri-state regional champion La Prairie Township Chorus. She loved studying the Bible and led a weekly Bible study for congregational women.

She was the mother of four children, Emily Weingarth, Herbert Fisher, Amy Evans, Forrest Fisher; the grandmother of eight grandchildren; and great grandmother of seven great grandchildren. She was always a lady and a true friend to all who knew her. She served the needs of others with dignity, grace, and a wonderful sense of humor.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, May 23, at 11 a.m. at Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Janet Greene officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Fisher family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

WCU's graduation ceremonies for Class of '20 set for December

It will be May in December for members of Western Carolina University's spring graduating class of 2020 who were originally scheduled to participate in commencement ceremonies this month until the events were postponed by the pandemic.

WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown announced Friday, May 8, the university's plans to reschedule spring ceremonies for the weekend of Dec. 11.

Although that also will be the weekend for commencement ceremonies for members of the fall 2020 graduating class, the university is planning a separate ceremony for the May graduates, Brown said.

"Our spring graduates deserve their own commencement exercises, as do our fall graduates," she said. "We felt that is was important to allow our graduates to participate in a ceremony with their classmates rather than try to combine them."

Brown announced in March the postponement of all spring commencement exercises that were originally scheduled for May 8 and 9. University officials had considered a date in early August for the rescheduled ceremonies, but ongoing uncertainty regarding sufficient improvements in the COVID-19 situation combined with logistical difficulties of holding a large-scale event so close to the opening of the fall semester made the December date a better option.

To help acknowledge the spring 2020 graduating class, the Office of University Communications and Marketing developed a special online salute. It is available at commencement.wcu.edu.

Additional information, including time and date for the rescheduled commencement, will be announced later.



Teen Challenge graduation May 23

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center will have a drive-in graduation rain or shine Saturday, May 23, at 2 p.m., at the parking lot of Holly Springs Baptist Church, 366 Holly Springs Church Road, Franklin. Bathroom facilities will not be available. A strong PA system underneath the carport and an FM transmitter will allow attendees to receive the audio over their car radio. The public is invited to come join the celebration. Graduation service will be about 45 minutes in length. For more info, call (828)524-2157. For more about the program, visit www.mtcots.com or go to the Facebook page, Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies.



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Deaths & Funerals

Steve 'Andy' Anderson

Steve "Andy" Anderson, 67, passed away on May 15, 2020, at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., following a brief illness.

He was born and raised in West Bend, Wisc., the son of Betty and Rollin Anderson and graduated from West Bend High School. He then joined the United States Air Force where he served proudly in both Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. He retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant after 21 years of service. He treasured both the people he served with as well as the time he served.

He continued in his passion for aviation with a long career that saw him work for Lockheed Martin, Boeing and finally Northrop Grumman. He married Anita in 1998 and moved with her to San Antonio, Texas, and then to Lake Charles before retiring to Franklin, N.C.

He was a kind, gentle and patient man who loved helping those he met along his journey in life. He will be forever cherished for his commitment to helping everyone he met, the kindness in his smile and the love he showed all who were fortunate to know him. Andy, as he was known to most, will be terribly missed but we find comfort knowing he has his eternal wings.

He leaves his wife of 22 years, Anita Anderson; his children, Sherry Horvath, Teri Simko Tempest Anderson; step-children, Brandi (Kale) Glasspoole and Charles Kale; his beloved grandchildren, siblings, cousins, and the many friends he loved and cherished while he was here.

The memorial service was held at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin and a private interment at Arlington National Cemetery will follow at a later date.

Memorials can be sent in Steve's honor to Holly Springs Baptist Church, Franklin.

Addis Ray Lambert

Addis Ray Lambert of Hendersonville, Tenn., passed away on May 11, 2020.

She was born on April 17, 1926, in Macon County, Tennessee to Thomas Tramell and Missie McGuffey. In 1944, she married Jake Lambert, with whom she celebrated over 55 years of marriage. She was a member of Rocky Mound Baptist Church and of Bible Baptist Church. She loved her garden, her God, and her family.

