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Even with services being canceled across the country local veterans gathered together at the Veterans Memorial Park to observe Memorial Day. Veterans from all branches of service gathered together in remembrance of those who died in active military service. Kenneth Carpenter, Bud Hair and Ron Cooper Salute as Will Williams played taps. Photos on page 12 & 13.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Macon's Covid cases hits 18; NC enters Phase 2 of reopening plan

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributin Writer

As North Carolina begins phase two of reopening, Macon County sees first real outbreak of COVID19. Late last week, the Macon County Health Department announced two situations of cases in Macon County where multiple people tested positive for COVID19.

On May 21, the health department released the following statement, "Macon County Public Health has identified two additional positive cases of COVID-19. One individual acquired the virus unrelated to other identified positive cases. The other individual is believed to have acquired the virus via a positive case that had previously been identified by MCPH. This individual is an essential employee at a local business. We are working with the business and their staff to test all employees for the COVID-19 virus. Due to the nature of their work, these essential employees are unable to perform social distancing measures to the degree necessary to prevent exposure to COVID-19."

The public immediately had questions around what busi-

ness the individual worked at, which has not been confirmed as of press time.

"At this time, MCPH does not believe that the general public who may have been at the store needs to be tested, as they are more likely to have been practicing the necessary social distancing required to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing a mask, washing your hands, and remaining 6 feet apart from others," said the health department. "COVID-19 is not believed to spread to individuals by just passing one another, so long as no aerosolized products (like sneezing or coughing) are exchanged."

On Sunday, the health department released another statement regarding a "cluster" outbreak at a local church. Macon County Public Health has identified a COVID-19 cluster of positive cases in an area church located in Franklin.

Seven members of Evangelical Ebenezer's congregation have tested positive; all members of the congregation are aware of their exposure, and are currently being contacted

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for testing. According to the health department, all members have also been given instructions to quarantine until they receive a negative test result; those who test positive will be given isolation orders for 14 days. In addition, church leadership has been provided disinfection guidance

NC DPH defines clusters of COVID-19 in workplace, educational, and other community settings as:

A minimum of 5 cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period AND plausible linkage between cases; where cases were present in the same setting during the same time-period (e.g., same shift, same classroom, same physical work area); that the timing fits with likely timing of exposure; and that there is no other more likely source of exposure for identified cases (e.g., household or close contact to a confirmed case in another setting).

Because a cluster was identified, North Carolina statute allows the location of the outbreak to be identified. The health department clarified via social media, that in the event that more than five individuals are found to be positive at the local business mentioned previously, the name of the

business would be confirmed.

Macon County Public Health Director Kathy McGaha reported to Macon County News that information as to whether or not the church had been meeting prior to Sunday, which is when religious groups were allowed to resume in person meetings, would not be released. However, TV News station WLOS reported that McGaha confirmed to them that according to the church, they had in fact been meeting in-person during the pandemic.

With Sunday's confirmation followed by additional positive cases being reported Monday and Tuesday, Macon County currently has a total of 18 positive cases: 15 active, 2 recovered, and 1 death.

Friday was the first day of Phase 2 of the Governor's reopening plan Phase 2 lifts the Stay At Home order moving into a Safer At Home recommendation, especially for people at high risk for serious illness. Teleworking is also urged when possible.

Mass gathering limits in Phase 2 will be no more than 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors in most circumstances. These limits apply to the following: event venues; conference centers; stadiums and sports arenas; amphitheaters; and groups at parks or beaches.

Some businesses will remain closed in Phase 2 including: bars; night clubs; gyms and indoor fitness facilities; indoor entertainment venues such as movie theaters, and bowling alleys.

Certain businesses will be open at limited capacity with other requirements and recommendations including: restaurants at 50% dine-in capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements; personal care businesses, including salons and barbers, at 50% capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements; pools at 50% capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements. Employees of personal care businesses will be required to wear face coverings.

Childcare facilities, day camps and overnight camps will be open with enhanced cleaning and screening requirements. Retail businesses allowed to open in Phase 1 at 50% capacity will continue at that level.

After a federal ruling regarding churches in North Carolina, Churches were permitted to hold in-person services beginning Sunday. Public health recommendations are provided for worship services to practice enhanced social distancing and other cleaning and hygiene practices.

North Carolina's Phase 2 is expected to run through at least June 26.

Rep. Corbin speaks to county and town leaders regarding COVID19

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

North Carolina House of Representative Kevin Corbin has been travelling his district in Western North Carolina to meet with local government leaders regarding COVID19 and the needs of individual counties and towns.

"I am here because I want to hear from you directly as to what you need and how I can help you on the state level," Corbin said on Friday while meeting with Macon County Commissioners, as well as Town Managers from both Franklin and Highlands.

Corbin spoke to the group about the more than \$800,000 the state provided to Macon County as a portion of the federal government's CARES Act, which was implemented to provide relief for unexpected expenses incurred during the COVID19 pandemic. According to Corbin, the funding has to be spent on expenses caused by COVID19 such as bulk orders of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for staff, or

even for overtime pay for employees.

One example Corbin gave was regarding the Highlands Police Department and the additional staffing they needed to operate checkpoints into the town during their State of Emergency.

"I am sure those officers were paid some overtime, and these funds can go to cover those costs," Corbin said to Highlands Manager Josh Ward.

The \$833,000 Macon County received will be sent to the county and then the county will divide that money to the two municipalities.

"I have met with both Summer [Town of Franklin Manager] and Josh [Highlands Manager] as to the needs they are seeing and how we can equally divide the funds," Macon County Manager Derek Roland said on Friday.

Rep. Corbin said that as the law surrounding the funding is currently written, those funds cannot be used to make up for revenue shortfalls – such as a decrease in sales tax rev-

enues, although the decline can be attributed to COVID19. However, he said that he is actively working to have those rules loosened to allow the county more flexibility.

Rep. Corbin also informed leaders that the \$833,000 is just half of the funding the state has for Macon County.

"We wanted to get money out as quickly as possible to help with immediate needs, so that is half of what we received from the federal government," said Rep. Corbin. "We have money set back and will look at ways to allocate those funds to local governments in the future based on what happens over the next few months."

Roland followed up with the Macon County Board of Commissioners this week regarding the CARES Act funding and informed them that he will have a more clear picture of how those funds will be used and distributed by the commissioners June meeting, at which point commissioners are expected to vote on a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

We have a will.* (*but it was done in 1990, in a different state, our children are grown. We own different property, we have new investments and retirement funds, and it names Uncle Joe as a beneficiary (he died in 2002)

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Accident claims life of Macon County Sheriff's Office Deputy and wife

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Charges have been filed in a Saturday afternoon accident that claimed the life of Macon County Sheriff's Office Corporal David Head and his wife Dawn. The couple was killed after Tristan Bartlett, 22 of Rabun Gap, failed to maintain his lane and crossed the center line into northbound traffic while traveling south on Ga. 15 in a 2006 Jeep Commander, according to GSP. The wreck occurred in Mountain City Georgia and resulted in the highway being closed for over four hours.

When Bartlett crossed the center line, a chain reaction was started which resulted in a five car collision, including the motorcycle carrying David and Dawn Head. The couple was pronounced dead on scene by Rabun County Coroner Sam Beck.

Other vehicles involved in the collision were a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado, occupied by Michael Payne, 51, and Tyler Payne, 26 of Hampton, Tn., a 2011 Kia Sorento occupied by Jessica Robinson, 41, Jerry Robinson, 69, Linda Robinson, 65, and Jerry Parker, 6 of Clayton, and a 2016 Chevrolet pickup occupied by Breanna Almeida, 25, Hanna Abercrombie, 31 of Franklin, N.C. and Blake Ashmon, 32 of Stone Mountain, Ga.

Although the Georgia State Patrol Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team is continuing to investigate the accident, Tristan Michael Bartlett was charged over the weekend with two counts of second-degree homicide by vehicle, failure to exercise due care and failure to maintain lane, Rabun County Detention Center records show.

David served as a Corporal for the Macon County Sheriff's

Office and his wife Dawn worked at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The couple leaves behind a blended family of four young children. To help provide for the children moving forward, members of the Macon County Sheriff's Office created the "David & Dawn Head: Children's Education Fund."

The funds collected will directly and equally benefit all four of the children that the couple shared as a family.

"If you are looking for a way to help those that David and Dawn loved most in this world, this would be a great opportunity to do so," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "One of their children is currently attending college, two just completed high school and are planning to further their education and the youngest is of middle school age. All four are great kids with a bright future ahead of them."

United Community Bank in Franklin will be accepting donations to the "David & Dawn Head: Children's Education Fund" or donations can also be made online to the GoFundMe Page, which can be found on the Macon County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page. Both of these accounts have been created jointly and all funds collected will go to benefit David and Dawn's children equally.

A celebration of life will be held at the Scaly Mountain Fire Department on Thursday, May 28 at 11 am. A funeral procession will begin at the Sheriff's Department Annex downtown at 10 a.m., go up Main Street, then 441 to Scaly. The family has asked if you would like to show your support and pay tribute to the couple, please do so by parking on the side of 441. There will be memorial services for them at a later date.



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Aimee Trawick Receives Marvin R. Pittman Champions for Education Award

Contributing Writer - Diane Peltz

This year the Marvin R. Pittman Champions for Education Award has gone to Aimee Trawick, PTO President, Cartoogechaye Elementary School.

The Department of Public Instruction recognizes individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to student success, who exemplify leadership in education and make a significant impact on students in North Carolina. This tradition has continued from the Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement (CCSA) to the current Connecting Communities of Education Stakeholders Conference (CCES). The award was named for Marvin R. Pittman because he embodied these characteristics.

Through more than 40 years in education, Pittman served as a math and science teacher, assistant principal, principal and as a senior administrator in the Wake and Durham county public school systems as well as the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Marvin Pittman passionately believed that all children can learn and invested his life in helping make that happen. Pittman, who passed away in September 2016 after a short battle with cancer, wanted all children to have an equal opportunity at education. But he had a particular interest in children from low-income families.



