



Franklin High School graduates let balloons soar into the atmosphere in celebration of the culmination of a challenging year. The FHS Panther Pit was packed with family and friends Saturday morning as they watched their favorite senior accept their diploma on the way to their next adventure. Photos of all Macon County graduates begin on page 13. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Board approves 2.5 cent tax hike

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Residents in Macon County will see an increase on their tax bills this year as the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to raise the county's tax rate from .374 to .40, increasing the county's budget by \$2 million to a total of \$56,641,096. When Macon County Manager Derek Roland first presented his proposed budget for 2021-22, he proposed keeping the county's tax rate of .374 flat with a budget totaling \$54,641,096, however, during a budget work session on Thursday afternoon, after hearing from various departments about needs not included in Roland's budget, Commissioners voted to increase taxes to generate an additional

See TAX HIKE page 2

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Foraging for food possible in Macon County

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Discussions for Skate Park moving forward

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

At last month's Town of Franklin Council meeting, droves of skateboarders attended to express interest in a skate park where they can safely and legally enjoy the outdoor activity. Franklin Police Chief William "Bill" Harrell promised at the May 3 meeting to investigate opportunities within the town's limits, and at the June 7 meeting he reported that he had been speaking with leadership at First United Methodist Church

See SKATE PARK page 4

Town awards loan to Chick-Fil-A developer

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Town of Franklin unanimously voted to award an economic development loan to expand town water and sewer facilities for Hendon Tiller Franklin, LLC, the developer responsible for the future Chick-Fil-A location in Macon County.

The loan, which totals \$200,000, will be used to expand the town's water and sewer infrastructure to the real property

See CHICK-FIL-A page 4

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TAX HIKE

Continued from page 1

\$2 million in revenue.

Commission Chairman Tate made the proposal to raise the county's tax rate to an even .40 per \$100 valuation to generate \$2 million more annually. Tate proposed that \$1 million be spent to provide the Macon County Public Library with \$30,000 previously requested to boost salary for their employees, \$25,000 for funding for the partnership with the Nikwasi Initiative, and \$10,000 for Cowee School for infrastructure repairs. The remaining portion of the \$1 million in funding will be placed in contingency to be spent as needed for pending capital projects such as refurbishing a building donated to Southwestern Community College; a property just purchased in Nantahala for a potential new community building; and to begin generating revenue to fund the costs associated with moving forward with construction of a new Franklin High School.

The other \$1 million generated for the tax increase will address salary discrepancies for Macon County employees. The county is currently undergoing a countywide pay study which will see a nine percent average increase in salaries across the board to bring county employees up to fair market value. Currently, due to salaries not being competitive with neighboring counties, several Macon County departments have anywhere between 8-15 vacancies causing disruption in county services. The pay

study, which was launched last year, will address the issue.

The vote to increase taxes passed 3-2 with Commissioners Paul Higdon and Josh Young voting against it. Young said he supported raising taxes for the \$1 million associated with improving county employee salary, however could not vote for the full \$2 million increase without more of a plan on how the funds would be spent.

In addition to raising ad-valorem taxes in Macon County, the Board of Commissioners also approved a tax increase for the Otto Fire District that will be used to build a new fire station. Otto Fire Department originally asked for a 5 cent increase to fund the new fire station — which is estimated to cost \$5 million — however, commissioners voted to approve a smaller increase of .10 per \$100 valuation.

The Burningtown Fire Department also requested a fire tax rate increase to generate an additional \$12,000 a year for an increase in costs for operations such as fuel. However, Commissioners Paul Higdon, Josh Young, and Jim Tate voted against the request — denying the fire department the increase.

Commissioners vote to solicit FRQs for high school construction

The Macon County Board of Commissioners took an additional step in the new Franklin High School construction project and voted in a split vote to solicit RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for architectural design services for

the project. During the RFQ phase, interested architectural firms will submit conceptual plans to county commissioners, and based on the firm's qualifications, the county will rank the firms and ultimately award the architectural contract to the winning firm.

The Macon County School System is required by law to submit a long-term facilities plan to the North Carolina Department of Instruction every five years. The last several plans submitted to the state have specifically addressed the aging Franklin High School facility and a need to replace the existing structure. Structural engineers and contractors have reviewed the building on numerous occasions over the last decade and due to the extensive damage and structural decay of the building — it has been recommended that it would be more cost-effective to rebuild the high school rather than complete the renovations needed to effectively improve the campus.

A new high school is estimated to cost the county a minimum of \$60 million, which led commissioners to begin discussions on how the project will be funded. While various funding options are possible — commissioners voted to increase the county's current tax rate by 2.53 cents to bring the county's ad valorem tax rate to 40 cents per \$100 valuation — which will generate an additional \$2 million in revenue for Macon County each year.

A portion of the proposed tax increase, which will be finalized on June 8 pending a final vote by the board, will begin generating

revenue for a fund that will ultimately cover the debt service payments associated with the new construction.