She is survived by her children, Jim (Rosemary) Lambert and Linda McBride; her grandchildren, Sharon (Kent) Clements, Becky (Jon) Stansbury, and Kimberly Warren; two step grandchildren, Jim Pickens and Tim Bomar; six great grandchildren; her sister and neighbor, Faye Johnson and George Arnold.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jake Lambert; her twin sister, Gladys Tramell; and siblings, Tom Tramell, Avis Simmons, and Ann McDonald.

A private Celebration of Life will be held with entombment to follow at Hendersonville Memory Gardens. Doctor Greg Mutsch will be presiding. Active pallbearers include Kent, Jake, Luke Clements, and Jon Stansbury. Honorary pallbearers include George Arnold, Jim Pickens, Tim Bomar, Bob Egli, and the Joy Club Ministry at Bible Baptist Church.



Steve "Andy" Anderson



Addis Ray Lambert

Wendy Kay Frank

Wendy Kay Frank, 60, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020.

Born in Saint Paul, Minn., she was the daughter of the late John MacDonald and Elaine Dege MacDonald. She was a member of Mount Hope Baptist Church. She was a very talented metal sculpture artist.

She is survived by her husband, Dana Frank; daughter, Jenna Ferreira and husband, Danilo Lourenco Ferreira, of Holland, Mich.; sons, Jake Lucht of Tucson, Ariz., and Jesse Lucht; step-daughters, Shari Elmquist of Otsego, Minn., and Lauri Ellison of Albertville, Minn.; special friend, Lori Bieganowski; and six grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wendy's GoFundMe, to help cover medical and funeral expenses:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/kjuhnx-wendy039s-funeral-expenses?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



Wendy Kay Frank

Charmian Martin Williams

Charmian Williams, a resident of Western North Carolina since 1998, passed away on May 16 in Asheville. She was 93.

Known by "Charm" since childhood, she was born in DeKalb County, Ga., on Sept. 18, 1926, the daughter of Jeanne Nevius Martin and T. Marion Martin.

A graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens, she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. She was married to Robert Parks Charleston from 1947 until his death in 1955. They had one son, David Nevius Charleston.

In 1959, she married Roy Bennett Williams, who passed away in 1985. She moved to Franklin, N.C., in 1998. She was joined there by her son, David, who died in 2007.

In Franklin, she was active in the Circle of Light and Spiritual Light Center and embodied in countless ways the nickname she carried throughout her life. Much admired for her warmth and sense of humor, Charm will be missed by all who came to know her.

No service is planned. Those wishing to honor her memory are invited to donate to the Spiritual Light Center, 80 Heritage Hollow, Franklin, NC 28734.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.ashevil-leareaalternative.com.



Charmian Williams

Reona Mae Calhoun DeHart

Reona Mae Calhoun DeHart, 80, of Bryson City, N.C., went home to be with the Lord Monday, May 18, 2020. A native of Swain County she was the daughter of the late Woodrow and Myrtle Crisp Calhoun. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a sister, Irene Calhoun.

She is survived by one son, Kelvin DeHart and wife Teresa of Franklin, N.C.; one grandson, Dylan DeHart of Franklin; one brother, Wayne Calhoun and wife Shelda of Bryson City; two sisters, Vivian Cook and husband Wade and Ellen Monteith and her late husband David, all of Bryson City; and one niece, Mary Ann Graham and husband Curtis of Bryson City.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, May 20, at Lauada Cemetery in Bryson City. Rev. John Tagliarini officiated.

David Lewis Mashburn

David Lewis Mashburn, 94, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully Saturday, May 16, 2020, surrounded by his wife, daughters, and son-in-law.

Born in Macon County, North Carolina, he was the son of the late Grady and Jane Henry Mashburn. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Gertrude Mashburn, Mildred Vaughn, and Nina Woods; three brothers, Howard, Furman, and Bruce Mashburn; five in-laws, Homer Woods, Clyde Vaughn, Frances Mashburn, Gordon Underwood, Zane Woods; and numerous friends and family.

He worked hard, lived long, loved well, and will be greatly missed. He was a World War II veteran and went to Clarksville Trade School on the GI bill to become an automotive mechanic. He co-owned and operated a garage and gas station at the intersection of the Highlands and Ellijay Roads. After selling the business, he went to work for Burrell Motor Company at the top of town hill. A few years later, he moved down the street to Conley Motor Company and worked there for just over 30 years before retiring. In his spare time, he was a farmer, carpenter, electrician, barber, and reluctant plumber. He was a faithful follower of Christ and a member of Ellijay Bible Baptist Church. He sang beautiful bass in the choir and served as a deacon and Sunday School superintendent.