Aimee Trawick

Honorees are selected for the following categories: Teacher, Administrator, Support Staff, Support Staff Administrator and Volunteer. Recipients normally receive the awards at the annual Connecting Communities of Education Stakeholder Conference, but this year's conference was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Josh Lynch, Principal Cartoogechaye Elementary School, speaks very highly of Ms. Trawick as he reminisces about her charisma and charm. He states, "Aimee is an incredible organizer, she has secured funding for both teachers and students. She has a child centered heart! Ms. Trawick is always engaged helping out wherever there is a need. She is willing to help in the classroom, cafeteria, for the janitor, or whoever is in need. She just loves on all the children. She organized a "Spa Day" for the teachers at the beginning of this year. She is an all around great person whose call of duty is boundless."

Aimee expresses her experience at Cartoogechaye stating "I'm so honored to serve the students and staff of Cartoogechaye Elementary School. One of the greatest gifts we can give our entire community is our time and effort. It brings me so much joy to help Macon County be one of the best school systems in the state!"

Congratulations Aimee Trawick, your award is well deserved.

Angel Feather, Inc Turns Their Expertise Toward a New Endeavor

Contributing Writer - Diane Peltz

Two women who started a company in 2004, dedicated to creating aesthetic supplies for the Spa and Massage Therapy industries, have recently transformed their business into making face masks. MaryAnn Ingram and her production Manager, Kaysea Crowe, started making health masks on March 10th. MaryAnn explains "with the nation being asked to social distance, restaurants to close seating, banks to close lobbies, churches to go to virtual ministers, gyms to close, limited use of playgrounds and parks, closure of hair, nail, aesthetic and massage businesses; we saw our manufacturing company possibly tanking."

After reading online news and listening to NPR news on March 10th of 2020, she recognized a health need, searched online, and found a couple of mask patterns, tested them and came up with one they could make, economically, and timely. MaryAnne goes on "I had been teaching movement classes for the Senior Center, so I told Kim Crawford, Senior Center coordinator, about our project and she asked for masks to supply the volunteers who were assisting in the distribution of senior meals. I let seniors who were in my classes know they could go to the Senior Center and ask for Kim and pick one up for themselves. In all the Senior Center received 57 face masks."

"Then my daughter in Richburg, SC said their rural volunteer fire department was in need and we shipped them 50 masks. Since mid-March we have distributed in Macon County facilities 202 masks to: Macon EMS Admin, Franklin USPS, BiLo, Franklin House, Vietnam Vets, Franklin Fire Dept., friends + their families and massage therapists. Last week we finished 500 masks for Old Edwards Inn (they provided all the materials and paid for labor). We had many people in and out of town who have contributed elastic, fabric and cash. We have the "h-Mask" on Angel Feather's website for our Aesthetic and Mas-

sage customers at \$2.75 each. AFI has made and delivered 1300 all over the country – the majority of them in Macon County. Donations of fabric, elastic ponytail bands (1/8 & 1/4 inch elastic has been sold out all over the country), cash donations and sales of some mask have allowed us to donate masks with little cash outlay of our own – donating our time and some postage. Our mask are an outer layer of cotton and a flannel liner against the skin for softness. An added liner can be inserted between the 2 layers for additional protection. WE looked for N95 paper to use as this additional filter layer, but it is not available to small time production at this time but is completely and correctly being reserved for use in medical applications. Ours, as are so many that we have seen on many Franklinite faces, are washable for reuse. We applaud the talent and efforts of so many home seamstresses in Macon county who are doing what they can for our community agencies and citizens! Together, private citizens and small businesses in our community, state and nation will pull us through this."

If you are in need of a face mask, MaryAnne and Kaysea have donated 25 masks to the senior center for anyone who needs one. You drive by the center on Thursdays from 2-3 pm to pick up your free mask. If they run out more will be provided. Right now they are able to produce about 50 masks per day, as long as they do not have a paying job.

MaryAnne states "we are more interested in inspiring others to make and donate according to their abilities locally. We have called who we know are in the public and have offered to assist them by providing mask, but we do not know everyone who may have a need. We would like to get the word out that if you are a health professional or health/safety organization and has a need for masks, call us at 828-524-0936 or toll free 888-256-5212"

To make a donation just go online to www.angelfeatherinc.com. Any donation helps cover the cost of materials, which will be greatly appreciated.

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NHC working to get trails in usable shape; volunteers needed

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Nantahala Hiking Club President Mary Stone provided a recent update on the club's future plans. The NHC maintains approximately 90 miles of trails in Macon County on U.S. Forest Service land. Because the trails have been neglected due to the state's COVID-19 restrictions requiring hiking trail closures, volunteers are needed for cleanup and maintenance – especially on the Appalachian Trail.

“Work is done under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Service,” explained Stone. “Because of the COVID-19 situation, workers have not been allowed on the trail since mid-March. We have experienced a lot of storms, with heavy rain and high wind, in the last two months, so there is much clearing to be done.”

She encourages anyone to volunteer who wishes to be outdoors and assist one time, or regularly. Stone indicated that a single day's activity might involve clearing brush and blow downs along the trail, cleaning water bars, repairing tread to improve walked down sections of the trail, improving water control along the trail, and more.

NHC volunteers gather at its clubhouse, located at 173 Carl Slagle Rd, on the west side of Franklin, every Wednesday from 8:30-8:45 a.m. At 8:45, a plan for the day is reviewed and shared, there is a safety briefing, tools are collected, and then volunteers carpool to a particular work site.

“We usually try to return by 5 p.m., sometimes earlier, sometimes later, depending on the work site location and work to be done,” said Stone.

She informed that NHC provides all tools for trail work. In addition to personal work gloves, most maintainers have their own safety glasses and ear protection to be used when power equipment is in use;



Volunteers with the Nantahala Hiking Club restore an eroded section of the Appalachian Trail about two miles south of the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Volunteers are greatly needed to assist in the cleanup of sections of the AT due to wind and rain storms that occurred during the shutdown period.



however, NHC will provide those as well, if needed.

Specifically, NHC maintains just under 60 miles of the AT from the Georgia/North Carolina state line to the Nantahala Outdoor Center at Wesser, N.C., plus about 30 miles of side/connecting trails. About 18 miles of the NHC section of the AT is in the Southern Nantahala Wilderness and no power equipment can be used. Crosscut saws and hand tools only are allowed. Plus, NHC maintains 10 shelters with privies in this section.

Stone added, “New volunteers are paired with an experienced maintainer for the day's work. The maintainers know a lot about the trails and the vegetation and are experienced hikers. I will say that working with the maintainer group has often been the highlight of my week. It is so rewarding to be out on the trail, doing productive work with fine people who care about our forest. And, meeting hikers on the trail is a treat; they are so appreciative of our work.”

For more information, visit nantalahahiking-club.org.

Pisgah National Forest reopening trails, lifts some camping restrictions

The Pisgah National Forest (PNF) began May 14 reopening many trails and roads as well as partially lifting restrictions for dispersed camping. PNF is using a site-by-site approach, including assessment of facility cleanliness, maintenance status, and health and safety of recreation areas. Facilities and services may remain limited at some sites.

Popular recreation areas that will reopen include, but are not limited to:

- Catawba Falls, TR 225
- Brown Mountain Off Highway Vehicle Area
- Black Balsam Road, FSR 816, and associated trails
- Bent Creek Road, FSR 479 and most trails and trailheads

For a complete list of trails, roads, and recreation areas that are reopening visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/pisgahreopenings. The few roads that remain closed are only closed to motorized vehicles; non-motorized use is allowed.

Restrictions on dispersed camping will be lifted for the entire Appalachian Ranger District. Dispersed camping restrictions will also be lifted for the Grandfather Ranger District with the exception of overnight camping within the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area on the weekends, which requires a permit. For the month of May, the Forest Service will not be issuing these permits. Dispersed camping restrictions remain in place for the Pisgah Ranger District. These decisions were made in coordination with county and local partners to ensure the safety of the public and employees.

Visitors can expect restrooms to remain closed and trash services suspended. Visitors are advised to pack out what is packed in and to remember to use Leave No Trace Principles.

Forest Service staff will continue to perform risk assessments to determine which recreation areas can resume operations in accordance with county and local partners and current public health guidance.

The Forest Service conveyed that its highest priority is ensuring the safety of the public and their employees while supporting mission critical functions. For additional information, contact: Appalachian Ranger District at (828) 689-9694; Grandfather Ranger District at (828) 652-2144; Pisgah Ranger District at (828) 877-3265; Supervisor's Office at (828) 257-4200.

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Macon approves five remote learning days for 2020-2021 school year

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

School districts across North Carolina are finalizing their 2020-2021 school calendars – which will look a little different this Fall in the wake of the COVID19 pandemic. In addition to new start and end dates for the school year –students in NC will have five days of remote learning during the school year, as required by a measure recently passed by state lawmakers and signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper.

During the May meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin announced that the district will be converting five teacher workdays to virtual learning days to meet the new state mandate. In the event of a resurgence of COVID19 – the virtual learning days can be utilized to minimize an interruption in instruction. If school is able to be held without any missed days next year, the virtual learning days will serve as practice for future needs.

Districts across the state were given the chance to develop individual plans for the virtual learning days, which have to be submitted to the state for approval before July 20. Based on individual district needs, the virtual learning days can benefit overall in-



struction. Dr. Baldwin said that the virtual learning days in Macon were stacked in the second semester, which is when the district typically sees inclement weather.

“If we were to have to miss school on February 9 due to winter weather, and we have a virtual learning day scheduled for February 12, then the 9th can become a virtual learning day, and then the 12th would be regular instruction,” Dr. Baldwin explained. “That way we don’t miss a class day due to winter weather.”

The last month of schools across North

Carolina were transitioned to remote learning with teachers having to virtually alter entire lesson plans to cater to online or at home learning. For many students in Macon County, that was easier said than done, as around 50 percent of Macon students lack basic access to internet. Hot spots were established around Macon County for students to link to – but that required parents being able to drive to parking lots such as the one where Big Lots is located to access the WiFi.

Recognizing the struggles of rural broadband as it relates to public education future needs, Representative Kevin Corbin informed a group of county and town leaders Friday afternoon that the state approved additional millions of dollars for the NC GREAT grant program, which provides grant programs to existing rural internet providers to expand internet.