Macon County Commissioners Paul Higdon, who voted against the measure, said that he could not begin to fathom debating taking on additional debt for Macon County when \$32 million of the county's current debt load is already for school construction.

During Macon County Manager Derek Roland's 2021-22 fiscal year budget proposal, he noted that an overwhelming majority of the county's annual debt load is directly attributed to school construction that has been completed over the last decade.

The annual principal and interest payment on outstanding debt will decrease by (\$25,630) to \$3,629,168 in FY '22. Of the county's current outstanding debt amount (principal and interest) of \$33,482,390, \$32,387,907 or 97 percent is attributable to debt associated with school projects.

Macon County is currently paying off debt associated with construction of Iotla Valley Elementary School, as well as substantial renovations and expansions to South Macon Elementary and Highlands School.

The county's debt associated with schools construction is only expected to increase as beginning in FY '23 the principle and interest portion of the Macon Middle School renovation project debt will come due increasing the annual principle and interest payment on outstanding debt by \$361,618 to \$3,990,786.



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SKATE PARK

Continued from page 1

about its skateboarding ministry.

However, two representatives from JE Dunn Construction, tasked with building the new hospital, were introduced to speak about their desire to organize a fundraising effort, secure suppliers, and manage volunteers to build a permanent skateboarding park. JE Dunn's Superintendent Steve Suttles and Project Engineer Anders Ike explained that the company, JE Dunn, seeks to work within a community to leave a lasting impact via a beautification or improvement project. Suttles explained that he, Ike, and others at JE Dunn would like to make a skate park a reality before the hospital is completed in June 2022.

"We're doing this because we want the community to know that we are not just working here, but that we helped out in some way," said Suttles.

Ike shared that he has reached out to the construction department at Western Carolina University as well as vocational entities at Franklin High School to determine if there is any interest in students learning about how such a community construction project comes to fruition. And, Suttles told the council that JE Dunn would provide some funds as well as seek supplier discounts and volunteerism, noting that a skating park could cost upwards of \$100,000.

While the Methodist church has what is considered a moveable skate park, in that it is not made of permanent concrete, JE Dunn proposes a permanent, concrete park.

"I'm interested and excited about this project because I'm part of the younger generation," said Ike, "and it would be great to see people outside and active, instead of sitting inside staring at a screen."

One site proposed for a skateboarding park is Jaycee/Franklin Memorial Park. "It's accessible, it has parking, it's in walking distance from the high school ...," said Town Manager Summer Woodard. "I suggest we take advantage of the momentum of this project."

Mayor Bob Scott told the representatives of JE Dunn that



Anders Ike and Steve Suttles, both with the firm of JE Dunn, builders of the new hospital, addressed Town Council June 7 about assisting with the building of a skateboard park.

he "looked forward" to working with them on the details of the project. More discussions and plans about the skateboarding park will take place at the July meeting.

Woodard, who has served as Franklin's town manager since 2014 overseeing more than 60 employees, began her last meeting on the council by leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. She has accepted a position as town manager in Reidsville, N.C. Justin Setser, who currently serves as the Town Planner, will serve as interim town manager while the search continues for a permanent replacement for Woodard.

Mayor Scott and the council commended Woodard and her staff on their work on the fiscal year 2021-22 budget, which was approved. "They did a magnificent job," he said.

Woodard also noted the town's sponsored festivals and events, one of which is July 4th Celebration and Fireworks, which Mayor Scott said will be visible from all around the Town of Franklin. Other Town of Franklin sponsored events that have the support of Town Hall staff, the police department, and the fire department are: First Friday Night Outdoor Movies (which may start back soon), Pickin' on the Square, Pumpkin Fest, Veterans Day, and two nights of Winter Wonderland.

Other news was discussed and requests approved, including rules for Sunny Side Disc Golf: 1) Use of disc golf course is first come first serve; 2) Please pick up all trash and place in trash receptacles; 3) Use of disc golf course after dark is prohibited; 4) Pick up after pets; 5) Do not throw discs at vehicles; 6) Amplification equipment is prohibited; and, 7) No alcohol on premises. The Council also agreed to adopt an eighth rule prohibiting conceal-carry weapons on the premises, to be located on the Whitmire property owned by the town.

In addition, the Council approved the economic development loan for \$200,000 on the Siler Road and Dowdle mountain road property where a Chick-Fil-A will be constructed. "It's moving forward," said Setser. "There is equipment on the site. I think they plan to be open possibly by early fall."

CHICK-FIL-A

Continued from page 1

located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and Siler Road to serve the future restaurant location. In addition to Chick-Fil-A, the company developing the property will be bringing an additional business to the area, but that business has not yet been announced publicly.

The \$200,000 will be funded through retained earnings in the town of Franklin's Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund and will be repaid at an interest rate of 5 percent per annum within two years.

