



At the groundbreaking of the new Angel Medical Center were (L-R) Becky Dahl, Med Surg ICU Patient Care Technician; Peggy Ramey Operating Room RN; Leslie Vanhook, Radiology, David Franks, MD, Hospitalist and Chief of Staff; Tim Layman, manager of Clinical Operations; Karen Gorby, CEO; Johnny Mira-Knipple, Board Chair.

Mission Health breaks ground for new hospital

Mission Health on Friday celebrated the groundbreaking for its 82,500 square foot Angel Medical Center.

“This construction project builds on and supports the vision for healthcare in our communities. A new facility here in Franklin will allow us to provide current patient care services while focusing on the health of the community for years to come,” said Karen Gorby, CEO of Angel Medical Center, during remarks at the ceremony.

Located at One Center Court, Franklin, the new 30-bed facility will be 1.5 miles from the current facility. The new hospital will have three operating rooms, one endoscopy suite, and a 17-bed ER that will include three dedicated behavioral health beds.

“We are proud to be here to celebrate a true investment in rural healthcare and in the Franklin community,” said Greg Lowe, President, HCA Healthcare North Carolina Division, who also spoke at the event.

This new \$68 million state-of-the-art healthcare facility will offer the most up-to-date clinical services and integrates the latest wireless technology available. It will provide larger rooms, better lighting and the capacity to allow for the latest technologies to be incorporated into the hospital.

Among community members in attendance were Jack Horton and Dinah Mashburn, Franklin Town Council members; Warren Cabe, Director Macon County Emergency Services and Gary Shields, Macon County Commissioner; Justin Setser, Franklin Town Planner; Kevin Corbin, NC State Senator; Karl Gillespie, NC State Representative District 120; and Police Chief Bill Harrell. The new Angel Medical Center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022.

Toddler found safe after all-night search

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

A Macon County toddler who went missing from his home Sunday evening was safely returned to his parents thanks to the joint efforts by the Burningtown Iotla Fire Department, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Wildlife, Spartanburg County Search & Rescue, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Jackson & Macon Emergency Management, EMS, 911, and numerous search and rescue squads. Multiple fire departments played a vital role in the search. Agencies included volunteers from Cullasaja, Cowee, West Macon, Highlands and Franklin Fire Departments.

Just after 7 p.m. on Sunday, Macon County 911 received a call for help in locating a two-year-old who had wandered away from his home in the Burningtown community. Local agencies immediately began canvassing the area. Jackson County Sheriff's Office & Jackson County Emergency Management assisted by flying drones with night vision over the area.

Macon County Sheriff's Deputy Edwin Grant who helped coordinate search efforts requested the additional search of

See TODDLER page 3



Macon County Sheriff's Deputy Daniel Long carries the toddler safely down the mountain where he was checked out by EMS who transported him with his mother to the hospital for further evaluation.

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FHS Class of 2021 go on Senior Grad Walk

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Skateboarders pack Town Council meeting seeking support for park

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Skateboarders assembled pre-meeting time of 6 p.m. outside Town Hall on May 3. Once the doors opened, they flooded in, taking up the rows of seats, lining the walls, and standing in the back. Many had skateboarded to the Main Street building and held their skateboards in front of them or at their sides. Six submitted their names to make the allowed three-minute presentations to the Town Council as part of a public hearing focusing on development of a skate-boarding park within the town limits.

Fourteen-year-old Evan Lampkin spoke first and was cheered as he informed the council that he enjoyed skateboarding and had made his best friends participating in the sport but had difficulty finding places to skateboard. He was told it was “illegal” to skate throughout the town of Franklin, but both he and his mother had researched to find ordinances regarding skateboarding and could find none.

“Skateboarders are very appreciative of the skateboarding area at the church (First United Methodist Church) but it’s only open one day a week,” said Lampkin. “Other towns in Western North Carolina have skate boarding parks that are very popular, but I can’t drive and

many teens who like to skateboard can’t drive. So I am asking for a place for kids to express themselves ... a safe place, instead of side-



Dozens of skateboarders, mostly teenagers and young adults, packed the May 3 meeting to show their support of a skateboarding park in the town of Franklin.

walks and parking lots. And it’s not just for kids; 20- and 30-year-olds and older like this sport.”

Tim Shaw, a father of two skateboarders, spoke about how a skateboarding park would

not only be a place where parents could drop their children off and know they were skating in a safe place, but would also be an economic boon to the area in that parents might visit area stores, restaurants, and coffee shops while their kids skateboard.

“And I think this community would come together to build it,” he said.

Scott Elliott, who took his skateboard with him to the podium, held it up and said, “This, along with Jesus, saved my life. I can drive to skateboarding parks in Highlands or Waynesville, but kids can’t and their parents don’t want to drive them all that way to sit there for several hours. Skateboarding is here to stay and we need a park.”

Added Adam Kimsey, “People young and older skateboard. I realize that police worry about liability and the safety of the skateboarders, which is why they don’t want them skating all over town. But this is not a trend; it’s a culture. And we need to find a way to work with these [skateboarders] to foster that culture.”

The Council was amenable to further discussions and plans regarding a future skateboard park, and Mayor Bob Scott asked Town Council member David Culpepper to oversee organization of the effort. Before the public hearing on the skateboarding park closed, Franklin Police Chief William “Bill” Harrell said, “I want it to go on record that, as a department, we have just been concerned with the safety of the skateboarders. I was the police chief in Highlands when a park was developed there and I would be very excited to see that happen in Franklin.”

Mayor Scott asked Chief Harrell if he would consider blocking off some areas in town periodically as places for skateboarders – just until a park is designed and completed. Chief Harrell agreed and said he would meet with skateboarders to determine where and when that might occur.

UDO defines ‘Tiny Homes’

In other news, Town Planner Justin Setser presented a report on the Unified Development Ordinance. While details of the report will be provided via the minutes shared online by the Town Council, of note for the “major changes” was inclusion of tiny homes.

“We created a definition to alleviate any confusion about tiny homes,” said Setser.

That definition is: “A single-family detached home that is 200 square feet to 600 square feet in size (not including loft space) and complies with the North Carolina State Building Code. A tiny house on wheels for permanent occupancy (longer than 30 days) is considered a recre-



At the May 3 Town Council meeting, Franklin Police Chief William “Bill” Harrell promotes Lt. Devin Holland to Captain of Field Operations. While Holland’s wife, Sara, stood in front of the Council with her husband, Chief Harrell allowed Holland’s 3-year-old daughter, Harlyn, to give her father his new badge and his certificate of promotion. Holland has been a police officer for 25 years and is a native of Macon County. Harrell addressed the Council, expressing that he felt confident Holland would be a successful leader in his new role.

ational vehicle.”

In addition, sawmills, lumber yards, and mulch grinding services are considered “permitted uses in C-3 (highway commercial) ... with special requirements,” such as noise stipulations.

Nikwasi update

Elaine Eisenbraun, executive director, Nokwasi (currently spelled Nikwasi) Initiative, shared with the Town Council the recent receipt of a Creative Economic Development Consulting Giveback Award for eight months’ worth of consulting services.

“We will use it to focus on the economic development opportunities surrounding the Mound on Main Street and the ‘cultural district,’” she said. “The first meeting regarding the award is on May 7, and we will be able to go forward after that. We will be inviting people to come together to provide input on the economic side of this.”

She cleared up confusion about the Mound’s name.

“When we went to the last Eastern Band of the Cherokee council meeting, they asked us to change the spelling and pronunciation of the Mound’s name to be more accurate per the Cherokee language. We are happy to do that, but it will be a bit of an effort because people have known it as Nikwasi and there is much signage, etc. with that spelling. But it’s a worthy effort.”

Regarding funding for the Nikwasi Initiative, she said, “We are applying for other grants that will help us with any physical design work, such as trails, landscape architecture, and more.”

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TODDLER

Continued from page 1

the area utilizing the "Air Scent" canine even though it had already been searched by volunteers. Grant routinely works with the National Exploited and Missing Children's organization and instructs in various canine trainings for search and rescue dog units.