In addition to the five virtual learning days, which are currently scheduled for October 5 & 19, February 12, March 12 & 26, the state requires local districts to submit a remote learning plan and include the following items:

- Consult with teachers, administrators, instructional support staff, parents, students and community partners in developing and communicating remote learning plans.
- Survey students and teachers on home connectivity and provide remote instruction that is appropriate for those with limited connectivity.
- Teach and provide practice opportunities for students on using remote learning platforms, including how to locate, complete and submit assignments.
- Communicate learning targets to students on each remote instruction day, including a process for monitoring the quality of remote instruction materials.
- Ensure remote instructional time supports learning growth. This includes providing work measurement guidelines and deadlines for submitting work.
- Ensure students with disabilities have equal access to the remote instruction provided and that it’s provided in a manner consistent with their IEP or 504 plan.

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Happy Birthday,
Little Dolly!!

Love you more...

Prayers, encouragement supports injured FHS student athlete

Deena C. Bouknight, Contributing Writer

Franklin High School rising junior Devyn Blackburn was in the ICU at Mission Hospital in Asheville for several days following a serious car crash that occurred in Franklin on May 19. Blackburn, a wide receiver for the Panthers Football team, was driving on US 441 during the day when his car was t-boned by an 18-wheeler truck.

By the evening of May 19, according to his mother, Renee Blackburn, Devyn was in critical but stable condition with such injuries as broken ribs, facial fractures, broken scapula, and more. Renee changed her Facebook profile photo to one of her Devyn as a child and began providing updates to friends, family members, and the Macon County community at large.

On Tuesday evening Blackburn updated her Facebook page, "They are trying to get another ng tube in now. Devyn is still resting quite a bit. Prayers for him and our family I am definitely not doing good. I think it is all really starting to hit me."

Since hearing of the accident, the Macon County community has surrounded the Blackburn family with love and support, conveyed Renee. "The support from this community is amazing and that's helping more than anyone knows," she said. Comments on Facebook expressing support and commitments to pray numbered in the hundreds.

"Prayers said multiple times a day for you and your baby boy," was just one of the many comments offered to Renee. Many of the comments shared on social media have been from people who did not know Devyn or the Blackburn



Some of Devyn Blackburn's friends gathered at Franklin High School one day this past week to paint the spirit rock in his honor; Blackburn was taken to ICU at Mission Hospital May 19 due to a car accident on Hwy. 441 in Franklin. Pictured left to right are Rylee Corbin, Mckenzie Redoutey, Madison Klimas, Kiara Dewey, Dawson Green.

family, such as: "I've been checking hourly to see how your precious son is doing. I don't know you or your family but I am certainly praying for you all. My church has him on

our prayer chain."

Devyn's teammates called for a public prayer every day at 10:14 a.m. and p.m. to signify Devyn's football [10] and

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basketball [14] jersey numbers. Renee learned that more than 100 students gathered one evening in the rain and prayed for an hour.

To assist the Blackburn family with additional and accumulating hospital bills and future physical therapy expenses, a GoFundMe was established: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/devyn-blackburn>. "People who did not want to go through GoFundMe have given me over \$1,000," said Renee. However, various community entities are also raising money. Franklin Golf Course began a campaign, with donations collected at its pro shop. It also held a raffle with tickets selling for \$20 each and all proceeds donated for medical expenses.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 30, is a "Dogs for Devyn" fundraiser hosted by Bi-Lo, Store #5011. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the store at 245 Macon Plaza Drive will offer two hot-dogs, chips, and a drink for \$5, with all proceeds going to Devyn's medical expenses fund. And, Renee learned that leather bracelets are going on sale featuring metal medallions sporting Devyn's athletic numbers. Plus there are t-shirts. "I'm wearing one right now," said Renee on Tuesday. "On it is 'Devyn Strong and Panther Strong.' I think those might also be available for sale at some point."

Besides fundraising efforts, Renee said a couple in the community informed her they are putting together a video of well-wishers and community efforts so that Devyn will have it to watch when he recovers. And, Joe Brooks, a family friend and manager of Franklin Golf Course, decided to honor Devyn by using his football number on golf balls throughout this year's golf season. Some of Devyn's friends also gathered together to paint the spirit rock in front of FHS to include Devyn's athletic number as well as the message "We love you Devyn! Panther Strong!"

Renee said, "I cannot wait for the day that I'm able to show Devyn all of the amazing things that our community has done for him."

Over the first few days after the accident, Devyn remained unconscious while his vital signs were constantly monitored and Renee shared daily updates via social media. By May 21, Devyn was improving. At first, due to precautions regarding COVID-19, only Renee was allowed to sit with her son in ICU at Mission Hospital in Asheville. However, a few days later, Renee was able to rotate some bedside time with her daughter and Devyn's sister, 21-year-old Haley.



Devyn Blackburn, a rising junior at Franklin High School as well as an athlete for the Panthers, has been supported by the Macon County community through prayers and fundraisers since he was involved in a serious car accident May 19.

"I'm super thankful they have made this exception and Haley is able to be there with her brother, but I'm also broken-hearted knowing that she is sitting in there experiencing all sorts of emotions alone," Renee said.

On May 22, Devyn's 21-year-old brother, Josh, was also able to visit. Devyn's chest tube was removed, and Renee provided a Facebook update at 6:36 p.m.: "Devyn continues to move in a positive direction minute by minute." An hour later she posted: "Devyn looked in the direction of my voice and made eye contact!! He also wiggled his toes on command."

Reflecting on the moment a few days later, Renee said, "I started ugly crying. You know for him to be alive ... every step is like a baby doing something for the first time. It's an incredible feeling. He's strong and he's going to do so much ... and I'm patient."

By Memorial Day evening Devyn was out of ICU, and at 10:20 p.m. Renee shared: "His vitals remain good; they are still talking about putting him in rehab in the next day or two. ... He has woken up a few times in the last few hours and does squeeze my hand and hold it tight. Thank you to everyone for all you are doing and please continue to pray."

According to Renee, doctors have decided that no surgery, including plastic surgeries, are necessary. Yet, she realizes the process of healing and restoration

for her son will be long. Devyn most likely will be moved to a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta, Ga.

"There is so much still to go through. I haven't really sat back and thought about how I'm going to do it and what I'm going to do." Renee was supposed to return back to work as part of the wait staff at Wild Thyme Gourmet in Highlands when the state's stay-at-home mandate was lifted. "The monies that are being raised will definitely help to get us through this uncertain time. Insurance ... everything, it's all up in the air."

What is not uncertain, however, is just how unwavering Macon County has been in support of Devyn and his family. Renee shared, tearfully: "I love our town, but all this has changed my perspective in some ways. In one of the posts, I put that I would never have imagined people coming together in the way they have. I've fallen even more in love with this town. Sports were Devyn's life. He really wanted to go on to college playing sports. While this is all so terrible, I'm excited to see what kinds of person he's going to become now because people in this community are showing us there is so much more that God can do and there is so much that Devyn can become and will become."

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

Last weekend and Memorial Day were somber occasions. I attended the American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony where the fallen heroes of past wars were remembered. Americans who have been victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic, including tragically some World War II veterans, were also remembered.

We also tragically lost David and Dawn Head to a traffic accident Saturday afternoon. David was a Macon County Sheriff Deputy. Our hearts go out to their children and family in this time of loss and mourning.

At the start of the weekend there was some optimism with the start of the Governors Phase 2 Reopening Plan. I visited downtown merchants on Saturday morning, and I was gratified to see all the precautions that business owners had taken to create safe shopping environments.

They were outfitted with masks and hand sanitizer stations. I heard repeatedly that wearing of masks was not just for the customers protection, but for employees protection too. A worker on Main Street will be in contact with a cross section of the national population. That notion was driven home to me as I rode down Main Street on Saturday afternoon and saw a vehicle with a Hawaii license plate. There were cars from New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, California and of course many from Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana. All the hotspots were much represented.

But, what really worried me was the realization that our downtown visitors, except for a few, were not socially distancing, nor wearing coverings of any kind. We had a national sample of visitors walking on our streets, eating ice cream, sitting on benches and clustering together in jubilant conversion.

In the meantime, we saw a doubling of COVID cases in Macon County. For weeks we had 3 confirmed cases, and I suspect many thought we were living in a safe zone. By Friday the number had increased to around 7 or 8. This past weekend an area church had an outbreak of 7, so now at the time of this writing we have 16 cases. The Macon County Public Health Department is doing contact tracing and requiring quarantining where warranted.

We are not at the end of this spread as we had all hoped. The three Ws are still essential for us to follow. Wear a face covering, wash hands frequently, and wait in lines with 6 feet of spacing.

Some folks may say these protocols are an infringement of their personal freedom, and that they do have the right not to wear a face covering. My response is that in a civil society personal freedom is counterbalanced with personal responsibility. While one may believe they are exercising personal freedom by not wearing a mask, they may be jeopardizing another person's right to safety in public places. Does anyone have the right to freely spread a contagion that could threaten the health of others? This challenge of balancing personal freedom and public safety will continue to confront us in the coming weeks, even here in fun loving Highlands.



Patrick Taylor

Letters to the Editor

Someone should tell Trump he's not the greatest

"The President hears a hundred voices telling him that he is the greatest man in the world. He must listen carefully indeed to hear the one voice that tells him he is not." Those are the words of Harry S Truman, our 33rd President. The United States has been blessed with many great presidents who've lived by Truman's conviction that "the buck stops here." Never one to deny the opposite approach, #45 often states, "I accept no responsibility."

Frequent letter writers to this local newspaper complain that Democrats say "nasty things" about President Trump and that the Democratic Party "has become the party of liars" despite the fact that this president is caught red-handed, lying, exaggerating, and telling half-truths on a daily basis.

I would like to revisit Ancient Greece, which weighed heavily on the minds of the Founding Fathers and is also very relevant in understanding the implications of the Trump presidency. However, I can see your eyes preparing to glaze over so we'll skip Athens' cautionary tale of how self-government can so easily go wrong and fast-forward from 400 BC to the 2016 Republican primary.

In 2016, Donald Trump was considered the unwanted candidate. If memory serves, there were 17 Republican candidates and 16 thought Trump's campaign was some sort of "stunt." One unforgettable remark referencing his campaign (I cannot recall by whom it was made) – "it was a clown car that became a slow-motion auto-accident – funny at first, but soon horrific." Amen to that – what foresight.