Water and sewer from the town of Franklin currently end at Dowdle Mountain Pit Stop and the infrastructure was built to serve Walmart when it developed the area. After Walmart was developed and before the roundabout was installed, there was discussion about extending water and sewer infrastructure across the road to serve the area across from Dowdle Mountain Pit Stop in anticipation of future development, however at the time, the property was owned by Duke Energy and there were no development plans, therefore water and sewer was not extended beyond the road.

Hendon-Tiller Franklin, LLC purchased the parcel from Duke Energy last month. Hendon-Tiller is a limited liability corporation that filed with North Carolina on Dec. 9, 2020 and is a branch of the Hendon-Tiller Properties development firm located in Georgia. A portfolio of the development firms includes a long list of property development specifically for Chick-Fil-A restaurant locations.

Preliminary building plans dated Nov. 11, provide additional details for the new Chick-Fil-A restaurant. The proposed plans break down the construction process to ready the plat of land into three phases which include preparing the land to address erosion controls and maintaining the vegetation of the area.

The preliminary design plans have the restaurant entrance after the red light, before the roundabout, with an exit onto Siler Road.

The current plans also include a large 750 square foot outdoor patio and two large retention ponds.

At this time, there is no estimated open date, however, with the infrastructure loan approved by the town, the project is expected to move quickly.





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Cowee Heritage Center planning Scottish/Cherokee event June 19

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

In an effort to honor the historical significance and cultural contributions of both Scottish settlers and Cherokee Natives, the first annual Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration will take place Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Main Street in Franklin.

The event takes place in conjunction with the annual Braveheart 5K & Rob Roy Fun Run.

Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center director Stacy Guffey, who is on the event's committee, explained.

"This celebration is set apart from the annual Taste of Scotland, which will not take place this year. We really want to continue focusing on Scottish heritage because it's good for the residents, the museum [Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.], the town, and more. But when you talk about the Scottish, who were the first traders in the region to trade with the Cherokee, it's hard to tell that story and leave out the interaction and history of the Cherokee. They're not separate stories. It's 300 years of interaction, intermingling, intermarriage ... a connection of cultures."

Added Claire Suminski, who is also on the event's committee, "There was a thriving trade between the Scots Irish and Cherokee that lived in our area, which also led to relationships between the two groups. It is wonderful to have an event that celebrates these connections. The Women's History Trail of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County will one day unveil a statue, by sculptor Wesley Wofford, called, "Sowing the Seeds of the Future," which also conveys this. [When finished, the sculpture will eventually be on display somewhere near the entrance to Franklin's Main Street.] In light of current tensions in our country, it is great to be taking positive steps in our community to help build connections and support one another."



Breacan Clan

Guffey, who noted that Bringing It To Life Productions' David Linn is the committee's chair, explained, "The festival will be relatively small as a trial run, especially since we're coming out of a pandemic."

However, visitors to the celebration will have an opportunity to listen to a Cherokee storyteller, experience historical demonstrations, and listen to bagpipe and Celtic music. Plus, said Guffey, "We will have a variety of vendors sharing art and merchandise."

Individuals, organizations, and businesses funding and supporting Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration are numerous: Franklin Chamber of Commerce/TDC, Gooder Grafix, UPS Store Franklin, Walmart Supercenter Franklin, Kitchen Sink, Inc., Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, Suminski Family Books, Bringing It To Life! Productions, The Moberg Group, Doodlebugs, Élite Services, Carla L Haire CPA, PA, Deer Springs RV Park, John Hamlin State Farm, Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub, BLOOM Personalized, Parties & Event Planning, Folk Heritage Association of Macon County, Franklin

Main Street Merchants, Outdoor 76, and The Attic.

"The merchants will have displays on Main Street, demonstrators will be in front of businesses, and we will have a shortbread contest, a traditional Scottish encampment with re-enactors, and demonstrators of traditional Scottish arts and crafts and Cherokee arts and crafts," said Guffey.

Anyone interested in entering the shortbread contest can take their shortbread to the Kitchen Sink on Main Street between 10 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 19. Entrants must register by June 18 by calling (828) 524-2956.

Kathryn Seller, a noted historic costume seamstress in Franklin, is also part of the steering committee. She will be present – along with representatives of the Southeastern Civilian Living Historians and of the ECBI – to demonstrate authentically such 18th through early 20th century agrarian and traditional skills as blacksmithing, wool walking, spinning, weaving, butter churning, sewing, and more.