"This additional search was not because we didn't have confidence in the efforts of rescuers but instead because we know just how difficult it is to see at night and something as small as a two-year-old can easily be missed," said Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. "Having available and utilizing an important resource like an 'Air Scent K9' is crucial when they can pick up a scent without having to see anything to find it. At the point the K9 team arrived and bad weather was moving in, they quickly mobilized support personnel and sent teams into the woods where the toddler first went missing."

The Spartanburg County Search & Rescue K-9 unit teamed with NC Wildlife Officers and Macon Deputies and was assigned to canvassing the mountainside near the missing toddler's home.

After hours of searching, just before 4 a.m., one of the teams located the missing toddler after K9 "Cricket" indicated an alert to her handler. Within moments of that alert, the K9 lead the team to the toddler where he was found sitting in an area several hundred feet up the mountain above the parent's residence where they recently moved.

The child remained quiet as the team carried him down the mountain where volun-

teers and EMS personnel awaited his arrival with his parents. Macon County EMS treated the toddler at the scene and transported him with his mother to local hospital for further evaluation.

"This search was a team effort and everyone played an important role serving our community and this family," said Holland. "It's because of the efforts of everyone involved and God's mercy and grace that we had a successful outcome and I'm honored to have been involved with each of them."

No Taste of Scotland; ceilidh still planned for June 19

The Taste of Scotland Society, Inc. event organizers have decided to postpone the Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival until June 2022, since the governor has limited any outdoor gathering to no more than 75 people.

However, a Ceilidh will be held on Saturday, June 19, at the Rathskeller on Stewart Street in downtown Franklin.

What is a ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee)? It is a social event with Scottish music, singing, traditional dancing, and storytelling. Two musical groups will be performing: the "Jacobites by Name," a band of musicians from North Carolina and Tennessee; and "Norma Jean & Jim," who hail from Cashiers. Rockin Rollie Pollie will have street fare for purchase. T-shirts will also be on sale.

A highlight of the Ceilidh will be recognizing Clan Crawford as the honored clan for 2021, and Little Miss Tartan, Daisy Haley, will be crowned by Kendall Holland, the retiring Little Miss Tartan.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to find the latest news about the Ceilidh. The facebook is Taste of Scotland Festival (look for the red/yellow Scottish emblem) and on Instagram@tasteofscotland-festival.

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County buys property in Nantahala; future purpose undecided

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

During the April meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, a split-vote passed to purchase a parcel of property in the Nantahala Community. While some commissioners, like Josh Young, want to see the Nantahala Library relocated to the new parcel, the official future use of the property is still undecided.

After a closed session discussion, Commissioner Paul Higdon made a motion to purchase a 1.29 acre parcel of property with a single building on the property in Nantahala located at 36 White Oak Lane. The purchase price was \$159,800.

“The current library is dilapidated,” said Higdon who made the motion to purchase the property. “It is a double-wide trailer and its functionality is weak.”

Macon County currently has three libraries, all of which are part of the larger Fontana Regional Library System. In total, Fontana Regional Library operates six libraries, three in Macon County, two in Jackson County in Sylva and Cashiers, and one in Bryson City.

Like Young, Higdon voted to move forward with the purchase of the property in hopes to develop it for a new library and community center for the Nantahala Community.

During his motion to purchase the property, Higdon acknowledged that the current staff and leaders of the Nantahala Library do not want to relocate, however Higdon supported the pur-

chase of the property due to promises he made to Nantahala residents.

“I know there is some opposition tonight that the library doesn’t want to move,” said Higdon. “Well, I have promised a lot of people in Nantahala that I would push to have the county fund this property for a library/community center for the folks in Nantahala. There is talk that if we buy this property they aren’t going to use it as a library and that is beyond me, I can’t force the library to move up there.”

While Macon County owns the building in which the Franklin library is located, the management and operations of the library is handled by the Fontana Regional Library System (FRL).

Macon County provides FRL with about \$1 million a year in operation costs for all three libraries in the county. In addition to the operating budget, Macon County pays the utility bills on the facilities, as well as the maintenance on the buildings. In the past, as the Nantahala Library has needed repairs, funds have been provided out of the county’s maintenance budget, in addition to the operating dollars provided to FRL.

Commissioners have grappled with issues surrounding the Nantahala Library dating back to 2018. The library, a double-wide trailer on the property of Nantahala School, has been operating since 1999. In September 2018, Nantahala resident Ed Trask spoke to commissioners about a survey conducted seeking input from residents on the future of the Nantahala library location.

When asked where community residents would like to have a new library, the White Oak

Flats area received the most responses. However, almost as many residents requested that the library stay at the existing location, citing centralization, easy accessibility, convenience, and safety.

Fontana Regional Library director Karen Wallace has advocated for the library to remain at Nantahala School, saying having the library at the school makes the most sense for students.

Chairman of the Library Board Bill Dyar spoke ahead of the vote to purchase the property and said that the library has discussed the proposed property and made it clear that they also believe that the library should stay located at the Nantahala School. Dyar spoke to commissioners about a recent meeting with members of the school board and library board to tour both the proposed new property and property located on Nantahala School at which point leaders affirmed their desire to not relocate.

“Both community members and library board members were in full agreement that converting the industrial arts building [located at Nantahala School] into the new community center and library, from our perspective, is the preferred alternative.”

Commission Vice-Chair Ronnie Beale noted that moving forward with purchasing the property, knowing the library’s intention to not relocate, no longer made sense.

“I have to speak in opposition of purchasing the property because we can’t find a purpose for the building,” said Beale. “We have heard from the library board tonight and community lead-

ers, that they cannot put the library four miles from the school.”

Beale noted that while the county dug a well on the property during the due diligence period, the property currently has no internet connection, which the library says is crucial.

“We are talking about an estimated \$300,000 just to get fiber there and a total output of close to \$700,000 for this building,” said Beale. “And what are we going to do with it? Once the county buys it we have to fix it up and then keep it up. ... We can’t find a purpose for the building if it isn’t going to be a library and then we still have to do something about the library.”

Commissioner Gary Shields also voted in opposition of purchasing the property clarifying that if purchased, it would only be considered for a community building and not a library.

Commissioner Jim Tate, who cast the tie-breaking vote in support of purchasing of the property said that the deciding factor for him to purchase the property was an email from Macon County Board of Education member Melissa Evans, who represents the Nantahala District saying that she wanted to see the library moved.

“What pushed me over the edge on how I wanted to support the purchase of the property was an email from our school board representative...didn’t want the community building or the library located at the school. With that, I decided to vote in favor of purchasing the property.”

Commissioners voted 3-2 to purchase the property at 36 White Oak Lane in Nantahala out of the county’s fund balance.

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Nantahala Hiking Club catering to Spring AT thru-hikers

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Despite a decrease in typical annual community outreach to Appalachian Trail hikers, due to the ongoing pandemic, their numbers have been significant in Franklin as they come off the trail at Winding Stair to rest and restock before continuing on toward Tennessee. And Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC), as a group and as individual members, has provided hikers encouragement and refreshments at different times throughout April.

“Compared to the past [pre-COVID-19], the club has had a pretty quiet hiker season due to not having our normal Chow Down and Easter on the Trail,” said Katharine Brown, current NHC president, “but lots of members did their own trail magic at Rock Gap in coordination with the AT Community Council, and the ‘club’s day’ at the Gap was beautiful and we counted 40 hikers that received swag and food goodies.”

One noticeable difference this year in AT demographics, due



Forty Appalachian Trail hikers received food and refreshments at Rock Gap recently from Nantahala Hiking Club members. April is a busy time for hikers stopping in Franklin to rest and restock their supplies.



to the pandemic, is that hikers are domestic, pointed out Deborah Gedling, Franklin AT Community Council representative and secretary of NHC.

“It seems that there are as many as there always are – and the number of hikers who have registered their hikes with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy bears that out – but there are vir-

pancake breakfast and donated \$200 to their efforts to feed and support hikers.”

In June, a new slate of officers will be presented to the NHC board and in July the membership will vote and this summer the new membership be announced. To learn more about NHC, visit <https://www.nantalahahikingclub.org>.

tually no people from countries other than the U.S. due to various COVID restrictions.”