Recall, if you can, some of "candidate" Trump's many detractors, the folks who rarely (if ever) spoke kindly of him; New Jersey governor Chris Christie, Senator Ted Cruz, Rep. Jim Jordan, Texas governor Rick Perry, Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator John Thune, (and the list goes on). Trump's candidacy was labelled a "carnival act, a toxic mix of demagoguery, mean-spiritedness, and nonsense." Trump himself was described as; "a bigot, misogynist, liar, unintelligent, inarticulate, dangerous, a fraud, a bully," and "unfit for the presidency." These observations did not come from Democrats, my forgetful friends, these characterizations (which have turned out to be alarmingly accurate) came from his fellow Republicans.

So the question is, were these Republicans lying then or are they lying now, as they evolve from ardent critics to enthusiastic apologists, from vocal competitors to obedient lapdogs? And where is that one brave soul, a true representative of the people, who will tell the president that he is not the greatest man in the world?

The Founding Fathers could no more have envisioned Donald Trump than foreseen man flying or landing on the moon. They had only history which (as much as they knew) was regrettably insufficient to prevent a Donald Trump from materializing in our midst.

The Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius (AD 121-180)

wrote what might be described as one of the earliest "self-help" books of all time. Book Two of the Tome opens with this advice: "When you wake up in the morning, tell yourself: The people I deal with today will be meddling, ungrateful, arrogant, dishonest, jealous and surly. They are like this because they cannot tell good from evil. But I have seen the beauty of good, and the ugliness of evil, and have recognized that the wrongdoer has a nature related to my own... and so none of them can hurt me. No one can implicate me in ugliness."

If there are any honest and decent people left in Trump world they should tape the emperor's words to their refrigerators. Considering Trump tends to dismiss all truth-tellers, it is a given that obsequious pleasers now outnumber devoted public servants by a wide margin. There is unlikely anyone left to stand up to this president and tell him what he so very desperately needs to hear, that he is most certainly not the greatest man on earth. We may consider ourselves fortunate indeed if our beloved republic survives the Trump presidency.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

Face masks may be dangerous to the healthy

To quote a famous independent thinker (a retired medical doctor and politician), "Americans should pause and reflect on the lies they are being sold. Masks are just a form of psychological manipulation. Many reputable physicians and scientists have said they are worthless and potentially harmful. Lockdowns are meant to condition people to obey without question. A nation of people who just do what they are told by the "experts" without question is a nation ripe for a descent into total tyranny. This is no empty warning – it's backed up by history. Time to stand up to all the petty tyrants from our hometowns to Washington D.C. It is time to reclaim our freedom."

Amen. As to the face masks, think hypoxia (reduced blood oxygenation), hypercapnia (increased blood carbon dioxide), headaches, fainting, cancer growth, immunity reduction, lung problems. For more information, for starters you can look up Dr. Russell Blaylock, a board certified neurosurgeon. Stay healthy. This information is to inform, not scare (the scare and panic part was accomplished over the last three months, and done well.)

Stephen Crosby – Franklin, N.C.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected on the basis of the opinions expressed. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Letters are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of the publisher, editor or staff of The Macon County News.

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Trump only worries about the wealthy

So much for Trumps federal government payment protection plan. Sure glad there are people like the los Angeles lakers. They repaid the \$4.6 million loan they received from Trumps protection plan. After seeing that the funds for small businesses were depleted, they thought they needed it more. The big ball teams are worth millions, and they are given a loan. A \$2.2 billion hotel group, the biggest beneficiary of his proction plan have no plans to return the \$12.6 million in loans that was suppose to be for small businesses. Some of the large businesses like Shark Shack an Auto nation and a few others returned more than \$170 million to the program. Trump is planning to rescue the poor oil companies, which some are so rich they don't pay any taxes. Trump an son in law Jared Kushner who both have a high paying job in the White house, plus the millions they both make in other countrys, with big Hotels an golf courses. They need the stimules package real bad. Trump only worries about the wealthy. Theres plenty of poor people still trying to get \$15 an hr an not enough money to pay for health ins. If you make up to \$75,000 a year, you will get \$1,200 in his protection plan. Seems like they should get the help more than the millionars. Where is this man coming from. Its no doubt its Obama's fault. Opening the country like he has, for his economy, the virus rate is on the rise again, and not a cure for it yet, but he doesn't care. The only hope we Americans have is getting him out of our White House. A country can't run on just the wealthy, who don't even pay taxes.

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

Write about anything that is of interest to you

I would like to encourage more of you readers to write letters to the editor, about anything that is of interest to you that you'd like to share. I, and I'm willing to bet, many others, are tired of reading the same mindless diatribes by the same mindless people (you know who you are and so do we) week after week. Hate and anger come from fear, and are poisonous to the soul. Disagreement does not have to be nasty or hateful. I also take issue with *The Macon County News* for repeatedly printing these low minded submissions.

David Stearns – Otto, N.C.

Concern for people taking the law into their own hands

On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who was jogging in a residential Brunswick, Georgia neighborhood, was murdered by a group of white men who said they thought he was suspicious looking. The local police took no action for 70 days, until the press got involved, leaving them no choice but to arrest those responsible.

On May 3, 2020, in New Hanover County, NC, an armed mob including an off-duty deputy sheriff, knocked on the door and threatened to forcefully enter the home of a black family, claiming to be looking for a missing girl in the neighborhood. No girl was there and it was the wrong home, but the family was terrified as their lives were threatened by this vigilante gang of thugs.

Incidents like these are too common, sometimes with the silence or encouragement of the highest elected officials.

Whether you are the editor of a newspaper, an elected official, or just a person who believes in basic justice, the rule of law and the sanctity of human rights in our nation, it's time to stand against those who take the law into their own hands through acts of racial hatred, intimidation and domestic terrorism.

Avram Friedman - Sylva, NC

Please practice social distancing

You know a letter to the editor about the covid-19 virus might be interesting when it has a quote from Ted Nugent. But this is a deadly virus, not a cat scratch fever; nobody knows if they are infected or not unless they have received at least a nasal swab test. Just because you are not showing symptoms doesn't mean you don't have the disease. A person can be infectious for one to three weeks, maybe more, and not even know they have the virus. For the health and safety of our friends and neighbors, every untested person should practice social distancing. This is not tyranny. You nobody has passed a law that forces you to stay in your home but it is an expression of love and empathy to do so.

I read so many attempts to politicize our response to this pandemic. Why bother? The virus doesn't care what your politics are.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

This is a pandemic!

Pandemic! Look the word up in your dictionary. Pan means all. Demic means people. Do you believe that Donald Trump sees the Covid-19 danger from that viewpoint? That we are all at risk? Do you believe that he is really capable of understanding the science that experts discuss around him? Do you believe that he knows more than they do? Do you know how to define a microorganism? Most of us cannot. We are forced to rely on the expert knowledge given to us by professionals. That is why presidents have cabinets. The founding fathers realized that no one person could be the expert in all fields of knowledge needed to govern America. Unfortunately, Trump claims to be an expert in everything.

Logic tells us that we must cooperate on a worldwide scale in order to prevent thousands (perhaps millions) of deaths due to this disease. Political leaders will be forced to put aside other ambitions as well as greed and work together or face deeper peril for all humans.

The most unfortunate thing about America today is that Trump has demanded/coerced total support from the Republicans in Congress. Civil, logical discussion has been rendered impossible.

The virus doesn't belong to either political party. Remember what Aesop told us in his tale The Four Oxen and the Lion: "United we stand. Divided we fall." We must stand together against this pandemic!

Dave Waldrop – Franklin, N.C.

Overcome fear

On Sunday we will be able to go back to church instead of watching it on tv or the internet. Not all churches will be open and not all of the congregation will be returning to church. Some will be staying home because of the fear of the virus. Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "THE ONLY FEAR WE HAVE IS FEAR ITSELF". As a Christian, should we fear death. Some Christians do and some don't. Fear is the number one way the enemy can steal the glory of GOD in our lives. The giant of fear is death, but JESUS'S resurrection show's us that GOD has the power over death and there is nothing that we will face that he cannot overcome.

We must refuse to give into fear. We must remember that fear is the opposite of trust. PSALM 23:4, EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR YOU ARE WITH ME. As a believer, Death is not an ending but a beginning. Death is not going through an exit door but going through an entrance door to JESUS'S outstretched arms. We must remember absent from the body is present with the LORD.

I hope you will join me by attending church on Sunday.

God Bless!

Mike Townsend – Franklin, N.C.



Narcotics Anonymous offers hope for addiction

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) is a worldwide fellowship of people who desire to get, and stay clean from drugs. NA is a group of recovering addicts who follow a 12-step program patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous. NA was formed in 1953 by several narcotics addicts, but do not be fooled by the name of the fellowship. NA has never been solely about getting clean from opiates. In fact, "drugs" are hardly mentioned. More often, participants will hear or read words like "addicts," "addiction," "disease," "abstinence," and "recover." From the early beginnings of the fellowship, all addicts have been welcome regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, color, creed, religion or lack of religion.

There are no dues, fees, or requirements for membership other than a desire to stop using drugs. NA is a spiritual but not a religious fellowship. NA is about more than attending meetings. It is about a new way of life. Never-

theless, meetings are the best place to start.

Schedule of local meetings:

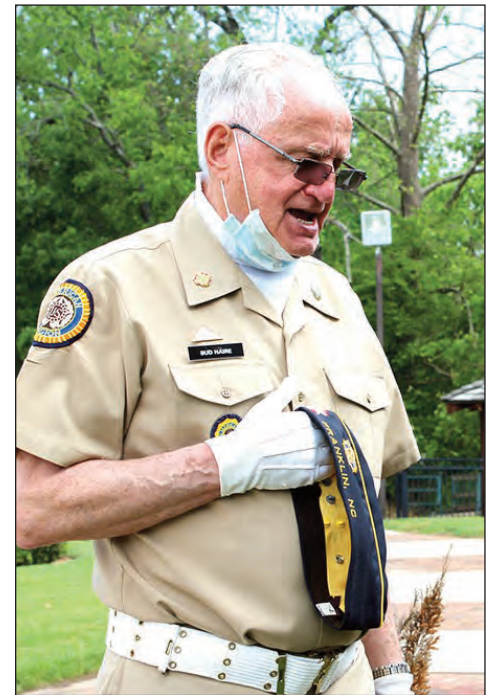
– Attitudes Can Change Group - Mondays 7-8 p.m., and Fridays 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St., Franklin.