Schedule of events

Gazebo on the Square Heritage Demonstrators
Cherokee Artisans: Freeman Owle and Mary Thompson (STM)

– Kathryn Sellers and the Scottish Traditions 18th Century Demonstrators

– Blacksmith, David Burress, sponsored by Folk Heritage Association of Macon County

– 10 a.m. - Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration Opening Ceremony

– 10:30 a.m. – John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums (Clock Tower/Garden)

– 11 a.m. - Rainbow's End (Celtic Music by Dave, Maria and Katharine)

– 1:15 p.m. - Thunder Muggs (Scottish and Re-enactor Camp Tunes)

Town Hall Entrance

– 11:30 a.m. - Thunder Muggs (Scottish and Re-enactor Camp Tunes)

– 12 p.m. - John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

– All Day - Roving Fiddler, Richard Tichich

– All Day - Reenactment Camp: The Breacan Clann, and 71st Highlanders

Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub

– 12:30 p.m. - Rainbow's End (Celtic Music by Dave, Maria and Katharine)

– 1:30 p.m. - John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

Outdoor 76: Rock House Lodge

– 11 a.m. - Lecture by Charlie Rhodarmer: 18th Century Highland Dress

– 11:45 a.m. - Lecture by Freeman Owle: Cherokee Storyteller

– 12:30 p.m. - Lecture by Mary Polanski and Marty Greeble: The Women's History Trail; Stories of Rebecca Na-Ha, Salley, and Timoxena, written by Barbara McRae

Kitchen Sink, Inc. on Main

– 12 p.m. - Shortbread Contest with Prizes and Free Samples

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This week we are having a great band, Tugalo Holler, a young progressive bluegrass band. If you like bluegrass, you will love Tugalo Holler. If you don't like bluegrass, you will after you hear them.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m., so bring your chair, leave your cares behind and come have a good time. These concerts are given to you by the Town of Franklin, free of admission. Hope to see you there!

- Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Frida's & Diego's Mexican Cuisine is now open at 3586 Georgia Road. Call them at (828)634-7067.

Frida's & Diego's restaurant is a dream come true for new owners

Alex Hernandez has always wanted to open his own restaurant.

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce was proud to be a part of his special dream with a ribbon cutting celebration at Frida's & Diego's Mexican Cuisine. Located at 3586 Georgia Road, next to Whistle Stop Furniture, Frida's & Diego's offers authentic, homemade, made to order Mexican dishes.

Hernandez has dreamt of opening his own restaurant his whole life and now that dream is a reality. Hernandez is a Mexican immigrant

who has been in the United States for more than 15 years. His restaurant is unmistakably different, unique and aspires to become a classic.

Frida's & Diego's offers entrees, appetizers, weekend specials and a kids menu at reasonable prices.

The restaurant is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Stop by to eat in or pick up a take-out order. Take-out orders can be called in at (828)634-7067.



Franklin Chamber of Commerce representatives and the staff of Covenant Child Care gathered recently for a ribbon cutting. Covenant Child Care is located at 43 Palmer Street Circle.

Covenant Child Care now open

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting celebration for Covenant Child Care located at 43 Palmer Street Circle.

Covenant Child Care is licensed by the NC Department of Child Development as a Five Star Rated childcare center. CCC recognizes the importance of the physical, emotional and spiritual development of all children and uses resources and curriculum to promote healthy development. Serving infants 6 weeks and children up to 12 years old, Covenant's caregivers focus on building positive self-esteem for young children; pro-

mote individual and group interaction (social skills and relationships) by allowing them to explore and discover the world around them.

Covenant supports families by providing meals and snacks free of charge and infant supplies, diapers, wipes and formula included in tuition. Covenant accepts subsidized childcare vouchers and private tuition. Visit the website at WWW.CovenantChild-Care.net for more details. Owner Stephanie Campbell can be reached at (828)342-7737.

A grand opening celebration was held, Saturday, May 22.

BLOOM event planning does all the work for you

BLOOM Personalized Parties and Event Planning lets you be a guest at your own party. The Franklin Chamber of Commerce was excited to recently host a ribbon cutting celebration for BLOOM located at 92A Stewart Street in downtown Franklin.

Pauletta Clark, a school teacher and Tracy Griffith, a registered nurse, are friends and now business partners who share a common interest in planning and hosting special celebrations and events. Together, they created BLOOM Personalized Parties and Event Planning located in downtown Franklin.

Clark and Griffith design get-togethers of all sizes including birthday parties, themed dinner parties, game nights, pop-up-picnics, retirement parties, graduation parties, date nights, small weddings, murder mystery dinners, weekend retreats, fundraisers, and memorial celebrations of life. BLOOM believes paying attention to special details el-



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More home buyers eligible for down payment assistance

With the median sales price of a home in North Carolina up 7.4% over last year, more and more home buyers have been being priced out of the market. This National Home Ownership Month, thousands of North Carolinians may have a renewed opportunity to buy a home thanks to increased income limits on one of the state's most affordable mortgage products. Offered by the NC Housing Finance Agency, the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ offers up to 5% down payment assistance for thousands of first-time and move-up home buyers statewide — now including those with incomes up to \$99,000 — that can help get homeowners back in the game.

The NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ is available through a statewide lender network and can be used to purchase single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, duplexes and new manufactured homes. To be eligible, buyers must:

- Purchase a home in North Carolina
- Occupy the home as a principal residence within 60 days of closing
- Have an income not exceeding \$99,000
- Have a credit score of 640+
- Be a legal resident of the United States

First-time buyers and military veterans may also be eligible for an \$8,000 down payment boost through the NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment, or up to \$2,000 in tax credit savings per year with a Mortgage Credit Certificate through the NC Home Advantage Tax Credit. Visit www.NCHomeAdvantage.com to learn more and find a local participating lender.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Ok, I view myself as an elected official but, some folks probably see me as a politician. You know the saying about politicians, if they want someone to like them they need to get a dog.