Because most thru-hikers enter the AT at Springer Mountain in Georgia in early spring in an attempt to hike the 2,190 miles to Katahdin in Maine by fall, activity is often high in Franklin due to the town being a close-by-the-trail way station. Approximately 30 regular NHC volunteers maintain 58.6 miles of the AT from Bly Gap at the Georgia/North Carolina border to the Nantahala Outdoor Center on the Nantahala River at Wesser, N.C.

Said Brown regarding recent activity, “Our Hike Ambassadors went on 49 patrols and counted 885 hiker interactions. Ambassador hikes are specific to our ‘bubble’ that come through Franklin over a period of a month and a half. We also visited the First Baptist Church during the

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 **ANGEL MEDICAL CENTER**

WCU vaccine clinic extends hours, resumes J&J vaccine

Western Carolina University's regional COVID-19 vaccine clinic will now operate with extended hours, including evenings and weekends and resume administering Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

"In light of recent recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we will resume administration of the Janssen vaccine," said Cortnee Lingerfelt, director of WCU's regional COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

WCU will administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on April 28 and 29 and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine on May 1 and 3. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses with the second dose taking place 21 days after the first dose. Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine requires one shot.

"Providing our region easy access to the COVID-19 vaccine supports our efforts as we gear up for a traditional college experience this fall with plans to resume all academic, social and extracurricular activities and continue the academic excellence for which the institution is known for," said Richard Starnes, WCU provost. "Our WCU vaccine clinic is open to all groups and offers us a better opportunity of achieving a normal campus life to the fullest and safest extent possible."

The clinic is operating out of WCU's Health and Human Sciences building, located at 3971 Little Savannah Rd. in Cullowhee, and vaccines are available by appointment only.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit vaccine.wcu.edu.

Franklin VA clinic to hold monthly vaccine clinics

The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Franklin, North Carolina, will begin holding COVID-19 vaccine clinics the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. beginning May 5.

Veterans should contact the clinic at (828)369-1781, ext. 3831, to schedule an appointment.

The community clinic will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations to anyone who served in the military, their caregivers and spouses and some other beneficiaries under the authority granted by the SAVE LIVES Act.

Those eligible under the SAVES LIVES Act to receive a vaccine can go to www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine to register.

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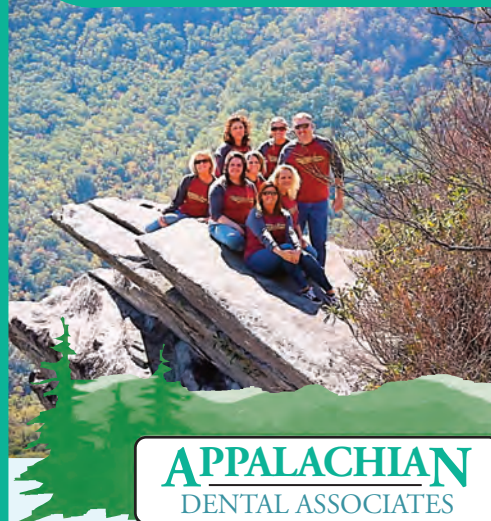
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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House held a no-vote session on Monday, April 19, 2021. Tuesday's legislative calendar consisted of several committee meetings, including, Local Government, Health, and Education K-12. Session convened at noon and we voted on the following bills:

– HB334, Temporary Align Paycheck Protection Program Treatment to Federal Treatment, which would reduce the tax burden on small businesses who utilized PPP loans. I voted in favor and the bill passed by a vote of 114-1.

– HB145, Property Protection Act/DVPO, would allow persons subject to a domestic violence protective order and an order to surrender firearms, to transfer storage of the firearms from the sheriff to a qualified licensed firearms dealer. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 114-3.

On Wednesday, I attended the Appropriations Committee which heard HB370, No Veteran Left Behind, which would establish a pilot program in six counties to expand the Veterans Justice Intervention Program (VJIP), and appropriate \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund, for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, to The Independence Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to implement that program. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed committee.

Thereafter, I attended the Agriculture Committee where we heard two bills:

– HB182, Increasing Meat Production and Capacity, would strengthen the meat and seafood processing industries in North Carolina by making permanent the "Increasing Seafood and Meat Production and Capacity" grant program. I voted in favor and it passed committee.

– HB198, Forest Service Changes, would allow magistrates to waive trials for State forest rule offenses, exempt certain fires from open burning laws, modify overtime policy for the North Carolina Forest Service, and provide more detail about the use of funds allocated for the development of the North Carolina Forest Service headquarters. I voted in favor and it passed committee.

Session convened at 3:30 p.m., and we voted on a wide array of legislation. A few of the bills the House considered included:

– HB245, Efficient Government Building & Savings Act, includes creating a 40% energy conservation requirement for certain State buildings and ensure that

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

A solution in search of a problem

A recent letter to the Macon County News extolled the virtues of voter ID laws indicating that they would "...safeguard against non-citizens and illegal criminal aliens voting and diluting the vote of American citizens...." Then the writer went down a lengthy list of common activities for which a person must present an ID. (Open a bank account, cash a check, purchase alcoholic beverages, yada, yada, yada...) So, anybody who does virtually anything in our society must have proper ID. Right? WRONG! An analysis by the North Carolina State Board of Elections shows that more than NINE percent of registered voters in NC do not have a government issued ID card. That's more than 600,000 people. And guess what? More than 500,000 of these people regularly vote.

North Carolina passed a voter ID law in 2018 but it was not used in the 2020 elections because the courts found that parts of the law were "motivated, at least in part, by discriminatory intent." The legislature is trying to remedy this and create rules which can get approved by the courts. And the 2018 law was created to replace the 2013 voter ID law which the courts struck down as unconstitutional due to racial discrimination.

Voter fraud is incredibly rare. After the 2016 election, the NC State Board of Elections conducted an audit of the votes. They found 508 allegations of voter fraud out of 4.8 million ballots cast. The "allegations" of fraud were 0.01 percent of the votes cast. And only ONE case out of those 508 was of someone impersonating another voter at the polls-which is the kind of fraud that voter ID is meant to stop. Similar audits across the nation show similar results.

Do you still think that we should enact a law which will prevent hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians from voting? Then let's take a quick look at how voter impersonation works.

Yakov wants to help his favorite candidate to win an election. He must find the name of the voter he wishes to impersonate. He chooses William Smith. But first he needs to do some research. He needs to find out where Mr. Smith votes, Mr. Smith's street address and his date of birth because election officials will ask for this information and check it against their records as well as his signature, which can be compared with the signature on file at the local Board of Elections. So Yakov goes to the polling location and tells the election officials that he is William Smith. Of course, he runs the risk that William Smith is no longer a registered voter at that precinct because he has moved, died, been convicted of a felony or purged from the voting rolls for other reasons. Or that William has already voted by mail, at an early voting site or earlier that day at this precinct. Or that the election officials know William Smith (most election workers live in the precinct where they are working) and they know that Yakov ain't no William Smith.

Can you say BUSTED? Now Yakov faces state and federal felony charges which could result in stiff fines and lengthy prison sentences.

To make matters worse for Yakov, 75% of North Carolina voters participated in the 2020 election. That means that there is a three in four chance that William Smith has already voted or will be voting soon. So, when Yakov chooses a voter to impersonate, he had better be sure that the voter is not going to vote in this election.

Do you still think anyone would risk this?

Ok, maybe a few would be so stupid. But to change the results of the election Yakov and those who think like him will have to convince HUNDREDS if not THOUSANDS of other people to risk becoming felons by trying to cast a fraudulent vote and they would all need to vote for the same candidate. It is ludicrous to even think that this is happening.

So, do we really want a law which could deny hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians the right to vote? And do we really want to slow down the voting process by making everybody show their government issued ID when they appear to vote? If you are still convinced that a voter ID law is necessary to prevent the Yakov's of the world from impersonating voters, then please submit a letter to the editor and show evidence that this is a widespread problem which is changing the results of elections. And if you have no evidence to offer, can we at least be honest and agree that voter ID laws are simply another form of voter suppression to keep "those people" from voting?