"He was a good man" is what you will hear if you mention his name...kind, sacrificing, loving, a faithful friend. He would say, "I'm a sinner saved by grace." He was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grand & great-grandfather, friend, and neighbor whose actions spoke louder than his words.

He is survived by his wife of 61-and-a-half years, Grace Aileen Monteith Mashburn; daughters, Gail Mashburn and Judy Haney; "favorite" son-in-law Kevin; granddaughters, Shaley Holmes (Cameron) and Savannah Haney (Chiah); and great grandchildren, Ty and Caroline Holmes; sisters, Rosa Woods and Alice Underwood; a brother, Dayton Mashburn (Rose Ann); sisters-in-law, Louise Ledford (Clinton) and Barbara Mashburn; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

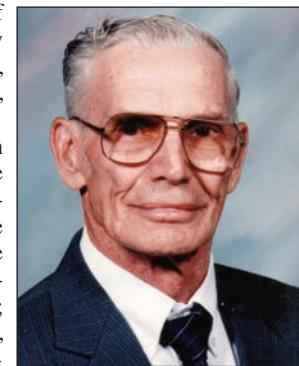
A private funeral service was held at First Baptist Church Swannanoa on Wednesday, May 20. The service was live streamed at <http://www.fbcswan.org/> or on the fbcswan Facebook page.

The family will receive friends at Bryant-Grant on Thursday, May 21, from 12 to 2 p.m. Graveside services are open to all and burial will be at 3 p.m. at Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Pallbearers will be Bruce and Eddie Ledford, Cameron Holmes, Lloyd Mashburn, Calvin Conley, and Gary and Tim McMahan. Honorary pallbearers will be nephews, cousins, and the many men David influenced in his time here on earth.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Domonique, Denise, Sherry and Jay with CarePartners Hospice who made it possible to care for him at home this past year.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Blue Ridge Honor Flight, 423 N King Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792 or Ellijay Bible Baptist Church, c/o Adolph Conley, 20 Lydia Lane, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. The family asks that funeral participants be mindful of the need for COVID precautions.



David Lewis Mashburn

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Kevin Harvick takes Darlington as NASCAR returns to racing

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR's return to real-time action Sunday afternoon was a resumption of the close-quarter, high-action brand of racing that fans have long expected at historic Darlington Raceway, culminating with Kevin Harvick claiming his first trophy of the season in front of a robust television and radio audience eager to welcome sports back.

The Real Heroes 400 was the first on-track activity in nearly two months after NASCAR suspended competition because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The return to track included specific guidelines unique to this unprecedented situation – no fans in the grandstands, temperature checks at track, a limit on number of team members and of course, social distancing.

The competitive drama, however, remained as intense as ever.