– Open Mind Group - Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8 p.m., at Clayton Presbyterian Church, 150 N. Church St., Clayton, Ga.

– Not High Noon West Group - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12-1 p.m., Sylva First Methodist Church (back entrance), 77 Jackson St., Sylva.

Find out more online at NA.org, or text a zip code to (855)227-6262 and receive an immediate texted reply of all meetings near that location. To speak to a member, call the help line at (888)764-0365.

For more information or questions, call Diana at (828)226-9932.





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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 18 - 26. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

May 15

Stephen Ashley Mathis, was charged with felony possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, domestic violence protective 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.

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. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Ty Ashley Ellett, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

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

May 19

Curtis Earl Guest, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Nicole Michelle Shawger, was charged with school attendance law violation. Tracy Platt made the arrest.

Jonathan Wesley Simmons, was charged with first degree kidnapping, robbery with dangerous weapon, assault causing serious injury, assault by pointing a gun, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Daniel Walter Southers, was charged with first degree kidnapping, robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault causing serious injury, assault by pointing a gun, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Robert Dean Childers, was charged with domestic physical. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Benny James Frady, was issued a warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

May 20

Joseph Franklin Maxwell, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

May 21

Krystal Downing, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Sandra Ciarra Rommeney, was charged with failure to register a motor vehicle, driving while license revoked, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer.

May 22

Teigha Franklin, was charged with motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Michael R. Hollifield made the arrest.

Darrin Kenneth Crisp, was charged with motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property. Michael R. Hollifield made the arrest.

Matthew Jerry Levan, was charged with motor vehicle theft.

Matthew Shuler, was charged with motor vehicle theft.

Courtney Everett Howe, was issued out of state felony. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jessy Dakota Beaver, was issued a true bill of indictment for sell/deliver heroin, trafficking heroin. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

May 24

Jerry Lee Stiwinter, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

Samuel Wayne Cash, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, maintaining place for a controlled substance, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Shannon Nicole Silvey, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, maintaining a place for a controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

James Edward Hughes III, was charged with drug/narcotic violations, reckless driving, driving while license revoked. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

May 25

Brendan Makenzie Williamson, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Zachary Adam Himshoot, was charged with misuse of 911 system, assault on law enforcement, drunk and disorderly, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, open container.

Noel Garcia Morales, was charged with assault on a female, assault on another person in the presence of a minor. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

May 26

Ricky Elli Wright, was charged with breaking and entering. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Morgan Faith Byrd, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

May 18

Angela Watson Torres, 51, of Horizon Hill Dr., was charged with motor vehicle theft. No bond was set. Officer Caleb made the arrest.

May 19

Stephanie Elizabeth Vincent, 29, of Shady Cove Lane, was charged with domestic criminal trespass. No bond was set. Officer riles made the arrest.

May 23

Samuel Stephen Nix, 27, of Franklin, was charged with resisting officers, possession of a schedule II controlled substance methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

All A.A. meetings in the greater Franklin area including Otto have been suspended until further notice. To speak with a member of A.A. call 828 349-4357 or 828 837-4440 or visit www.aawnc80.com.

Swain County Genealogical Historical Society has been cancelled.

Friday, May 22, was the last day for meal delivery throughout the Macon County school district. Meals will be available for pickup only beginning Tuesday, May 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the following locations: South Macon Elementary School, Mountain View Intermediate School, Iotla Valley Elementary School, Franklin High School, Nantahala School and Highlands School. Meals will not be available on Saturdays or Sundays. This meal service is free for any child 18 years old and younger. For more information, contact School Nutrition Director David Lightner at (828)524-3314 ext. 1010 or david.lightner@macon.k12.nc.us

Wayah Street will be closed to all through traffic from the intersection of Wayah Street and US 441 Bus. to the intersection of Wayah Street and Depot St. The closure to all through traffic on this section of Wayah St. is necessary in order to construct the new round-a-bout at the intersection of Wayah St. and US 441 Bus. They anticipate re-opening Wayah St. to through traffic no later than August 24, 2020. The detour routes for local traffic east bound will be to continue US 441 Bus. North to the intersection of US 441 Bus. North and East Palmer St. Turn right on East Palmer St. and 441 Bus. North then continue to the intersection of US 441 Bus. North and Depot St. Turn right on Depot St. and continue to the roundabout. The detour routes for local traffic West bound will be to turn North on Depot St. then left on US 441 Bus. South to the intersection of US 441 Bus. South and Wayah St. Road closure barricades will be place on Wayah St. and the intersection of Wayah St. and US 441 Bus. and at the intersection of Wayah St. and Depot St. For more information, call Ronald Woods or Jacob Dockery at (828)321-5061.

American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Drive. Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling (800)733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving and are required to wear a face covering or mask, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance. The Red Cross is also looking for blood drive hosts to help ensure a stable blood supply. Learn more and sign up to sponsor a drive by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

Franklin Covenant Church Curbside Food Pantry will be held on Saturday May 30, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 265 Belleview Park Rd. For everyone's safety please remain in your vehicle.

NC Pre-K program through Macon County Schools is now

taking applications for the 2020-2021 school year. A child is eligible for NC PreK if they turned four on or before August 31 of the program year (2020), but is not yet five years of age and the family meets income guidelines. Anyone who is interested in applying for a NC Pre-K spot or has questions on eligibility requirements, contact Valerie Norton ASAP at (828)524-3314 ext. 1041.

Uptown Gallery on Main Street new hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Franklin Covenant Church has a grocery delivery service for anyone at higher risk for COVID-19. If you are unable to leave home to get the supplies you need due to sickness, disability or age, please contact us for more details. The only cost to you would be the items you order, there is no delivery charge. FC-Cdelivery@yahoo.com

Nantahala Hiking Club Hikes have been canceled until further notice.

Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival scheduled for June 19 and 20 has been cancelled. The next Taste of Scotland is scheduled for June 18 through 20, 2021.

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Editor's Note: Due to a judge's ruling that declared the closing of churches unconstitutional, some churches are now opening with safety protocols in place and altered schedules. Email maconcountynews@gmail.com with schedule or venue changes.

Oak Grove Baptist Church Homecoming will be held on July 19. For more information call (828)369-2415.

Tellico Baptist Church Sunday Services are currently being held in the parking lot at 11 a.m. Anyone wishing to attend are asked to stay inside their car or near their car and maintain a 6 foot distance from others. For more information, call TJ Guffey at (828)347-1014.

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

Memorial United Methodist Church Anonymous Call-in Prayer Line. If you need prayer, call (828)369-0707. Leave a message with your prayer request, and the church will be happy to pray for you or whoever you request prayers for. You may also leave a request for a call back if you need one.

Editor's note: Most churches in the Franklin area are not holding services, although some are live streaming online. The Macon County News will continue to list churches to reference when the governor's meeting restrictions are lifted.

Bethel United Methodist Church Sunday Services are Conventional 9 a.m. and Contemporary 11 a.m. which includes a dismissal for Children's Church. Adult Sunday School is 10 a.m. Located at 81 Bethel Church Road, Franklin. For more call (828)371-2436.

All Saints Episcopal Church holds Rite I Service every Sunday, 8 a.m., at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St.; Rite II Service at 10:15 a.m. with music at St. Agnes Chapel every first and third Sunday; and at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd., every second and fourth Sunday. For service times on fifth Sundays, visit www.all-saintsfranklin.org or call the church office at (828)524-4910.

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets Sundays for worship at 8:30 a.m. (contemporary) and 10:55 a.m. (traditional). Fellowship time is at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 a.m. Bible studies, group offerings, and gatherings occur throughout the week. The church is located at 66 Harrison Ave. The senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit www.firstumcfranklin.org

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22. A 10x10 grid containing numbers 1-9.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22. A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Yellowwood trees should make top 10 favorites

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

I have a friend whose wife is obsessive about the color of yellow. Their entire house inside and out was decorated in shades of yellow. They both became very interested in horticulture. Predictably their plant choices all had the same theme – yellow. She got so excited when Wayside Gardens first offered a yellow-blooming Magnolia, a variety named “Elizabeth.” It was placed next to the foundation of their house. Its blooms disappeared next to the yellow stucco. Of course, they had a Yellowwood tree.



Dr. Bob Gilbert

There is nothing yellow about the Yellowwood tree except its freshly cut wood is yellow and its leaves in the fall turn a beautiful bright yellow. Its blooms are white.

At a party with horticultural friends one night we made a list of the 10 most beautiful trees in our collective opinions. The expected were listed: Dogwoods, Cherry, Magnolia, Grancy Gray-beard and so on. Not one person mentioned Yellowwood. But look at the photo recently made of one of the Franklin’s Yellowwoods. Had my friends seen this tree in full bloom it would have bumped its way towards the top of the 10 favorites.

Unwittingly, my friends with the yellow house made a spectacular choice with Yellowwood or Cladrastis kentukea (ka-gras-tis). Its scientific name is sometimes listed as Cladrastis lutea. Cladrastis in Greek means brittle branch. It is also called Gopherwood, Yellow Locust and Yellow Ash. We will let the horticulturists argue which species name is preferred. It is native from North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Some sources list it as rare but is a little more abundant in western North Carolina and Tennessee. It can be found in our native forests but not often noticed because its surrounding neighbors prevent it from reaching its full dimension. It is a moderate-size tree, 50 feet in height. The trunk has smooth gray bark and can grow two to three feet in diameter. The white blooms resemble wisteria. It does have striking yellow leaf color in the Fall.

The leaves of Yellowwood have a distinct feature. There are a series of nine to 11 leaflets collectively called a compound leaf. These leaflets are in alternate positions going down the leaf stalk. In most other trees and shrubs that have compound leaves, the leaflets are opposite to one another.