Don't you wish our legislators would spend their time and OUR money working on things which actually benefit North Carolinians. How much of OUR money are they spending defending these lawsuits and trying to make it harder to vote? Don't you wish they could do things like passing a clean Medicaid expansion law- as 38 other states have done- so that more than 600,000 more North Carolinians have access to quality medical care?

Gary St.Arnauld – Franklin, N.C.

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

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GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

lighting is turned off, where feasible, from midnight until 6 a.m. unless required for safety, emergency or insurance purposes. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 116-1.

– HB370, No Veteran Left Behind Act, would provide tools and training to law enforcement for veteran assistance and connect veterans with resources at the state and federal levels. The bill passed unanimously, 118-0.

I am proud to co-sponsor House Bill 535, Firefighters Fighting Cancer Act of 2021, which will provide supplemental insurance policy for firefighters diagnosed with cancer.

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

– HB307, NC Time Zone/Observe Daylight Saving Time All Year, would designate the standard time of the State and would institute a year round daylight saving time if authorized by the United States Congress. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 99-16.

– HB315, Arson Law Revisions, would increase the punishment for certain arson offenses and amend the offense of arson or other unlawful burnings that result in injury to a firefighter, law enforcement officer, fire investigator or emergency medical technician. The bill would also require criminal history record checks of applicants to fire departments. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed by a vote of 103-12.

– HB376, School Calendar Flexibility, would allow local school administrative units to open no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 19 each year. I voted in favor and it passed, 114-1.

The House reconvened on Monday, April 26, 2021 for a no-vote session. As is custom, House and Senate members gathered in the House Chamber to listen to the Governor provide his "State of the State" address. This is a biennial tradition that affords the Governor the opportunity to speak before the legislature and highlight the current condition of North Carolina while offering recommendations moving for-

ward.

The House convened Tuesday afternoon to vote on several bills, including:

– HJR330, Federal Authority Regarding Elections, would express the Members of the General Assembly's opposition to any federal action infringing upon the State's Constitutional authority to manage, control, and administer elections, effective upon ratification. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 67-50.

– HB180, Designate Overdose Awareness Day, would designate the 31st day of August of each year as Overdose Awareness Day. The bill passed unanimously, 117-0.

I was proud to vote for the Equity in Opportunity Act to help increase educational opportunities for low-income families and students with disabilities. This bill will ensure our most vulnerable students have choices to meet their educational needs.

I attended several meetings with my colleagues on Wednesday prior to the start of the afternoon voting session. Wednesday's session consisted of votes on a myriad of bills. Among the bills considered were:

– HB235, Evidence/Dist. Ct Speedy Trials, would require remote testimony by a lab analyst in a criminal proceeding in district court regarding the results of forensic or chemical testing to be admissible, if the State has provided the defendant or their attorney with a copy of the lab report, and notice at least 15 business days prior to the proceeding that it intends to introduce the testimony of the lab analyst using remote testimony in real time. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 104-11.

– HB605, Voters Right to Know Act, directs the State Board of Elections to provide voters with detailed information to help them to be well-informed prior to voting in an election. The bill passed unanimously, 119-0.

– HB616, Charter Replication Act, would fast-track the replication of high-quality charter schools, particularly in underserved areas. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 86-30.

Thursday consisted of a no-vote session.

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Class of 2021 participate in Senior Grad Walk at elementary schools



Candidates for graduation of the Class of 2021 from Macon County high schools visited elementary and middle schools last Thursday for the Senior Grad Walk. The tradition has historically been held inside the different elementary schools, giving seniors one final opportunity to walk through the halls of their former schools before their high school graduation, however, due to COVID19, this year's celebration was held outside. Seniors paraded around to all elementary schools, as well as MVI and MMS visiting their former teachers, many of whom displayed class photos of the now seniors over the years. Students handed out "honorary diplomas" to former teachers and staff at the various schools who impacted their life leading up to their senior year.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter & Brittney Lofhouse



Softball wins against Smoky, loses 1st round playoffs



Franklin High School Lady Panthers Softball traveled to Smoky Mountain on April 29 to avenge an earlier season loss to the Mustangs. Highlights of the game included Kandice Parker reaching on an error in the 8th inning, then she went to third on a passed ball. Nevaeh Tran then singled out to right field and scored Parker for the go ahead run. Then Rylee Corbin hit a two-run home run. The Lady Panthers won against Smoky Mountain in the 8th inning with a score of 5-2.

With Covid 19 wreaking havoc on all sports in the past year, the state softball playoffs had to be shortened which means not as many teams would make it. To make the playoffs teams had to win their conference. The Lady Panther's loss to Pisgah put them behind Smoky Mountain in the rankings. Because only eight conferences are in the West, wildcard slots were available to be in the playoffs. To determine who would take the wildcard slots, officials evaluated stats, strength of schedule and game history. Franklin made the playoffs traveling to Hibriten in Lenoir on Tuesday for the first round. Hibriten scored two runs in the seventh with Franklin remaining scoreless and taking a loss, 2-0. The Lady Panther overall record stands at 8-2 in the Mountain Six 2A Conference and 9-4 overall.

Photos by Patri Cabe



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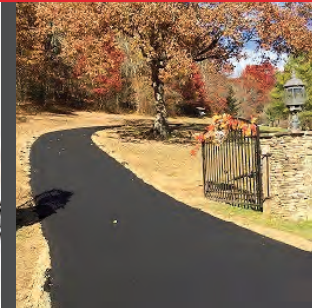
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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 22 - May 2. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 25

Thomas Andrew Behringer, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

April 26

Joseph Lee Samaroo, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

John Paul McCall, was charged with larceny, injury to trees-crops, injury to personal property, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, failure to appear.

William J. Carpenter, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

April 27

John Paul McCall, was charged with probation violation, attempted burglary, possession of tools for commission of crime. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Amanda Kaye Strickland, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Jamie Lee Young, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Kari Huskey Conard, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Kristain Alexander Dremel, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Shawn Christopher Casey, was issued a warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

April 28

Brevon Alexander Kimsey, was issued warrant service.

Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Cameron O'Connor I, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

John Michael Howard Jr., was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Rebecca Aanamary Hill, was charged with failure to appear. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

April 29

Dustin Bo Rodmaker, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Benjamin Nacomass Johnson, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault, deliver open title. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Joseph Daniel Toneges, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Silvana Lisa Bettencourt, was charged with simple assault. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Casey Jo West, was charged with trespass of real property, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

April 30

Christopher Warren Hopper, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 22

Daniel Gregory Still, 65, was charged with second degree trespass. An unsecured bond of \$200 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

April 23

Daniel Gregory Still, 65, was charged with trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Kirkland made the arrest.

April 25

Jose Jordan Garcia Herrera, 40, was charged with driving under the influence, driving while license revoked. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Sargent Stahl made the arrest.

April 27

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with drunk and disorderly, injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Chastain made the arrest.

Richard Alexander Berthea, 29, was charged with trespass of real property, resisting officers, disorderly conduct. An

unsecured bond of \$1,600 was set. Sargent Norman made the arrest.

April 26

Rachel Edwards, 32, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear, trafficking in methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$125,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 26

Justin Payton Roten, 25, of Moxley Ridge Rd., Sparta, was charged with resist/delay/obstruct. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Charles Michael Nash, 32, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for release order. A secured bond of \$16,000 was set.

Shelby James Davis, 29, of Slab Town Rd., Cashiers, was charged with second degree trespass, assault on a government official/employee, resisting a public office, possession of a stolen goods/property, damage to property, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Dustin Wayne Waldroop, 36, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

April 27

Sammy Darrell Smith, 63, of Wiskey Ridge, Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. A \$250 bond was set.

April 28

Brittany Jade Matherson, 39, of Pin Chusion Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

April 30

Sara Jane Ferrin, 35, of Bee Tree Rd., Glenville, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. No bond was set.

Justin Reeves Lambert, 39, of Sunset Farm Rd., Whittier, was charged with uttering a forged paper or instrument. No bond was set.

May 1

David Brent Posey, 28, of Sloan St., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, fail to maintain lane control, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 2

Daniel Ward Owen, 36, of Rainbo Dr., was charged with felony probation violation, child support purge. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Historic T.M. Rickman Store will be reopening for a new season of weekly gatherings on Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store is located in the heart of the Cowee - West Mill Historic District at 259 Cowee Creek Road.