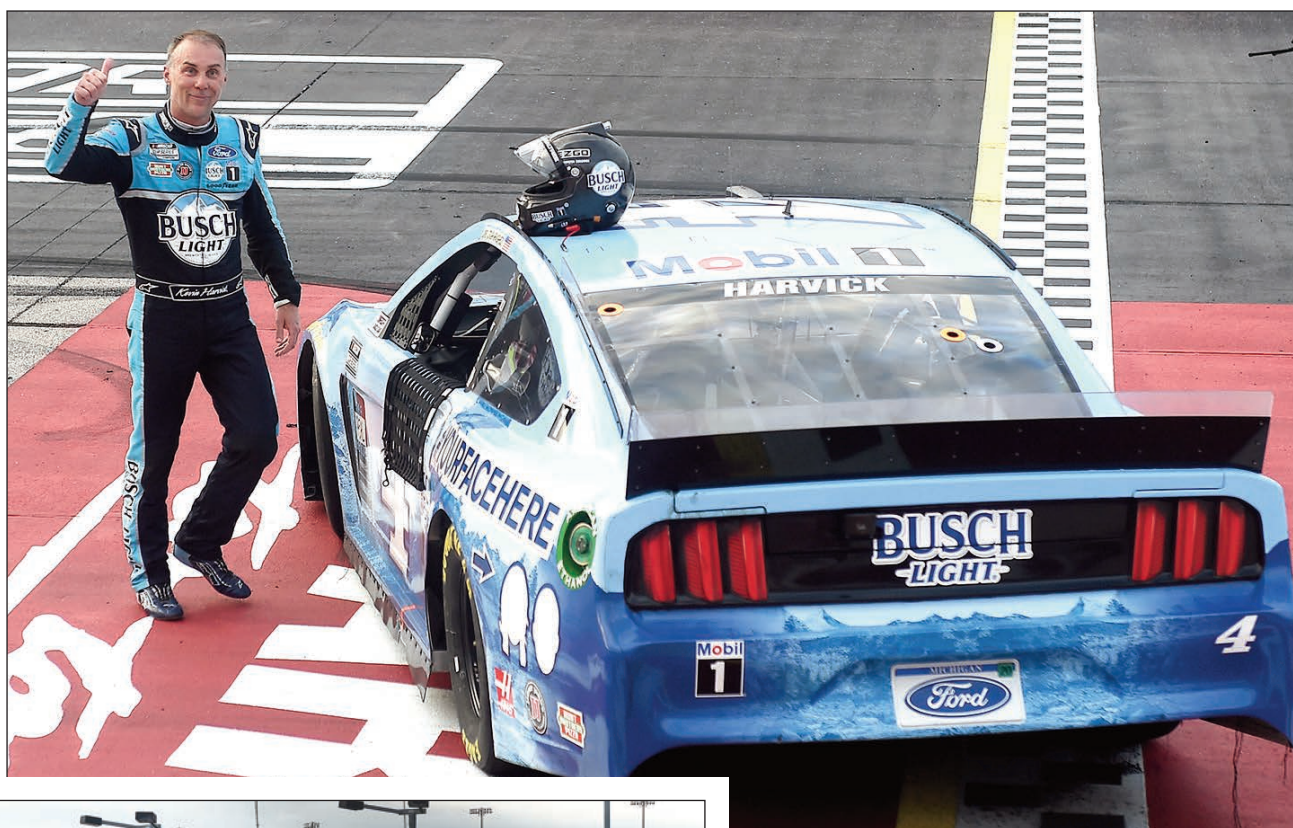
Harvick's 2.154-second victory over Alex Bowman was his first of the season and extends his points lead in the standings to 28 points over Bowman. His only previous win at Darlington came from pole position in 2014, the same year Harvick went on to win the series championship. Sunday's victory was the 50th win for the Stewart-Haas Racing veteran, tying him with NASCAR Hall of Famers Junior Johnson and Ned Jarrett on the NASCAR Cup Series all-time wins list.

Bowman, Kurt Busch, Chase Elliott and Denny Hamlin followed Harvick's No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford to the finish line. Martin Truex Jr., Tyler Reddick, Erik Jones, John Hunter Nemechek and Matt Kenseth rounded out the top 10. It was the best showing of the season – and first top-10 finish – for the rookies Reddick and Nemechek.

"The first thing I want to do is thank everybody from NASCAR, all the teams, the whole industry, for getting us back on the racetrack," Harvick said. "I think everybody in this garage is so excited to be here. I was up this morning at 6:00 a.m. pacing around my porch trying to decide when I was going to leave. I was excited to get back in the car. Today was just a well-executed day."

NASCAR Executive Vice President and Chief Racing Development Officer Steve O'Donnell said he was both proud and encouraged by the success of NASCAR's first race back on track – and hopeful it bodes well for a compressed schedule that will feature 20 more races between now and the third week of June at a variety of venues for all three of NASCAR's premier series – the NASCAR Cup Series, the Xfinity Series and the Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series.

"As far as the vibe in the garage area, I think everyone's spirits were really, really high," O'Donnell said. "They all knew the effort that this took collectively to pull this off. This was not easy, but everybody came together in a real spirit of collaboration. It was odd just with limited number of people here and when you look up into the stands, you certainly miss the fans,



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Light YOURFACEHERE Ford, celebrates winning the NASCAR Cup Series The Real Heroes 400 at Darlington Raceway on May 17, 2020 in Darlington, South Carolina. NASCAR resumes the season after the nationwide lockdown due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19).



race's first stage when he collided with Chris Buescher a half-lap before crossing the finish line to claim the opening stage win.