There are Japanese and Chinese related species. Only one cultivar has been found and introduced - “Rosea.” This pink form was discovered on the campus of the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Watertown, Mass. No one remembers where it came from. It is rare to find this pink form available for sale.

Oddly enough, the Yellowwood produces an abundance of sap, even more than a Sugar Maple. For a time, it was collected hoping the yellow sap could be used as a dye. The Yellowwood heart wood is yellow which can be thinly sliced for decorative furniture veneers.

Yellowwoods produce an abundance of seedpods that resemble Red Bud seed pods. The seeds germinate easily and the seedlings come true, as the tree is self-pollinating. Also, stem cuttings root well if taken while dormant – December is suggested by Michael Dirr. We planted seedlings here in Franklin in 2006 and they have yet to bloom. Dirr states he planted a seedling that had failed to bloom after 17 years. So, try to find as a mature tree. The books say it blooms in alternate years or every third year. Local records which may not be complete show the Franklin’s Yellowwoods bloomed in 2010,



Yellowwood trees in bloom.

Photo by Karen Lawrence

2014, 2017 and 2020. It is hardy from Zones 4-8.

This tree is fairly disease and insect resistant. The one I grew in Kennesaw did get borers. We treated it using the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid chemicals and it held its own with biannual soil drenching. Today faced with a borer problem I would use Coretect Tablets.

I do not know who had the foresight to plant Yellowwoods in downtown Franklin. What an awesome choice. We should be very proud and thankful.

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

Karen Lawrence is a professional photographer of horticultural and wildlife subjects living Franklin.

Smoky Mtn. Toys for Tots becomes homeless on June 30

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

For the past several years, Smoky Mountain Toys for Tots has stored and distributed toys out of a location in Holly Springs Plaza at U.S. 441 Bypass in Franklin where there is still an Ingles Market. All that changes by June 30. Coordinator since 2006, Randy Hughes said he was informed that Ingles, which purchased the shopping center that accommodated the former Walmart, is planning to renovate the Toys for Tots space and other spaces in the shopping center.

“A few years ago, we were serving between 400 and 500 children,” said Hughes, “but now we’ve grown so large and provide toys to about 2,400 kids a year in Macon, Jackson, Haywood, and Swain counties in North Carolina and Rabun County in Georgia. So we need, ideally, about 6,000 square feet of space to sort and distribute out of. To just store the toys,



we need at least 1,000 square feet.”

Toys for Tots was founded by a United States Marine Corps reservist in 1947 as a way to make sure underprivileged children received toys at Christmas. However, the volunteer-run organization has grown so that when families lose homes due to fires, accidents, and natural calamities, it can replenish and provide toys for affected children year-round, not just at Christmas. Recently, in fact, Hughes said toys were distributed to the children of a family that lost their home to a fire.

Besides toys, Toys for Tots donates books through a 10-year-old collaborative literacy effort with Scholastic, Inc. Recently, Toys for Tots and Scholastic donated 1,000 books to South Macon Elementary School so that children have access to free books, which will be distributed by the school administrators.

“I’ve been looking, looking, looking, and I can’t find any place to relocate Toys for Tots,” said Hughes, who oversees a team of about 15-25 volunteers. “I’ve reached out to Macon County and there is one possibility that I need to learn more about. If we don’t find a place, I’m not sure what we will do.”

Hughes is hoping that someone has an unused building in any of the counties that Smoky Mountain Toys for Tots serves, out of which Toys for Tots can operate.

“And they can get a tax write off because we’re a 401(c)3 organization,” he said.

Hughes can be emailed at ichughes@dnet.net.

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Nature Center starts 'pen pal' program

In the spirit of staying connected while staying apart, The Highlands Nature Center, part of the Highlands Biological Station is starting a "Plateau Pen Pal" program. Anyone who is interested can write to the Highlands Nature Center. If you have a favorite mem-



Education Specialist, will answer each and every letter. There may even be responses from a few "guest experts" you may be familiar with from the Nature Center - experts of the scaly or salamander variety. She will also be mailing hard copies of our themed Nearby Nature activities, designed for kids and adults of all ages, to any interested pen pals. For more information, call (828) 526-2623.

ory from visiting, a drawing or photo you'd like to share, or just want to exchange a friendly hello, the center would love to hear from you.

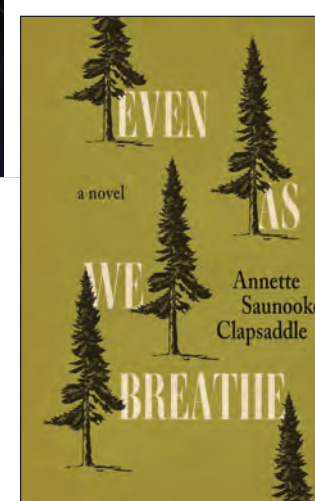
Paige Engelbrektsson, Nature Center Ed-

Send your letters to:
Highlands Nature Center
265 N. 6th Street
Highlands, NC 28741

Clapsaddle is first EBCI member to publish novel

Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle is the first and draws comparisons between rural enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, rural whites (soldiers and civilians), and upper-class foreign diplomats.

"Even As We Breathe" examines race and class in the secluded microcosm of Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., during the summer of 1942. Twenty-year-old Cowney Sequoya is an undervalued member of the inn's grounds crew, where Axis diplomats and their families are being held as prisoners of war during World War II. Cowney struggles to balance the often-conflicting worlds of his home in the Qualla Boundary (Cherokee Indian Reservation) and this inn, where foreign diplomats quietly negotiate backdoor deals.



Charles Frazier, *New York Times* bestselling author of "Cold Mountain" said of the book, "A fresh, welcome, and much needed addition to the fiction of the Appalachian South and its neglected people and places."

"Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle lifts the curtain to show us a South we don't know. Thrilling, mysterious, and finally, a revelation!" said Lee Smith, *New York Times* bestselling author of "Blue Marlin."

About the author
Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle holds degrees from Yale University and the College of William & Mary. She served as Executive Director of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, and now is an English teacher at Swain County High School,

This story urges consideration of the tropes of imprisonment and America's roles as both prisoners and prisoners, as Saunooke Clapsaddle tackles the complexities of race relations, familial identity, and citizenship for

Cherokees near where she was born and raised in Western North Carolina. Learn more at asaunookeclapsaddle.com.

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Fontana Regional libraries providing curbside service

All Fontana Regional Library locations in Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties are now providing curbside pickup service starting the week of Monday, May 18.

The Macon County Public Library curbside hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hudson Library curbside hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. In Nantahala, library curbside hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

How does curbside work for a library?

- Members of the public will not be allowed inside the buildings.
- Place a hold on items through the online catalog or by calling the library to make a request.
- When you are notified that your items are available, come to the parking lot and call the library using your cell phone (or knock on the door). Your items will be brought out to you. Only items that have been reserved ahead of time will be available.
- Social distancing rules will be observed, and staff will be wearing masks. Patrons are encouraged to do the same when accepting materials from library staff members.
- Library materials that have been returned will be set aside in quarantine for 72 hours for disinfection purposes. All materials picked up by patrons at curbside will have been quarantined already.
- Due dates for all items that are currently checked out have been extended to June 1. Returns may be made anytime at the drop boxes in each library's parking lot.

Curbside services are expected to continue at least through the end of May. Library administrators hope to reopen the library building to patrons in June, and are working with the Macon County Health Department to ensure that when it is reopened, the building and procedures will be safe for both patrons and staff.

For more information, call the Macon County Public Library at (828)524-3600 or visit the website at www.fontanalib.org.

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Alzheimer's Association hosting virtual education programs for N.C. residents

While the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the health of millions in this country and around the world, the novel coronavirus presents unique challenges for more than 5 million Americans, including 180,000 in North Carolina, living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter and the Alzheimer's Association, Eastern North Carolina Chapter are offering free virtual education programs and online support groups in the coming weeks to help all North Carolina caregivers and their families. The Alzheimer's Association offers a number of education programs that can help those living with Alzheimer's and their families understand what to expect so they can be prepared to meet the changes ahead and live well for as long as possible.

"During this challenging time, it's critical that all North Carolina caregivers have access to Alzheimer's Association resources even if they cannot venture out," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Western Carolina Chapter. "The COVID-19 crisis is altering Americans' daily lives, but the needs of Alzheimer's caregivers cannot be put on hold. These online programs allow us to connect with caregivers and provide necessary information even amid the current crisis."

Each virtual education program is approximately one hour and allows the audience to ask questions and engage with others going through the journey online.

Upcoming virtual education programs include:

- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal & Financial Planning
- Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research

For a complete list of upcoming virtual programs, visit alz.org/northcarolina. Attendees are invited to join via video/webinar or through a toll-free number. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required at alz.org/northcarolina/helping_you/virtual-offerings or by calling 800-272-3900. Participants will be sent con-

ferencing details prior to the date of each virtual program.

In addition to the virtual education classes, the Alzheimer's Association offers online community resources at alz.org including ALZConnected®, a free online community where people living with Alzheimer's, caregivers, family and friends can ask questions, get advice and find support.

More than 16 million family and friends, including 479,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States. To help family caregivers navigate the current complex and quickly changing environment, the Alzheimer's Association has also offered additional guidance to families at alz.org/COVID19.

The Alzheimer's Association free, 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) offers around-the-clock support for caregivers and families impacted by Alzheimer's and all dementia.

Additional facts and figures

- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.
- More than five million Americans are living with the disease, including 180,000 North Carolina residents — a number estimated to grow to as many as 210,000 by year 2025.
- More than 16 million family and friends, including 479,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States.
- In 2019, friends and family of those with Alzheimer's in North Carolina provided an estimated 545 million hours of unpaid care, a contribution valued at \$7.15 billion.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's® and all other dementia.

Nikwasi Initiative hires first executive director

Following an extensive talent search, Nikwasi Initiative (N.I.) has hired Elaine Eisenbraun of Long Creek, Ore., as its first executive director.

"Elaine has already begun working from her home, and will soon be moving to Western North Carolina," said Barbara McRae, N.I. co-chair. "She brings an unusual depth of experience in fields that overlap with our mission and a set of skills that are vital for us at this stage in the organization's life."

Funding for the position has been made possible by the generous support of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, McRae said.