High Mountain Squares Social Square Dancing Classes will begin on Monday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Environmental Resource Building. Vaccines are required to participate. For more information, call (828)787-2324, (727)599-1440, (706)746-5426 or (828)332-0001.

Franklin High School Band Spring Concert will present two performances on Monday, May 10, at the Fine Arts Center. Family and friends of 9th and 11th grade 6 p.m., 10th and 12th grade 7:30 p.m. If not affiliated with a particular student just pick a time. Masks and social distancing required/enforced. The concert will feature the Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band and Symphonic Band.

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

Macon Early College (MEC) has limited openings for rising 10th and 11th grade students for the 2021-2022 school year. MEC is a high school in Macon County offering a smaller academic environment that fosters growth and success. MEC serves grades 9-13 and is fully integrated into the Southwestern Community College system. Students have the opportunity to graduate in four or five years with a high school diploma and a two-year Associate's degree with transferable credits to a four-year university. Applications are available on their website at mec.macon.k12.nc.us under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application is June 4th. For more information, call (828)524-2002.

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

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

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

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry

to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

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

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

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

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

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

Crawford Senior Center Zoom Classes will include exercise, tai chi, and others. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

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

Email calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday, May 9, Services will be held at 10:30 am. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger, will deliver the message as part of the series on Genesis. Special music by Rosemary Wilson. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, May 9, 11 a.m., Mother's Day, Lisa Ezzard will speak on "Listening to the Mother. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

B	E	D	S	L	E	S	D	S	B
A	R	E	L	A	N	L	E	A	R
N	I	S	E	I	O	W	E	R	E
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G	R	A	Y	E	W	E			
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C	O	I	R	S	M	A	R	T	U
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B	U	D	C	A	R	T			
K	E	R	M	I	T	R	O	S	I
N	E	V	E	R	A	R	T	A	T
E	R	I	C	A	W	A	X	F	I
S	T	R	A	W	S	E	E	T	B

Doors reopen at Rickman Store this Saturday

The arrival of spring marks a new season of weekly festive gatherings at the Rickman Store. Constructed in 1895 by John Hall, Thomas Rickman purchased the store in 1925 and operated it until his death in 1994. The stepping-back-in-time experience is due to many of the original fixtures remaining in place, the creaky original flooring, and the availability of local arts and crafts for sale.

Mainspring Conservation Trust purchased the historic T.M. Rickman General Store in August 2007, and Mainspring as well as the Friends of the Rickman Store (FORS) begin each year in spring to invite the community and visitors to the Cowee-West's Mill Historic District in Macon County to visit the

historic building. It is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting May 8.

This year, Rickman Store joins eight other sites in Macon County that have been selected for inclusion in the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, an initiative of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area that promotes must-see destinations for traditional and contemporary art. Rickman Store-featured local artists, writers, and craftsmen exhibit their work and creations in this venue.

Volunteers and Mainspring staff invest many hours during winter months, after the store closes annually after Christmas, restoring and making necessary repairs to the historic building. FORS volunteers and donors

have made additions to the collection of antiques and artifacts so visitors can enjoy a living history experience of a traditional general store.

As part of the Blue Ridge Music Trails, the Rickman Store will continue welcoming bluegrass and other musicians for its weekly afternoon jams. Refreshments are also available.

The Rickman Store is located seven miles north of Franklin by Hwy. NC 28, next to the Old Cowee School on 259 Cowee Creek



Road. For more information call (828) 369-5595, visit Mainspring's website at mainspringconserves.org, or visit Friends of the Rickman Store on Facebook.



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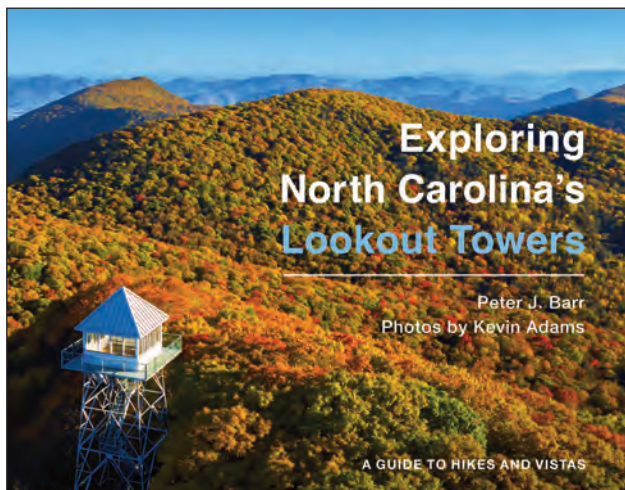
N.C.'s lookout towers topic of book, presentation

A presentation of "Exploring North Carolina's Lookout Towers: A Guide to Hikes and Vistas" with author Peter Barr is set for Thursday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., outside the Macon County Public Library in the picnic pavilion next to Macon Early College. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road.

In the 1920s and 1930s, forestry organizations built dozens of lookout structures in Western North Carolina as the backbone of a firefighting system. Many of these lookouts survive in North Carolina today—and represent some of the best destinations for hikers who want to see the incredible vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Part hiking guide and part photography collection, this book contains stories about the history and folklore of the lookouts and their fire lookout inhabitants, a detailed guide of hikes to each, and details about the views at the top—all provided by a local, long-term land preservationist and lookout fanatic, Peter J. Barr. Barr's text is augmented by the full-color photographs of well-known nature photographer Kevin Adams (North Carolina Waterfalls).



Peter J. Barr



"Exploring North Carolina's Lookout Towers" by Peter J. Barr is part hiking guide and part photography collection.

mented by the full-color photographs of well-known nature photographer Kevin Adams (North Carolina Waterfalls).

Come by the library for a presentation by the author and a chance to purchase your own copy of his updated book on N.C.'s lookout towers.

According to the NC Department of Health and Human Services, face coverings are also required in public outdoor settings if individuals are unable to maintain six feet of social distance with non-household members.

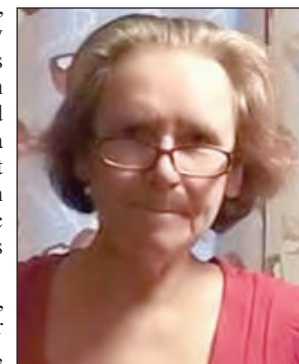
Call, email or visit Kristina Moe at the library to register (828)524-3600, kmoe@fontanalib.org.



Deaths & Funerals

Sandra 'Sandy' Ellenburg

Sandra "Sandy" Ellenburg, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, April 27, 2021. She was born July 3, 1949, in Macon County, to the late Frank Raby and Alice Cabe Frazier. She was a homemaker and a lifelong resident of Macon County. She was an avid reader and a country music fan, loved growing roses and cross stitching.



Sandra Ellenburg

She is survived by her mother, Alice Cabe Frazier of Franklin; her husband, Julius Ellenburg; sons, Jason Ellenburg (Christina) and Patrick Ellenburg both of Franklin; daughter, Sharon Gravitt (Darrell) of Franklin; brothers, Ellis Raby and Milton Frazier both of Franklin; sisters, Sybil Cabe and Sheila Frazier; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her step-dad, Milton Frazier.

No services are planned at this time.

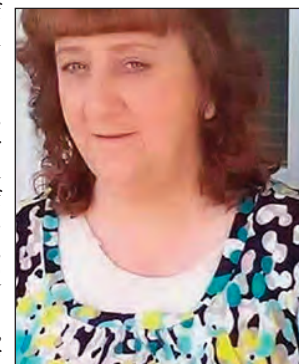
Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Ellenburg family.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

Geneva Ann Donaldson

Geneva Ann Donaldson, 61, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on April 29, 2021.

She was born to James and Virginia Webster Donaldson. She was a caring and giving homemaker and a very loving mother and grandmother. She was a fan of Christian Music and enjoyed fashion and shopping sprees. She was very active in church and attended Son Rise Ministry in Franklin.