"Gosh, what I would do to get that corner back to do it over again," Johnson said. "Coming to the end of the stage, I was just trying to make sure I got a good run off of Turn 2. I felt like I was going to be able to exit the corner side-by-side with him, things just went horribly wrong there.

And he added later on his Twitter social media account, "Man, that hurts. What a bummer. But there's a race in a few days and we'll be back."

That was the case for two of NASCAR's most popular drivers who marked a return to competition on Sunday – Roush Fenway Racing's Ryan Newman and Chip Ganassi Racing's Matt Kenseth. Both made their way into the top 10 by the race's midpoint. Newman, who missed three races after being injured in the Daytona 500, earned points in the opening stage and finished 15th – after receiving a pit road speeding penalty. Kenseth, who made his first NASCAR Cup Series start since the 2018 Homestead-Miami season finale, finished 10th.

Both were racy and their competitive presence well-noted. "Overall, great to be back in the race car, proud of how

that vibe, that energy.

"I think the participants were able to create their own positive vibe knowing this was a big day for the sport, knowing it was a day we could showcase the sport to a live television audience and hopefully give some people a little bit of joy to watch them race."

As good as the situation was at the track "behind the scenes," the drivers turned in a typically competitive day on-track with consistent drama – and depending on who you cheer for, some for the good and some not-so-much.

Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson, for example, was leading and headed for the victory in the

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: ARMY AND NAVY

- ACROSS
- Smoothing tool
 - Broadband access overseeing org.
 - Attorneys' org.
 - Length times width
 - *Lined up single ____
 - Lump of stuff
 - Carpet attribute
 - Cut the crop
 - Lingo
 - *Entire ship's company
 - Toothy wheel
 - Gives a helping hand
 - They're from mars?
 - Language family, includes Turkic and Mongolian
 - Indian spice mix, pl.
 - Bachelor's last words
 - Baby Ruth component
 - One of the Eamhardts
 - She goes by Lo?
 - Actors' grp.
 - Mister in Madrid
 - Colossal
 - With no effort
 - American cuckoo
 - Leave hastily, two words
 - *Commissioned officer of the lowest rank
 - "____, drink, and be merry"
 - *Omaha ____
 - Baby whale
 - *It's a wall to a civilian
 - Hands, to #12 Down
 - Check out
 - Cambodian money
 - Welcoming sign
 - Went down slippery slope
 - *Date of Allied landing
 - *Opposite of stem

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- "For ____ a jolly good.."
 - Dried-up
- DOWN
- Grammy category
 - Diva's solo
 - Unload
 - Saffron-flavored rice dish

Classifieds

\$8.00 20 words or less

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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(828) 369-6767

- Evil one
- Wears
- Porcini mushrooms
- Aquarium scum
- Uncouth one
- Address abbreviation
- Spanish dictator, 1939-1975
- *Throwing weapon
- Ice, dark, and middle, e.g. ____ Field
- Dojo turf
- Was sick
- Parkinson's disease drug
- African antelope, pl.
- Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior
- Veranda in Honolulu
- "____ came a spider.."
- European finch
- *"Excellent in all we do" org.
- None left when on E
- * ____ formation, or on diagonal
- Make synchronous
- Credit card payment alternative, acr.
- What Deep Throat did
- Stumblebums
- Type of shards
- *Announcement device
- Island off Manhattan
- Head of family
- All over again
- Silly talk or writing
- * ____ -de-camp
- Letter opening
- Flash dancers
- NaOH

The Classifieds

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REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow is open Mon.-Sat. 10am to 4pm. Proceeds benefit Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. For More Information call 369-2040.

CARENET THRIFT STORE 45 Macon Center Dr., Franklin, Hours, Monday through Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Mission of CareNet to help bridge the gap during times of crisis for families in Macon County. (828)349-9064.