"The position was advertised nationally," she said. "We felt that the large number of highly qualified people who applied reflects well both on the attractiveness of our region and on the esteem with which Nikwasi Initiative is held across the country."

"A diligent search committee took on the task of interviewing and making recommendations, and we much appreciate the hard work they did. In the end, Elaine emerged

as the perfect fit. Her background proves her to be an innovative thinker, and a doer. She has had a lot of experience building young organizations like ours, and she has a strong grant-writing and fundraising background. As the Cherokee are partners in this Initiative, it was important to us that she has worked closely with Tribal leaders and members in the Northwest."

"Most important, perhaps, the directors found her engaging, easy to talk with, obviously people-oriented. We think she will fit right into the community and we look forward to the day that we can begin introducing her to folks in Western North Carolina."

Eisenbraun has a master's degree in Business Leadership and Management and an undergraduate degree in Forest Management. Her experience includes work in the environmental sector and in the arts. She and her husband Marty had been planning to move to North Carolina to be closer to their daughters and other family, and had purchased property in Hot Springs. She plans to stay there temporarily while looking for a house in the Franklin area.



Deaths & Funerals

Katie Buchanan Wood

Katie Buchanan Wood, 80, of Sylva, N.C., passed away Saturday, May 16, 2020. She was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, Sept. 30, 1939, to the late Ennis and Lula Buchanan. She finished Webster High School in 1958 and married Lamar Wood Sept. 4, 1960. She retired from Jackson County School System as a full-time bus driver from 1975 to 2000 and continued part time until 2006. She enjoyed driving the bus all those many years considering it more than a job, and cherished all the many interactions she experienced with the kids. It was always a joy when she ran into kids that once rode her bus and seeing the wonderful men and women they had become. She loved gardening, knitting, canning, and was a member of East Fork Baptist Church, where she served as Sunday School teacher and was treasurer of East Fork Cemetery Fund.



Katie Buchanan Wood

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lamar Wood, brother, Coy Deitz; sisters, Ora Stamey, Lois Monteith, Lillian Green, Zenobia Jane Deitz, Opal Hubbard and Susie Holland.

She is survived by two daughters, Michelle Chastain (Mark) and Ashley Guffey (Adam); son, Denny Howard Wood (Heather); grandchildren, Madalyn Potts (Zachary), Makayla Chastain, Kaitlyn Wood, Zachary Wood, Landry Guffey and Bailey Guffey.

A funeral service was held Friday, May 22, at East Fork Baptist Church, with Rev. Dennis Burrell, and Rev. Robert Blanton officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the East Fork Cemetery Fund, 761 East Fork Road, Sylva, NC 28779.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wood family. Online condolences are available at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

Kent Noel Johnson

Kent Noel Johnson of Sandy Springs, Ga., passed away peacefully on May 17, 2020.

Born in Chicago, Ill., he was the son of the late Aubrey Johnson and Mildred Sackerson Johnson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Donald Johnson. He was president of Golden Spike Engineering until his retirement. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed his last days at his beloved lake house.



Kent Noel Johnson

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Patricia Johnson and brother, Gordon Johnson, his son, Brian Johnson (Debbie) and a daughter, Nancy (Fred) Fontaine as well as five wonderful grandchildren William, Mary Emma, Kent, Jack, and Alexander.

A memorial service will be planned sometime this summer. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The American Parkinson Disease Association, 135 Parkinson Avenue Staten Island, NY 10305 or apdaparkinson.org.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Kevin Bryan Tilson

Kevin Bryan Tilson, 59, of Stamey Mountain Road, Franklin, N.C., died Monday, May 18, 2020.

He was the son of the late Henry Reno Tilson and Letha Stamey Tilson.

Surviving are one sister, Karen Tilson (Barry Wilt) of Franklin; and one brother, Randall Tilson (Sherry) of Franklin.

He had a loving heart and will be dearly missed by his family, friends and cousins. Kevin, go rest high on that mountain! I loved you more than words could have ever said.

Upon Kevin's request, there will be no services or visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Christian Church, Franklin, 156 Bellevue Park Road, Franklin, NC 28734, or a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com, or by calling Karen or Randy.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Kevin Bryan Tilson

Carolyn Cates May

Carolyn Cates May, 78, passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in Asheville, N.C. She was born in Dandridge, Tenn., to the late Raymond and Judy Conway Cates. She was married to the late Franklin Russell May who preceded her. She worked and retired from the grocery business after many years of service. She loved to collect glassware and cut glass. She was a great cook and loved cooking for the American Legion in Lillian, Ala., and for family and friends.

Survivors include her two brothers, Larry Cates of Franklin, N.C., and William Cates of St. Charles, Ill;

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date in Florida.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the May family.

Nancy Enid Spagnoli

Nancy Enid Spagnoli, 85, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

She was born in New York, N.Y. to the late James and Adelaide Schultz Spagnoli. She is survived by her sister, Mrs. W. Joan Rodriguez of Fairfield, Conn. and her nieces Pamela Stirrat of Wellesley, Mass.; Lillian Schneider of Denver, Colo.; Joanne Willich of Stuart, Fla. and Nancy Rodriguez of The Woodlands, Texas; and her nephew Harold J. Rodriguez, Jr. of Southport, Conn. In addition to her parents, Nancy was preceded in death by her friend Ruth Grannis.



Nancy Enid Spagnoli

she attended Scarsdale High School. She moved to Franklin in the 1980s where she was a Benefactor of Angel Medical Center. She was an avid boater and enjoyed spending time cruising on Lake Chatuge. She loved living in Franklin and thoroughly enjoyed being outdoors in the mountains of western North Carolina. When at home, she was busy in the garden and tinkering with household projects.

A private service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, N.C., 28744.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Betty Sue Guyer Bukowsky

Betty Sue Guyer Bukowsky, 86, passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 in Franklin, N.C. She was born in Macon County to the late Ephream Arvil Guyer and Mary Tallent Guyer. She was married to the late Emil Gus "Ski" Bukowsky who preceded her. She operated the Burningtown Head start for many years and she owned and operated the B&D Restaurant in Franklin, NC. She loved gardening, cross word puzzles, flowers, and chocolate. She was a member of the Iotla Baptist Church where she helped with the kitchen crew, the Helping Hands Committee, Sew and Sew, and a Sunday School class.



Betty Sue Bukowsky

Survivors include her two grandchildren, Steven Lee Mason of Franklin, N.C. and Summer Leanne Posey of Richmond, Va.; a sister, Barbara Guyer Duncan of Franklin, N.C.; a brother, James Claude Guyer of Franklin, N.C.; and two great-grandchildren, Ryan Fuhs and Brianna Fuhs all of Greensboro, N.C.

In addition to her parents and husband, Betty was preceded in death by a daughter, Deborah Sue Mason; and a brother, Edwin Guyer.

A Funeral service was held in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Brandon Breedlove and Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial was in the Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Dax Padgett, Steven Mason, Tanner Guyer, Eric Duncan, Jacob Cook, Ryan Rowland, and Megon Toth.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Bukowsky family.



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Late caution propels Brad Keselowski to victory in Coca-Cola 600

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

A late caution set Brad Keselowski up for victory in NASCAR's longest race—and set Chase Elliott up for a second straight crushing disappointment.

In Sunday night's Coca-Cola 600, which went to overtime for the second time in its history, Keselowski surged ahead after a restart on Lap 404 and beat Jimmie Johnson to the finish line by .293 seconds to win a race that stretched to 607.5 miles, longest in NASCAR history.

Elliott led Keselowski's No. 2 Team Penske Ford by 1.6 seconds before Elliott's Hendrick Motorsports teammate, William Byron, spun with a flat tire as Elliott's No. 9 Chevrolet approached the start/finish line to complete Lap 398 of a scheduled 400.

Elliott pitted under the eighth caution, as eight drivers stayed out on old tires. Restarting 11th on Lap 404, Elliott charged to third in the two-lap overtime but could go no further. On Wednesday, Elliott was running second with a chance to win at Darlington when a misjudgment by Kyle Busch sent him hard into the inside wall minutes before rain halted the race and made a winner of Denny Hamlin.

"I feel like I've thrown this race away a couple of times, and I thought we were going to lose it today," said Keselowski, who surrendered the lead to Elliott on Lap 363 and watched Elliott gradually pull away. "I know we've lost it the way Chase lost it, and that really stinks, and today we finally won it that way (by staying out).

"It's major! It's the Coke 600. That only leaves one major for me, the Daytona 500. We're checking 'em off. We may not have been the fastest car today, but, whoa, did we grind this one out. The pit crew on the yellow before the last had a blazing stop to get us up front."

Keselowski's victory was his first NASCAR Cup Series triumph of the season, his second at Charlotte and 31st of his career. The win was Ford's first in the Coca-Cola 600 since Mark Martin visited Victory Lane in 2002.

Elliott found himself in a thankless position after Byron's spin. Whether crew chief Alan Gustafson brought him to pit road or not for the overtime, cars behind him were certain to do the opposite.

"That's got to be a joke," Elliott said on his radio when the yellow came out for Byron's spin.

"You just try to make the best decision you can," Elliott added after the race. "Those guys are just going to do the opposite of whatever we do. That's just a part of



Brad Keselowski, driver of the #2 Miller Lite Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on May 24, 2020 in Concord, North Carolina.



it. You make decisions and you live with them. It wasn't the pit call—I think being on offense is fine.

"Like I said, those guys are going to do whatever's the opposite of what you do."

Opting to stay out, Johnson secured the runner-up position to post his best finish since winning at Dover in the 13th race of 2017. But Johnson's first thought was for the disappointment his teammate felt.

"I feel sorry for Chase," Johnson said. "Last week—Wednesday, it was—he had such a great car, and to be leading here and have the caution come out with a couple to go, I feel bad for him.

"But I'm very proud of my team, very proud of everybody. Second's OK, but it's tough being this close to Victory Lane. But we'll get there."

Rain interrupted the race on Lap 50, necessitating a red-flag period of one hour, eight minutes, 35 seconds for track drying. Starting from the pole after edging Johnson by .009 seconds during qualifying earlier in the day, Kurt Busch led the first 54 laps but lost the lead under caution for the rain and slipped back to 10th by the end of Stage 1.