Geneva Ann Donaldson

She is survived by children, Kelsey and Tyler Scruggs, both of Franklin; siblings, Judy Donaldson of Sylva, Linda McMahan of Sylva, and Hubert Donaldson of Bryson City; and two grandchildren, Levi Watts and Garrett Combee.

A service was held Wednesday May 5, at Macon Funeral Home.

Burial was at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Linda Weaver officiating.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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In the Church Youth Building

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For more information, contact Pastor Scott Eichelberger at

Office (828)369-7977, Cell (828)200-5166, or scott@franklinema.com

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Dana 'Dan' Murvin Reynolds

Dana "Dan" Murvin Reynolds, 58, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 17, 2021, after a brief period of declining health.

Born in Winnsboro, S.C., he was the son of Tony Reynolds of Lugoff, S.C., and Edna J. Payne of Camden, S.C. He was of the Baptist faith. He was a carpenter by trade, enjoyed woodworking and was known to always be willing to help his neighbors and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Marscher Reynolds; children, Ladonna Berry of Charleston, S.C., Brianna Arzenti of Clarkston, Mich., and Dana Reynolds Jr., of Pueblo, Colo.; stepmother, Sylvia Reynolds of Lugoff, S.C.; and brother, Brett Reynolds of Landrum, S.C.; four grandchildren; aunt, Amy S. Whitehurst of Franklin; cousins, Sherry Davis and Roland Whitehurst; and a special friend and "daughter," Megan Renee of Franklin.

A Celebration of Life was held Friday, April 30, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel.

Rev. Brandon Breedlove officiated.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Ronald Gary Christie

Ronald Gary Christie, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away April 27, 2021.

He was born in New York to the late Robert and Cassie Albee Christie. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Richard Christie and Kenneth Christie.

He spent the last 30 years in Western North Carolina where he dedicated his time to serving others through Meals on Wheels and in prison ministry at Craggy Correctional Center in Asheville. He was a skilled stained-glass artist and enjoyed golfing.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Carol Christie; children, Cheryl Natiello (Joe) of St Augustine Fla., and Wenda Kohler (James) of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; grandchildren, Krista McGill (Lyndon), Michelle Acree (Alex), Alyssa Fraser (Ryan Fine); and great grandchildren, Logan, Riley, Savannah, Aubrey, Max, Carleigh, Harper, Damien.

A memorial service was held Friday, April 30, at First Pentecost.

Rev. Tracy Tallent and Rev. Eric Bolick officiated.

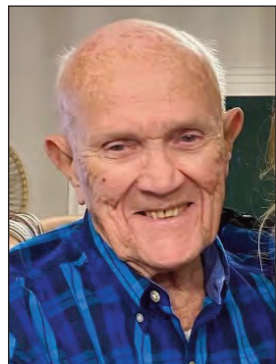
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Ronald Christie Family, care of First Pentecost Church, 164 Iotla Church Road Franklin, NC, NC 28734

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Dana Murvin Reynolds



Ronald Gary Christie

Eugene 'Ted' Gilbert Spring

On May 1, 2021, Eugene "Ted" Gilbert Spring passed away while at home with his family and pets, Holly, Bella, Zeus and Willow. His family finds comfort knowing that he is in Heaven and at peace with the love of his life, Cher.

He is preceded in death by his beautiful wife, Cheryl; many beloved fur babies; parents, Gladys and Elmer; and sister, Cookie.

He is survived by brother, Robert (Linda); children, Michael Spring (Karen), Kirk Spring (Karen), Sandy Harvey (Tim), Jim Heberger (Laura); and his grandchildren, Eric, Hannah, Jade, and Colin.

At a young age, he went to military school and excelled to become a paratrooper for the two original United States Special Forces groups (10th and 77th) "Green Beret." He eventually retired as a Corporal from Bloomfield Township Police Department.

Cher was his perfect match and best friend. They made incredible memories together living in Missouri and Florida before finding their forever home on Cherokee land in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains – the beautiful Nantahala National Forest, Land of the Noonday Sun. He spent his later years exactly how he wanted: smoking his pipe on his porch swing and watching the birds and squirrels play.

He was a decorated man with eccentric tastes. He was as sharp as he was funny. He had a passion for hobbies like ventriloquism with Jerry, magic tricks and wacky comedy bits that could warrant a "viewer discretion advised." If you knew Ted, then you also knew the "Fool Killer." His entertainment will be dearly missed.

After 88 years of life, Ted is survived by an unquestionable legacy of badassery.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

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



Eugene Gilbert Spring

Freddie Clay Scarlett

Freddie Clay Scarlett was born on Aug. 7, 1960, to Fred F. Scarlett and Geneva Carol Payne Ward. He passed from this life on April 30, 2021.

Although he was an avid football fan, his very favorite thing to be doing was anything outdoors. He was definitely an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and camping. He liked his trips through the woods, looking for that elusive patch of ginseng. Any time he spent in nature was a good time for him.

He was of the Christian faith. He will be remembered as someone who tried to help others and strived to be a good person.

He is survived by his niece, Tarha Sturgeon; his great-nephew, Tristan Scarlett; and his extended family, Joanne Miles, Damon Miles, and Danielle Williams. He is predeceased by his parents and his sisters, Sheila Sturgeon and Donna Scarlett.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve his family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

James 'Jimmy' Homer Taylor

James "Jimmy" Homer Taylor was unexpectedly called Home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

He was born in Loraine, Ohio, on Jan. 7, 1961, to the late JoAnn S. Maney and late Jim Taylor. He was raised by his mother and step-father, the late James M. Maney.

As a young man, he was into many activities, especially those that kept him outside, including FFA, gem mining, and many others. He also spent time in the Army in the '70s.

He was an avid outdoorsman and had a true love of nature. He loved to hunt and loved passing that passion, knowledge and experience onto his family and friends. Whether he was working, hunting, fishing, camping, digging ramps or ginseng, playing a game of horseshoes, or just listening to the crickets chirp in the warm evenings, he was most happy, content and at peace when he was outside, surrounded by nature.

He was a jack of all trades, never afraid of hard work or getting his hands dirty, but was a plumber by profession all of his life, working side by side with his father, James Maney and family friends.

He had an infectious personality, and could make friends anywhere he went. He was a man overflowing with history, knowledge, experience, jokes, pranks, tall tales and love. He had a heart and soul that was purely immeasurable; he would never hesitate to help anyone in need, at any time, whether it be with clothing, food, or even paying their power bill; with no need for an explanation nor expecting any payment in return. His smile and laugh was contagious and a huge part of his personality.

He loved to play jokes and pranks on people, jumping out of the shadows or fooling someone with a slight of hand trick. He would always naturally become the life of the party and the center of attention, someone that everyone in the room would be drawn to.

He is preceded in death by his mother, JoAnn Maney, step father, James Maney, biological father, Jim Taylor, brother, Jerry Taylor, and many beloved special cousins and family friends.

He is survived by his son, Michael James Taylor; daughter, Chelsi Jean Coggins-Taylor and her mother, Johnna Taylor; grandchildren, Michala Cheyenne Taylor, Meana JoAnn Taylor, and Royce Jamesen Ulsh; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Taylor; special friend, Lynn Webb; and extended family members and friends too numerous to count.

He was a friend, partner, teacher, father, grandfather, provider, hero and so much more. He truly seemed larger than life itself. His absence leaves a gaping hole for those that loved him, that no amount of time will help to heal. He had a soul that permeated everyone he knew, and helped so many people feel like they had someone they could turn to.

He will be a name that lives on in many stories to come, reminiscing about his life and adventures. He will be a man that is missed by everyone that truly knew him, until that blessed day when we can all be reunited on God's Holy Mountain.


The family will be holding a private, intimate service at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Moffitt Family Funeral Care, the VA, or the charity of your choice.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Jimmy's family. Online condolences can be made at www.moffittfunerals.com.



James Homer Taylor



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Deaths & Funerals

Lula Rebecca Alexander Kloss

Lula Rebecca Alexander Kloss, 101, a longstanding and beloved figure in the Hickory Knoll community in Macon County, North Carolina, passed away on April 27, 2021.