That's just what Sallie and I did this past weekend, we got a dog. We drove to the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society and found a dog. We went to the shelter to look at the dog that had been advertised in last week's newspaper. We visited with the dog and was about to adopt her, when I began to walk around the compound. I spotted a yellow dog, and it came right up to me and began trying to lick me through the pen's fence. This "politician" thought he had finally found someone who liked him! I called Sallie over, and the dog did the same to her. We both decided that was the dog for us. The staff was very understanding about our changing the dog we wanted to adopt. It probably didn't matter to them so long as we were going to adopt one of their animals.

I also started to believe this "politician" had a heart and soul. I felt so bad for the dogs we didn't adopt. As they barked, whined and tried to get our attention, I wanted to take all the dogs home with us. It is really sad to see how these innocent animals have been abandoned and neglected only to end up at the animal shelter.

So we did our small part last Saturday. I hope everyone who is considering getting a dog, or a cat, will go visit the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society to see if there is a pet for them to adopt. There will be no pressure to adopt. In fact, we had visited the shelter earlier this winter and didn't find a dog that we could connect with.

So, if you see the me walking around town with a floppy eared, yellow dog, remember we got Lucy from the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society. A benefit of adoption is that when a match and an adoption is made, the animal is vaccinated, spayed or neutered. The adoption fee covers these items and the identity chip that let's folks, like our Highlands Animal Control officer, know who to contact if the dog is lost. We know Lucy is a runner, so she stays on leash at all times when outside.

By the way, the dog we didn't adopt is named Fern. She is a nice, sweet little dog that will make someone a great companion.

Letters to the Editor

Criticisms based on emotions, not facts

As an Independent voter its interesting to see some of both Democrats and Republicans criticize one another without facts but simply opinions and emotions.

I read David Snell's article "All 'under the influence' must be accountable" in Macon County News & Shopping Guide a week or two ago.

David is an eloquent writer but obviously is writing from emotion and only restating what his favorite political party has alleged without seeking the truth with an open mind. I still cannot understand why almost half of the voters hate Donald Trump. President Obama seems to be a personable guy but being the first black president many people were reluctant to offer any criticism. He spent 8 years trying to create jobs and a good economy by borrowing, spending and criticizing America's achievements, doubled our national debt and became so frustrated that a Socialist approach would not create jobs nor a good economy that he declared "get used to this economy it cannot get any better, it would take someone with a magic wand."

That was one of the reasons President Trump ran "to make America great again." He is a businessman rather than a politician and chose to run as a Republican as that party represented more freedom from government dependence. Everything Trump did was to make things better for all American citizens, not just white people or Republicans. Fact: Former VP Joe Biden admitted being a criminal in the video bragging and laughing about blackmailing Ukranian officials into firing the person investigating the gas company where his son has a job because his name is Biden. The Democrats voted to impeach President Trump by alleging he did what Biden actually did. There were so many different people trying to report alleged fraud during the 2020 election that Trump said it was stolen. Thousands of people went to Washington to make their voices heard because of two things: Trump asked them to and because they were denied their constitutional right to use our laws to investigate the alleged voter frauds as such. Many judges and the Supreme Court refused to do their "sworn duty" and investigate. Why did they not do their sworn duty? Some were perhaps timid and afraid to get into the controversy and many were simply partisan. Had they investigated, found and prosecuted any actual fraud there would not have been any need for the demonstration regardless of who received the most legal votes.

The current Democrat leaders are a mixture of different goals but they are united in defeating the Republicans. Fact: Less than one percent of the demonstrators broke the law and entered the building and they will have to face responsibility, however, rather than being the vicious mob as described by Democrats, their allies, some news media, watching the video they were unarmed and chanting "this is our house" and some shouting don't damage anything.

President Joe Biden called Georgia's new voter law Jim Crow and said it closed the election at 5 o'clock. I thought that was awful so I read the law and it actually increased voting days and still closed voting at 7 o'clock. I have no idea why our President lied!?

Anyway, we had almost full employment, were energy independent and much better off during President Trump and now we have to depend on other countries for some of our energy and thousands of jobs have been destroyed. Rep. Pelosi and Sen. Schumer called a news conference and destroyed that almost 100-year-old lie that the Republicans were the party of the Rich and the Democrats really cared for working Americans when they saw "Trickle Down Economics" working as employers were sharing their new profits from President Trump's "Tax Reduction Act" with employees by giving them thousands of dollars in bonuses. Rep. Pelosi screamed at the camera "Those bonuses are crumbs, when we regain control we'll repeal the "Tax Reduction Act!" I couldn't believe that she admitted the Democrats had tried to kill many jobs for years. They do that and raise taxes on working Americans and use a small portion of those taxes to give the dependent people welfare and food stamps, saying we love you and the government will protect you, hopefully more people will become Independent and really look at facts rather than vote by emotion.