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MLS#26015552 \$675,000
Spectacular ONE of a KIND Custom Home nestled on the ridge top with long range views! Feel on top of the world in this 4 BD/3.5 BA. Features vaulted ceiling, stone gas log fireplace, massive Master Bedroom w/en suite and private office, Cook's Kitchen w/Kitchen Aid appliances, huge island and walk in pantry, a split floor plan, 4 th bedroom on second level w/bath. Bonus: Observation Tower to enjoy the VIEWS. Oversized two car garage. Beautiful landscaping w/fire pit and raised beds for gardening. Gated community - A Beautiful MUST SEE property!



MLS#26015015 \$329,000
STUNNING LONG RANGE VIEWS at ~ABOVE THE CLOUDS~ a Mountain Dream Home currently set up as a five bedroom, features vaulted ceilings, vast expanses of glass to take in the views and multiple decks. A Stone 18 ft high wood burning fireplace in the Grand Room, heated floors in the Grand Room, Kitchen and Dining Room, Kitchen w/Granite counter-tops & state of the art appliances. Large Open Loft w/seating & extra sleeping areas. Spacious Master Suite w/en suite, private deck plus outdoor Spa. This home is beautifully furnished & everything STAYS. Make this your second home & have the added bonus of a proven Vacation Rental.



MLS#26015468 \$289,000
Desirable ONE LEVEL living plus 2.5+ unrestricted acres! This traditional 4 BD/2.5 BA has an addition completed in 2004 to include Family Room w/bay windows with storage, gas log fireplace, a spacious Master Suite w/bay window, gas log fire place, private Sun Room, large walk in closet and Master Bath. Plus, Laundry Room w/lots of cabinets, Office and Craft Room. The original structure has a nice Kitchen with a pantry w/pull out shelves, double sink and space for breakfast nook, large formal Dining Room, three bedrooms, one with 1/2 bath along with a full guest bath. Both sections have basements. Easy access and mountain views!



MLS#26014347 \$256,000
Feel right at HOME in this well cared for traditional 3 bedroom/3 bath two story on 4.37 +/- park like acres. Features include nice wood floors on the main level, a Kitchen with breakfast area and big pantry, Living Room w/Stone wood burning fireplace, Formal Dining Room, Den/Study and full bath. Upstairs is a spacious Master Suite, Master Bath with garden tub, separate shower and walk in closets PLUS two additional bedrooms and a full bath. Finish out the basement for more living space. Plenty of room for a garden & a nice stream flows around the edge of the property.



MLS#26015022 \$230,000
Enjoy in-town convenience in this Move In Ready traditional home! On the main level you will find the Living Room & Formal Dining Room with wood floors and open concept, a 1/2 bath, Nice Kitchen with island with access to laundry room & the single car garage. The Formal Dining Room opens to a screened porch to sit and enjoy the outdoors. Upstairs you will find a large Master Bedroom with a spacious walk in closet and en-suite. Plus, two additional bedrooms that share a hall bath. Two Zone HVAC. The interior has just been painted, carpets cleaned and exterior pressure washed. Nestled on a flat lot this makes for a low maintenance yard.



MLS#26015372 \$129,000
AMAZING 4.99 acre parcel with over 300+ feet of bold Bates Branch Creek flowing along one border. Property is level to rolling with easy access and a Park-Like setting. There is a private well and a 3 bedroom septic installed. Cute bath house with shower. Outbuilding for storage. Level pasture could be fenced for mini farm. Nice Mountain Views. Lots of potential here especially if you're looking for easy access, level land and a bold creek. Convenient to Franklin, NC and North Georgia. Call for more information and to discuss restrictions.



Becky Ramey
Owner/Broker
828-421-2357

BeckyRameyNC.com
BeckyR@remax.net



MLS#26015094 \$244,500
Perfect 2BR/2BA vacation Rental or Year round on Cartoogechaye Creek w/ approx 284' creek frontage. Cozy Ranch style 2BR/2BA w/brand new kitchen remodel as well as bathroom updates. High ceilings & windows in every room. Property is a flat 1.13 Acres with a detached over-sized double car garage / workshop. Open decks & a screened in deck in the back of the home.