She was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, on July 31, 1919. She was the oldest of nine children to Thomas Luther Buchanan and Carrie Sutton Buchanan.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her first husband and father of her four children, Cecil Delonius Alexander, who died in 1981; her second husband, Paul J. Kloss, who died in 1988; her son, William Carl Alexander and son-in-law, Dr. John Hume Killian; and her siblings, Don Henry, Robert Dan, Carl Jackson, Joe Mack and Nancy Carolyn Buchanan.

She is survived by her children, Robert James Alexander (Joyce) of Greensboro, Ga.; Frances Alexander Killian of Asheville, N.C., and Richard Cecil Alexander (Janfra) of Lawrenceville, Ga.; her sister, Helen Buchanan Morgan of Clemmons, N.C.; her brothers, Billy Ray Buchanan (Evelyn) of Sylva, N.C., and Tommy Marion Buchanan (Gail) of Brevard, N.C.; sisters-in-law, Victoria Buchanan and Cereeta Buchanan; as well as seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She worked for many years providing for her family at the Clairborne Manufacturing Company in Clayton, Ga., and at the Belden Electric Company in Franklin. She was a prolific quilter and contributing artisan to the Maco Crafts cooperative through the 1980s. She was a devoted and engaged member of the Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church for more than 65 years.

She was an extraordinary woman and the quintessential, mountain matriarch of a Scotch-Irish family in the Southern Appalachians. She nurtured and carried her family gracefully through the 20th century. Like many of her generation, she was raised in rural poverty and faced the duty and responsibility of maintaining the home and caring for her siblings at an early age. This experience instilled in her a quiet strength, work ethic and resolve that would serve her well the rest of her life.

She was timeless. She was well-respected for her Appalachian traditions and heritage skills. She made her own lye soap, canned rigorously, ate her own garden vegetables, and cooked from scratch. She always had a hot meal ready for a guest and a well-tended fire. She also loved sharing her sewing and quilting gifts with the community. However, her greatest passion was watching things grow. She particularly loved her tomato plants and perennial flowers.

She embodied many of the great virtues of her regional culture such as self-reliance, resourcefulness and resilience and we are grateful for it. But her greatest strength was her faith in God and the love for family, friends and community which stemmed from it. The family appreciates all the wonderful care she received at the Franklin House and Macon Valley Nursing Home.

She will be buried in the Shepherd Cemetery in Macon County and a memorial service to celebrate her life will be held Saturday May 8, at 2 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. prior to the service. Rev. Don Moffitt will officiate, and Frank Killian, Mark Alexander, and Jeff Musser will speak.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, 86 East Hickory Knoll Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Lula Kloss

Jackie Sumner Hurst

Jackie Sumner Hurst, 58, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Born in Tampa, Fla., she was the daughter of the late Cecil and Mary Frances Hilburn. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by the love of her life, Jack Hurst; a sister, Brenda Muncey; and a brother Johnny Hilburn. She was known by many for her huge caregiver's heart. She was always looking for ways to help others; often cooking for and feeding anyone that she could. She loved to sing and recently had been attending Discover Church in Franklin.

And as Jackie would always say "Jeremiah was a bullfrog." She is survived by her five children, Sandra Franks, Cecil Middleton, and Julia Hamlin, all of Franklin, Henry Hatfield of Tampa, Fla., and Eddie Kresal of North Carolina; a sister, Patricia Hajipour; and a brother, Robert Hilburn both of Florida; 16 grandchildren; three great grandchildren (plus one on the way); and numerous nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Jackie's wishes, there will be no formal services. The family will have a gathering of family and friends on Tuesday, May 11, at Macon Funeral Home from 1 to 2 p.m.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Jackie Sumner Hurst

Virginia Furnish Beu Caskey

Virginia Furnish Beu Caskey, 93, passed away Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at the Franklin House in Franklin, N.C.

She was born June 24, 1927, in Cardington, Ohio, to the late Arthur Furnish and Wilda Haynes Furnish. She was married to the late Walter Beu who passed away April 8, 1969, and to the late Glenn E. Caskey for 45 years who passed away in 2017. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Franklin. She worked as a leader in the Head Start program and later as a psychometrist/counselor in the public school system in Indiana and southwest Georgia.

Survivors include her son, Frederick Beu of Centerville, Md.; a daughter, Elizabeth Spencer Beu of Franklin; three grandchildren, Christina Beu, Diana Nilsson, and Janay Rice; and five great grandchildren, Andrew Nilsson, Madeline Nilsson and Henry Nilsson, Tyden Rickard and John Luke Rice.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by a son, Arthur Beu; and two sisters, Margaret Burt and Ruth Steinmetz.

In addition to being a beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she enjoyed a successful career as a psychometrist/counselor to special needs children. She traveled extensively and never shied away from an adventure. She became a certified scuba diver at 60 years old and went hot-air ballooning over the mountains and deserts of Arizona well into her 70s. She lived life boldly, with integrity and great faith in God.

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

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

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Dennis 'Denny' Candler Vanhook

Dennis "Denny" Candler Vanhook, went on to Glory on April 30, 2021. He was born on July 5, 1953. Even though he missed the big Fourth of July celebration by one day, he had it in him to celebrate daily, enjoying life to the fullest.

He was an awesome athlete in his younger days, possessing the ability to play higher level sports. Even though he had different plans, he never lost that competitive trait. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast and found the greatest pleasure in following his grandchildren as they excelled in basketball, baseball, or volleyball. He was a diehard Carolina fan and became a Mountaineer fan, celebrating his grandson's success on the Appalachian State University baseball field.

Soni, who was the love of Denny's life, always said before she fell in love with Denny, she fell in love with his parents, Bill and Isabell. Whatever the circumstances, it worked, and they were married for 50 years. His parents were very important to him, and the love they instilled in him was passed on to many people. He enjoyed helping take care of them and was always approachable and willing to help anyone that he could.

Those who knew Denny knew how much he loved Soni and their daughter, Kim, but his grandchildren made his eyes light up like nothing else could. He just couldn't get enough of them and had the great pleasure of living close enough to get daily visits. He was devoted to each of them.

When Jesus chose His disciples, seven of the 12 were fishermen. Denny, therefore, must have been one of Jesus's favorite kind of people since he'd rather be fishing than anything. He and his old friend, Sam Henderson, and others spent many days terrorizing the fish in Western North Carolina and north Georgia. No mountain stream was safe.

He was one of those rare people who enjoyed a joke on himself. He would tell what foolish thing he'd done and get a bigger laugh than anyone. His recognizable laugh was so contagious that there was no choice but to laugh with him.

He was a believer – a man of faith. He had a passion for doing what he could for the Baptist Men's Association, whether it was raising money or participating on mission trips. He enjoyed being with like minded believers and helping others.

He leaves his wife, Sonja Stamey Vanhook; his daughter, Kimberly Vanhook Terrell (Brian); his grandchildren, Andrew, Andrea, and Anderson; his brother, Billy Vanhook (Sherry); a sister-in-law, Becky Powers, a brother-in-law, Dennis Stamey (Terry); his nieces and nephews, Amy, Ben, Breanna, Jake, and Leah; and his special friends, Walter and Terri Hunter with many happy and funny memories. He was predeceased by his parents, William Henry "Bill" and Isabell Ray Vanhook.

A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, May 4, at Prentiss Church of God. Don Moffitt, Mark Bishop, and Tim Hayes officiated.

In lieu of flowers, consider a contribution to the NC Baptist Men's Association, PO Box 1107, Cary, North Carolina 27512.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



Dennis Candler Vanhook

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Kyle Busch gets birthday present with win at Kansas

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Perhaps it was birthday fate. When the name of the race is the Buschy McBusch Race 400, your name is Kyle Busch and it's your 36th birthday - you have to figure there's some serious racing juju in your favor. And Busch took advantage of it.

Busch's No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota took the lead on a restart with two laps remaining and held off the field by .336-seconds Sunday at Kansas Speedway to give him his first NASCAR Cup Series win of the season – 58th of his career - and his new crew chief Ben Beshore the first win of his career.

It completed a weekend trophy sweep for Busch, who won Saturday night's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race too.

"Just a great day to be able to put this M&M's Camry up front," Busch said smiling, adding "Great to be able to get everyone back in Victory Lane again this early in the season and get those points going our way."