Jack Hogan – Franklin, N.C. & Loganville, Ga.

Practice of filibuster has a sinister history

Every senator who protects the filibuster is guilty of protecting a Jim Crow relic that was used to block civil rights legislation for decades. There's simply no way to get around its sinister legacy.

In the 20th century, the filibuster was used to block over 200 anti-lynching bills and held up the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act for 60 days. Over and over again, it's been a weapon wielded by segregationists and white supremacists. We can't let the filibuster continue to block the voting and civil rights of Black and Brown Americans in the year 2021 -- which it's currently poised to do unless we get rid of it.

I hope senators like Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema are acutely aware of this history as they continue to express support for the filibuster. I am urging them and the rest of the Senate to have courage and get rid of the filibuster as soon as possible. A minority of senators shouldn't be allowed to stop the progress the majority of Americans voted for.

John Baldwin – Bryson City, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
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FHS Class of 2021 graduation



Photos by Vickie Carpenter





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Hannah Angel



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David Bailey



David Banchs



Joshua Barrs



Jadyne Basham



Lauren Basham



Chloe Baty



Cameron Benton



Branden Berger



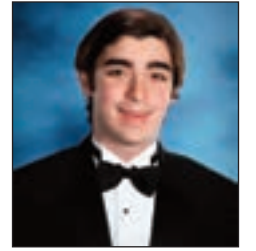
Chesnie Berry



Michelle Bonola



Donlin Bottoms



Ryan Bowers



Silvia Bowman



Autumn Boyce



Hailey Brown



Kyndell Burns



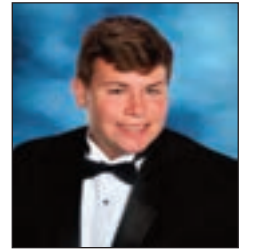
Aiden Carpenter



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Canaan Drake



Karissa Duvall



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Jessie Ellenburg



Taylor Ensley



Gabriel Ervin



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Heidi Feria-Mendoza



Michael Frazier



Dylan Garcia



Enrique Garcia



Osvaldo Garcia-Mendoza



Wyatt Gibson



Eli Gilbert



Randy Giles



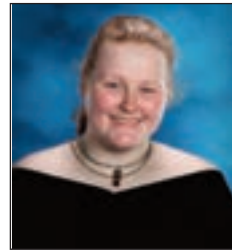
Anna Gilliam



Sky Golebiewski-Kral



Elmer Gopar-Rios



Kayla Gramigna



Stella Grant



Braeden Greene



Preston Gregory



Kailey Griffith



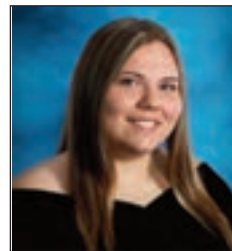
Salvatore Guercio



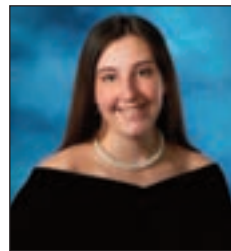
Kolby Guilmette



Destiny Hardy



Mary Harper



Taylor Harrell



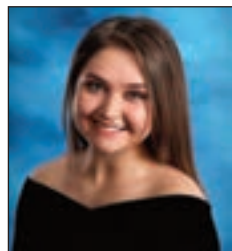
Kaylee Harris



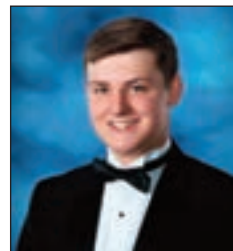
Preston Hathcock



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Gracie Holland



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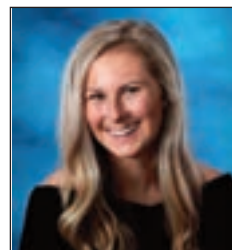
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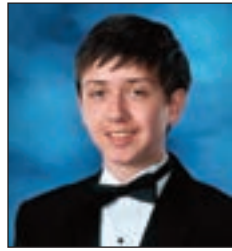
Lake Ledford



Dora Licona-Mendoza



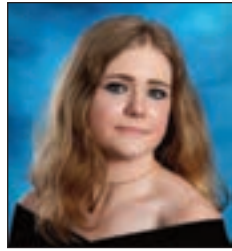
Deaven Lombard



Braden Lowe



Logan Mack



Lauren Macumber



Garrett Markham



Lucian Martin



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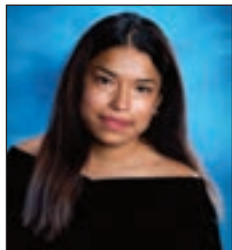
Alondra Mata Perez



Hunter Maxwell



Hailey McCall



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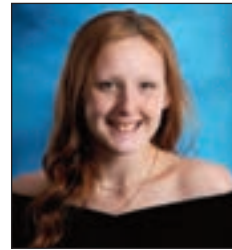
Raquel Mendoza