MLS#26014328 \$194,900
Charming Log home on 3.52 acres with barn, storage buildings and pasture land. Main level living w/living room, kitchen, full bath and 2 bedrooms. Downstairs is 2nd living room and a large bedroom suite with a sitting area and a large walk-in closet. Covered deck and great back/side yard. 2.5+/- rolling pasture acres with lovely multi-stall horse barn. Great views from many sites on the property.



MLS#26015234 \$139,900
2BR/2BA + bonus room in this lovely mountain home on 2.65 acres of privacy. Level parking area and 2 storage/workshop buildings. Open concept floor plan w/ nice kitchen inc. granite counter-tops, stainless appliances. Custom Master en-suite bedroom has vaulted wood ceilings, private entrance, deck access & custom stone floor detail. Decking galore to enjoy the hiking/exploring trails on the property.



MLS#26015237 \$191,900
Move-in ready 2Br/1.5BA home located in Otto, NC. Open floor concept, lovely hardwood floors and a stunning kitchen remodel, w/custom cabinets, granite counter-tops. Bedrooms and both bathrooms are all located on the main level - including the washer & dryer hookups for main level living. The gas log fireplace insert is located in the living area and gives great charm.



MLS#26015393 \$399,900
Stunning custom 4000 sq. ft. home located in Holly Springs - 4BR/4BA + 3 Bonus rooms. Sits on 3.46 Acres. 20' vaulted ceilings in the Living Room w/stone fireplace. Main level includes 3 Bedrooms, 2 full baths, Living room, Kitchen, Pantry, Dining room w/plenty of room for entertaining. Upper level is Master en-suite. 3 Central Heat & Air systems, one for each level for ultimate comfort.



MLS#26015021 \$269,900
Amazing VIEWS from this charming log cabin 2BR/3BA + 2 Bonus Room sits on 1.59 acres of land for privacy & view control. Two deck areas to enjoy the stunning long-range mountain views. Located in the Tennesse Woods w/paved roads & a lovely setting with bridge & bold rushing creek at you can hear from the deck of this home!



June Tassillo
Owner/Broker
828-371-2339

JunesRealtor.com
JuneTassillo@gmail.com



MLS#26011723 \$1,650,000
Custom log home +/- 4,600 sq. ft. in Balsam Mtn. Preserve. Beautiful LR, DR on main level w/massive log structures throughout home. Glass elevator goes to all 3 levels. Amazing landscaping takes you to waterfall, runs along 4.5 acres of property w/rock fire pits and plenty of spaces to view mountain beauty. Exceptional mountain living, this is a must-see!



MLS#26014879 \$239,000
2BR/2.5BA Scaly Mtn. home on 3.98 private acres - backs up to USFS with waterfall & multiple hiking trails. Great rustic cabin w/open concept living w/wood burning FP. Upper & lower decks w/ awesome mountain & rock cliff views. Great vacation rental or family mountain getaway!



MLS#26014617 \$24,900
Cozy 3BR/2BA single-wide mobile home on rented lot in 55+ community in Franklin. Metal roof & newer carpet in LR & 1BR. Nice living/dining & screened back deck. Newer W/D, oven & refrigerator. Great for primary home or mountain getaway.



MLS#26014880 \$419,900
Beautiful 3BR/3.5BA Cullowhee Home - Corner lot on 4.26 acres of privacy - Open floor plan w/HW floors, cozy LR w/gas log FP & floor to ceiling windows - French doors lead to screened deck - Large Master BR, bonus rooms & lower deck, many extras! Great home for entertaining!



MLS#26014852 \$625,000
Stunning Douglas Fir Timber Frame 3BR/3.5BA w/bonus rooms, energy eff. home on 2 acres w/exquisite landscaping. Main level, open concept living w/soaring timbers & hickory floors + floor to ceiling windows. Screened deck w/rock gas log FP, sound of rushing creek below. Outbuilding/workshop/garage, so many extras in this beautiful mountain home!



MLS#26014403 \$599,900
Beautiful property in Cowee - 135.86 very private acres that back up to USFS. Several building sites throughout. Top acres reach up +/- 3200 feet in elevation. No restrictions, great for hunting, hiking & 4 wheeling. Old Trout Farm on property w/potential. Nice fast running creek approx. 5 foot wide in spots with springs as well. Unique property w/so many possibilities!

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Fax: 828-369-5949

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