"And," he said breaking into a grin, "I just remembered it's the Buschy McBusch race and a Busch won. What do you know?"

It was a dramatic ending to what had been largely a Kyle Larson show up front all day. The Hendrick Motorsports driver led a race best 132 of the 267 laps. But he got shuffled back to the second row on the last restart and had contact with Ryan Blaney's front-row running Ford after taking the final green flag. The two cars slid up and bounced into the wall and out of the groove, allowing Busch to take off with the help of his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. pushing from behind.

Ultimately the Fords driven by Kevin Harvick and Brad Keselowski – on fresher tires – chased down Truex on the last lap to claim second and third place behind Busch. Keselowski, last week's Talladega winner, led a season-best 72 of the opening 80 laps.

Matt DiBenedetto was fourth and reigning series champion Chase Elliott finished fifth. Truex was sixth, followed by Tyler Reddick, Chris Buescher, William Byon and Austin Dillon.

Larson, looking to claim his second victory of the season was understandably disappointed after the race. He finished 19th after leading the most laps on the afternoon.

"I had the 2 [Keselowski] behind me and he didn't get to my bumper and I think he had to protect behind him and it just allowed the bottom [row] to get a good jump on us and the bottom two lanes cleared me," Larson explained.

"I was back to third and planned on pushing [Ryan] Blaney as good as I could and obviously, I pushed too hard and got him loose and chased both of us back into the wall. I was just trying to help him stay side by side with the 18 [Busch] on the back to allow myself to have some sort of opportunity, but I just pushed too hard."

"That's really the first time I was behind somebody on a



Kyle Busch, driver of the #18 M&M's Mix Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Buschy McBusch Race 400 at Kansas Speedway on May 02, 2021 in Kansas City, Kansas. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

"It's hard sometimes when you go through the lulls, you go through the disappointment, you go through dejection and the lack of understanding if you can still do it," Busch said. "There's a sense of doubt there for sure. But you just have to keep persevering, keep digging and putting your focus forward."

The NASCAR Cup Series races next Sunday at the historic Darlington (S.C.) Raceway in the Goodyear 400 (3:30 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

restart. I learned for next time."

The first 167 laps of the 267-lap race were run with no major incidents – the caution flags came out only for a scheduled competition caution and the two stage breaks. Busch won Stage 1 and Larson won Stage 2.

But there were three cautions in the last 20 laps – making pit decisions and lane choice crucial in that last run to the checkered flag.

Ultimately, the two-time series champion Busch, was able to keep his car up front and make the move when he needed to – his victory obviously a huge boost in confidence for the team, which had only two previous top-five finishes in the opening 10 races of the season.

Kyle Busch grabs his 61st Truck win at Kansas Speedway. Statistically speaking, Kyle Busch had a perfect night at Kansas Speedway on Friday, sweeping both stage victories in the Wise Power 200 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race, leading the most laps and earning his series record 61st trophy.

But the veteran had to earn that joyous finish – rallying from a fourth-place starting position on the final overtime restart to take the lead in a three-wide battle. He ultimately led the final two laps to take the checkered by .665-seconds over Ross Chastain. It marked the second win of the season for Busch. He's either won or finished runner-up in his four

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Truck Series races this season.

Despite the dominance of Busch's No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota, he was on the radio with his team during the race's final caution, worried there may have been some sort technical problem with his truck. But at the drop of the green, he maneuvered around the front-running trucks of Chastain and Austin Hill, pulling away on the final lap.

Busch's win marks the fifth straight this season for his Kyle Busch Motorsports. His 59 laps out front was most on the night. It's Busch's third victory in his last four Kansas starts.

"No restarts actually went our way tonight, I was shocked, we definitely missed something just being able to come up through the gears and get going," said the Las Vegas native who turns 37 Sunday.

"It just would not go. Those guys would just swarm us. I think we saw it one of the restarts with the 4-truck (Nemechek) too, he got run over. So all and all, great job by KBM and Toyota, TRD, this Cessna Beechcraft Tundra was awesome."

Hill finished third, behind Busch and Chastain. Christian Eckes and Busch's teammate John Hunter Nemechek rounded out the top five. Todd Gilliland, Zane Smith, Raphael Lessard, Johnny Sauter and Ben Rhodes completed the top 10.

Series rookie Hailie Deegan finished a career best 13th and was running as high as eighth place, before pitting just before the final restart.

As with Busch, at one point Hill was worried about his truck's performance – pitting twice during the first stage



Kyle Busch, driver of the #51 Cessna Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Wise Power 200 at Kansas Speedway on May 01, 2021 in Kansas City, Kansas. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

break but steadily making his way back up through the field. Last year's regular season champion, Hill hasn't won since September, 2020 and the 1.5-mile Kansas Speedway is statistically, his best track.

"I thought I did everything right on that restart, threw it on the apron and saw Chastain go up to block whoever was coming on his outside and got beside him and from there on out it was a drag race, I was wide open the whole green-white-checked," Hill said, adding, "Good finish, finishing third with everything we had going on. I want to win so bad, so just really frustrating right now."

With his fifth-place finish Nemechek – a two-race winner in 2021 – maintains a 33-point lead over fellow two-race winner Ben Rhodes in the championship standings. And that was good enough to earn Nemechek's No. 4 Kyle Busch Motorsports team a \$50,000 mid-season "road crew" bonus from series sponsor Camping World.

The series next race, the LiftKits4Less.com 200 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway is Friday night at 7:30 p.m. (FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
SESAME STREET

- ACROSS**
 1. Scarecrow stuffing
 6. Observe
 9. Kind of ski lift
 13. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 14. Madame Tussauds' medium
 15. Fervent
 16. Never say this?
 17. You to are is as thou to

18. Skylit lobbies
 19. *It isn't easy "bein' green" for him
 21. *First bilingual Sesame Street puppet
 23. Flower precursor
 24. Rental on the links
 25. Rowing prop
 28. Banana remnant
 30. Besmear
 35. Poker variety
 37. Away from wind
 39. Like helium gas
 40. Coconut fiber
 41. Like an iPhone
 43. Singular of #33 Down
 44. Per _____, or yearly
 46. Guesstimate phrase, 2 words
 47. Raise, as in child
 48. Bob Marley's music
 50. TV classic "____ Make a Deal"
 52. Hi-_____ monitor
 53. Oscar Wilde's Dorian

55. *Sesame Street's Meryl Sheep
 57. *Every starred clue in this puzzle
 60. *Self-described as lovable, cute and furry
 63. One born to Japanese immigrants
 64. Be in the red

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66. He had no cause?
 68. Thin mountain ridge
 69. Local area network
 70. Unmanned flyer
 71. Hospital statistics unit, pl.
 72. NaOH
 73. Church assembly
- DOWN**
 1. D.C. V.I.P.
 2. "Star _____"
 3. Either Gauche or Droite in Paris
 4. Like a lemon
 5. Beginning of a workout
 6. Special law enforcement unit, acr.
 7. Elephant's distinguished feature
 8. Uncredited actor
9. Lake _____caca, South America
 10. *Ernie's roommate
 11. Diva's delivery
 12. Swedish shag rug
 15. "_____ your seatbelts"
 20. Think tank output
 22. Eyeball shape
 24. "I can see _____ now the rain has gone..."
 25. *Trash can dweller
 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
 27. Repenting
 29. *He avoids pronouns and speaks in falsetto
 31. Gloomy
 32. More competent
 33. Arm bones
 34. *Mama, Papa, Baby and Curly
36. Chemical cure
 38. Gaelic tongue
 42. Load carrier
 45. Crow's cousin
 49. Old English for before
 51. Arya Stark's Needle and Jedi's Lightsaber, e.g.
 54. Lagoon wall
 56. Each and all
 57. Bog down
 58. From a second-hand store
 59. Four-legged friends
 60. Autry or Wilder
 61. Jet black
 62. Nevada city
 63. Pick up, as in suspect
 65. Modus operandi
 67. Light-emitting diode

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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	7			9		6	
	6	9			1		3
	8		3	2			

*Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 90 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices and per person based on double occupancy plus \$209 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, valid by 8/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your travel consultant for details.

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