Harley Mestes



Eli Moffitt



Kaitlyn Moore



Sydney Moore



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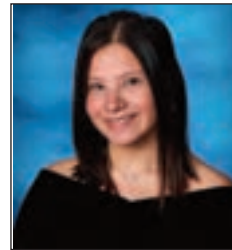
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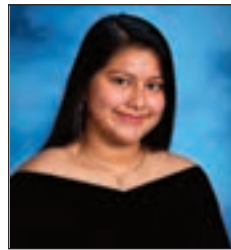
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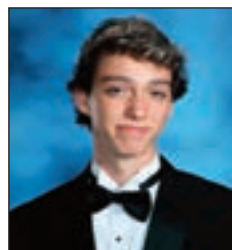
Silvia Ruelas-Rodriguez



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Maetzin Sanchez-Lopez



Daniel Saylor



Samuel Sellers



Philo Sequoya



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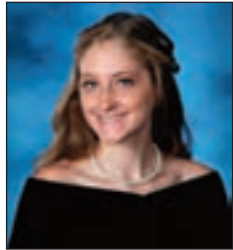


Dylan Setzer

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Maria Sgro



Hannah Shope



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Carley Specht



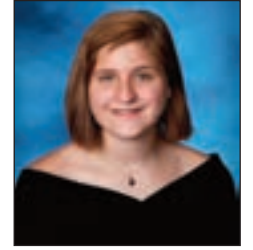
Olivia Stahl



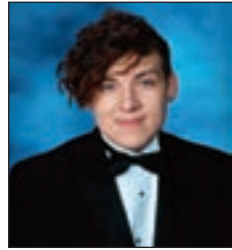
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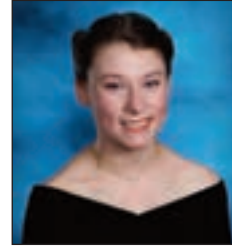
Grace Tallent



Oswaldo Tapia Enriquez



Anna Tastinger



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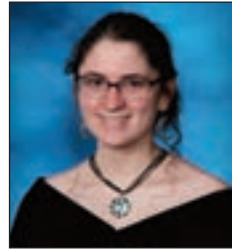
Amy Tippett



Kyle Tippett



Neveah Tran



Amber Trine



Marcelo Trujillo



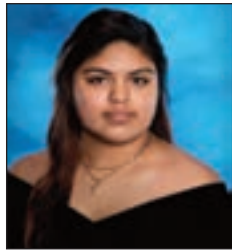
Judge-David Valentine



Alix Vasquez



Alexander Velasco Hernandez



Daylin Vences-Chevez



Tristyn Vernelson



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Ashlee Welch



Emma Whitworth



Abigail Williams



Mason Williams



Jeffrey Williamson

Not pictured: Elijah Alderman, Dalen Aldrich, Gregory Ammons, Payton Beyer, Anthony Brown, Jayden Carver, Christian Deshane, Mattie Elaine Dutton, Abigail Eker, Eric Feria-Martinez, Zachary Gibson, Dalton Haggard, Giovanni Hernandez, Jonathan Hord, Giovann Huayamave, Eric Jones, Breanna Mellies, Zachary Rich, Alexander Rios Rojas, Thomas Shepherd, Adrianna Shirley, Micah Tatt, Donald Warren



Chad Wilson



Mackenzie Wilson



Peyton Wood



Wyatt Yates



Emily Zoellner



John Tastinger
graduating from Rabun Gap Nacoochee School



Anna Tastinger
graduating from Franklin High School

A LARGE CONGRATULATIONS AND WE LOVE YOU!
- GRANDMA & GRANDPA TASTINGER

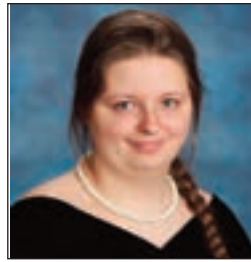
NANTAHALA



Dillon McLean



Charlie Rich



Rebekah Stewart



Gracie Stroud



Zac Taylor



Makayla West



RABUN GAP



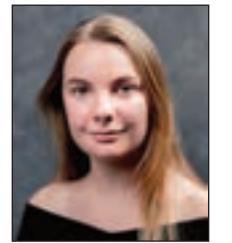
Timothy Bronaugh



Joseph Caiata



Diane Dallmann



Christina Hunter



Brook Knittel



Chase Koster



Tsering Lama



Nate Mock



John Tastinger



Rachel Wu



Julia Sadlon

Congratulations
to all the graduates in the
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The sky is the limit!