Alex Bowman, on the other hand, grabbed the top spot with a two-tire stop under yellow on Lap 54 and won the first 100-lap stage under caution three laps

after Clint Bowyer broke a lower control arm in the front suspension and rocketed into the outside wall in Turn 1.

The No. 14 Ford was billowing smoke when Bowyer climbed out, unharmed but frustrated.

"It knocked the wind out of me there," Bowyer acknowledged. "I mean, we're 100 laps into a 400-lap race, and to be out already—you talk about a helpless feeling. The guys worked really hard on the (car), but it just wasn't meant to be.

"We'll get ready for next Wednesday (the Alcoso Uniforms 500 at Charlotte), and we'll be back at it. I'm going to go somewhere and take this thing (Hans device) off

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PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Cup Series Race: Food City 500

Race Details

Location: Bristol, Tenn.
Date: Sunday, May 31, 3:30 p.m.
Last Year's Pole: Chase Elliott - 131.713 mph
Last Year's Winner: Kyle Busch

Bristol Motor Speedway



Distance: 0.53 miles
Shape: Oval
Turns / Straights: 36 / 16 degrees

Race Preview

In the fall of 1969, Bristol Motor Speedway was reshaped and remeasured. The turns were banked at 36 degrees and it became a 0.533-mile oval, or the "World's Fastest Half Mile". Improvements continued, bringing its current seating capacity to 160,000. The concrete racing surface is 40 feet wide with straightaways 650 feet long. "Racin' the way it ought'a be" is the slogan that this raceway uses and because it is the shortest track with the highest banking, it makes for exciting racing. The race will be aired on FS1 at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 31st. Last week's winner, Brad Keselowski, finished 18th in last year's race.

Last Weekend's Race: Brad Keselowski won at Charlotte

Brad Keselowski extended Jimmie Johnson's losing streak to 102 races, holding off the seven-time NASCAR champion in overtime early Monday in the Coca-Cola 600. Keselowski started in the back of the field, worked his way to the front and gambled in not pitting when caution stopped Chase Elliott from winning with two laps remaining. It is the first win for Keselowski this season, his first Coca-Cola 600 victory and the first win at this event for Ford since 2002.

Brad Keselowski

Born: Feb. 12, 1984
 Crew Chief: Paul Wolfe
 Car: Ford

Year	Wins	Top 10s	Avg. Finish
2020	1	4	9.1
2019	3	19	10.0

2020 Standings

Cup Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Kevin Harvick	291	7
2) Joey Logano	268	3
3) Alex Bowman	266	2
4) Chase Elliott	241	4
5) Brad Keselowski	235	4
6) Martin Truex, Jr.	235	3
7) Ryan Blaney	212	2
8) Denny Hamlin	209	4
9) Kyle Busch	209	4
10) Aric Almirola	208	3

Xfinity Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Chase Briscoe	223	4
2) Harrison Burton	204	5
3) Austin Cindric	197	4
4) Noah Gragson	193	4
5) Ross Chastain	188	4
6) Justin Allgaier	186	2
7) Ryan Sieg	183	4
8) Justin Haley	168	4
9) Brandon Jones	165	3
10) Michael Annett	139	1

Top News Stories

Jimmie Johnson disqualified from the Charlotte 600 after car fails post-race inspection

The No. 48 Chevrolet of Jimmie Johnson failed post-race inspection and was disqualified from the Coca-Cola 600. Johnson had finished second Monday morning behind Brad Keselowski at Charlotte Motor Speedway. With the DQ, Johnson will be officially credited with a 40th place finish, last. He will also forfeit all 11 stage points he earned throughout the night. NASCAR Cup Series managing director Jay Fabian said the car went through the Optical Scanning Station (OSS) and failed the post-race alignment numbers. The failure was in the rear alignment. "It's the same thing we checked at least a handful of cars for post-race after every event," said Fabian. "I can't really give specifics on the numbers. Yes, there is a pre-race number and a post-race number that does give a pretty good tolerance and it was outside of those post-race numbers." Hendrick Motorsports does have the option to appeal the penalty. Johnson had a chance to win his fifth Coca-Cola 600 when he restarted second in overtime. "Disappointed about our post-race OSS. We think something must've broken but won't know until we get it back to the shop tomorrow and can diagnose," Cliff Daniels, No. 48 crew chief stated via twitter. Among eight drivers who stayed out under the final caution, Johnson made his older tires last in the dash to the finish but had nothing for Keselowski.

Racing Trivia

What year did Brad Keselowski win the Cup Series Championship?

- a) 2012
- b) 2013
- c) 2014
- d) 2015

Answer: a) Brad Keselowski won the 2012 Cup Series Championship.

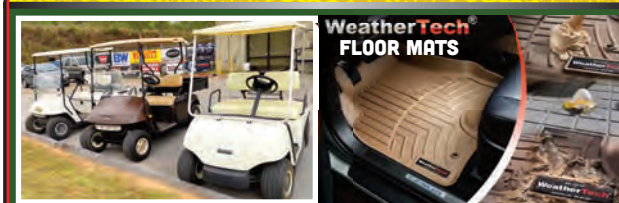
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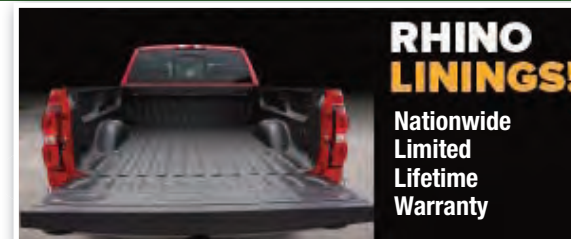
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and find somewhere where I can find a cold beer. I'm out of here."

Bowman dominated Stage 2, leading comfortably except for a cycle of green-flag pit stops midway through the 94-lap green-flag run to the halfway point. On Lap 203, the cars stopped in line on pit road in remembrance of the fallen heroes who have become such an integral part of the Memorial Day weekend race.

After pit stops, Bowman kept his advantage and led the first 23 laps of Stage 3, but Martin Truex Jr., the runner-up in the first and second stages, got past Bowman in traffic on Lap 224 and held the point through a cycle of green-flag stops.

But Truex lost the lead in the pits under caution for Matt Kenseth's contact with the outside wall on Lap 276, when Joey Logano, Kevin Harvick and Chase Elliott stayed out on old tires. Uncomfortable with the feel of his car after a two-tire stop, Truex restarted fourth and fell back to fifth by the end of Stage 3, which Logano held on to win, with Bowman

running second.

Truex held the held early in the final stage but couldn't get back to the front after the penultimate restart on Lap 353.

Ryan Blaney ran fourth, followed by Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, Truex and Kurt Busch. Tyler Reddick ran ninth and Christopher Bell 10th, the best finish of the season for the Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender.

Bowman led a race-high 164 laps, followed by Truex with 87. Keselowski was out front for 21 circuits.

Wednesday night's Darlington winner, Denny Hamlin, had a major issue before the race started. On the pace laps, a two blocks of tungsten ballast fell off the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, forcing Hamlin to the pits to have the weight replaced.

By the time Hamlin exited pit road, he was eight laps down, scored 40th. Additional post-race penalties are likely, given how serious an infraction NASCAR deems the failure to secure ballast.



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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: TONY WINNERS

ACROSS

1. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
 5. Clock std.
 8. U-_____
 12. *Webber's "Evita" collaborator
 13. Away from wind
 14. Boy Scout rank
 15. Picnic invaders
 16. Digestive aid
 17. Change, as in the Constitution
 18. *Like Tony Awards 2020
 20. Entry document
 21. Fill with spirits
 22. 10 decibels
 23. *"Kiss Me, Kate" composer/lyricist
 26. Sound of leaves in wind
 29. Before, archaic
 30. Admirer
 33. "My bad"
 35. Garments
 37. Barbie's beau
 38. Annoy a bedfellow
 39. Result of too many drinks
 40. Type of tunic
 42. F in FWIW
 43. Brown's beagle
 45. *M in "M. Butterfly"
 47. Bar association
 48. "Mack the _____"
 50. *Tony winner David _____ Pierce
 52. *Musical with the most wins, with The
 56. *Jellicles' cries
 57. Vietnam's neighbor
 58. Flu symptom
 59. Pond buildup
 60. Sunrise point
 61. "Just _____"
 62. *4-time winner Tom Stoppard's output
 63. Tap choice
 64. Tallest volcano in Europe
- DOWN
1. Catch-22, e.g.
 2. Brown bagger
 3. *Before and after intermission
 4. Final six lines of a sonnet
 5. Sparkle
 6. More than a scuffle
 7. Like a ball ready for a drive
 8. *Musical with most nominations
 9. *Tony nominee, "Rock of _____"
 10. Longer forearm bone
 11. Bulb type
 13. "All _____!"
 14. Roof overhang
 19. Humble requests
 22. Pesky, clingy plant
 23. Cribbage pieces
 24. Un-written exams
 25. Old episode
 26. *"La Bohème," reimagined
 27. Shower accessory
 28. Erasable programmable read only memory
 31. Thumbs-up
 32. Gridiron official, for short
 34. Blood fluids
 36. *Coveted destination
 38. Mix-up
 40. Typically has April 15th as deadline
 41. In the thick of
 44. Falstaffian in body
 46. Base of the decimal system
 48. Cattle enclosure in African village
 49. Pirate's "necklace"
 50. *Setting of Tony winner 'Hadestown'
 51. Vinyasa workout
 52. #19 Down, sing.
 53. *The Grand Slam of show-business, acr.
 54. The Colosseum, today
 55. Pura _____, or pure silk
 56. Atlas page

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\$9,116 TOTAL VALUE

\$54,330
 \$6,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE
 -\$3,116 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT¹
 \$45,214 PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS²

2020 TRAVERSE AWD 3LT



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS

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\$46,985 MSRP
 \$2,500 CASH ALLOWANCE
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 \$42,472 PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS²

2020 BLAZER RS AWD



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS

\$5,380 BELOW MSRP

\$49,465 MSRP
 \$3,250 CASH ALLOWANCE
 -\$2,130 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT¹
 \$44,085 PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS²

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FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS

\$5,799 BELOW MSRP

\$29,820 MSRP
 \$4,750 CASH ALLOWANCE
 -\$1,049 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT¹
 \$24,021 PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS²



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FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS

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