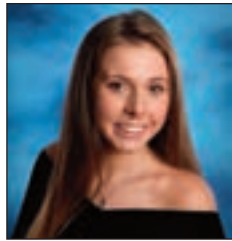
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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HIGHLANDS



Bella Blanco



Jordan Carrier



Garrison Chalker



William Chastain



William Creswell



Alyson Dayton



Ellen Diehl



Madelyn Drummonds



Elliott Gordon



Stevi Graham



Brooklyn Houston



Joana Jimenez Reyes



Jamie King



Elijah Kennedy



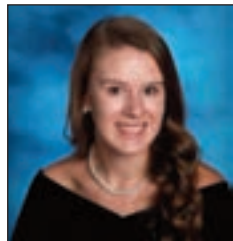
Olivia Lewis



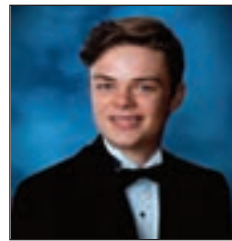
Jonathan Montalvo Espinoza



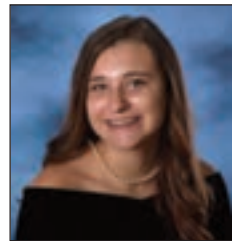
Anne-Marie Moore



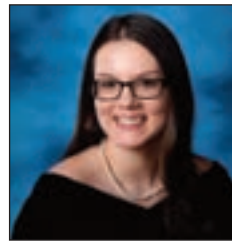
Abigail Nichols



Logan Petrone



Kadence Ramey



Megan Rehmeier



Savannah Shaheen



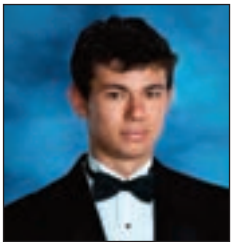
Collin Stoltzfus



Ethan Tate



Hadley Templeton



Lane Tingen



Marley Ubertino



Rebecca Wiggins



Tessa Wisniewski



Jase Raby and Valerie Olvera Lopez, Mascots

UNION ACADEMY



Jennifer Bunten



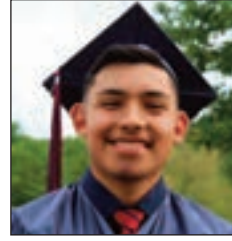
Lance Calderon



Jaimee Chase



Preston Cochran



Hector Cruz



Josue Cruz Fernandez



Travis Cunningham



Jade Field



Presley Glenn



Isabella Holland



Kayla Kuykendall



Ryan McClure



Riley McConnell



Shaya Menchan



Naim Muniz



Haylee Nations



Dylan Partridge



Alan Perez



Destiny Russell



Charles Sanford



Daniel Shampine



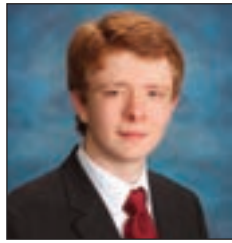
Cristian Vazquez

Not pictured
Ashlynn Dowdle
Maria Menichello

Photos by
Vickie Carpenter



MACON EARLY COLLEGE



Zachary Ammons



Jonathan Beaver



Lauryn Bell



Ronald Bohorquez Rios



Victoria Buso



Leah Carter



Chloe Clary



Amy Crutcher



Alicia Deal



George Drummond



Jordan Green



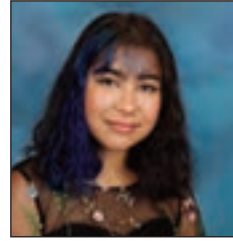
Caroline Hyatt



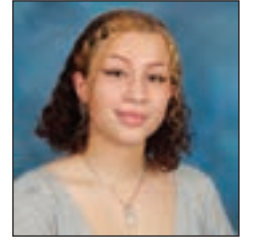
Evan Jackson



Isaac Jackson



Karla Jimenez-Villalpando



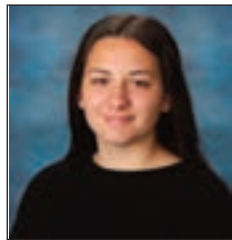
Aryona Johnson



Bradsher Johnson



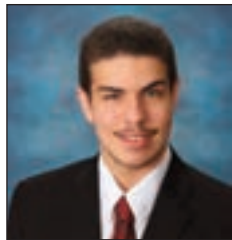
Nathaniel Lewis



Carly Loftin



Graham Long



Ricardo Moises Navarro



Rachel Olsson



Giovanna Penilla-Palomares



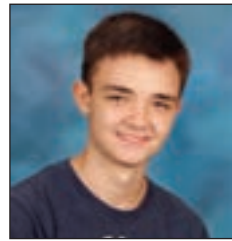
Sara Ricotta



Miriam Rios-Ortiz



Jasmin Ros



William Shields



Madison Tillot



Andrew Vargas



Alma Vasquez Garcia



Reagan Wilson



Rebecca Zuzio



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Lauren Macumber • Amber Trine
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Congratulations to the Class of 2021



Photos by Vickie Carpenter



A celebratory graphic with a white background and a red border. At the top, it says "Congratulations 2021 GRADUATES!" in red and gold text. There are several red graduation caps scattered around. At the bottom, there is a rolled-up diploma tied with a red ribbon. Logos for "Nantahala BANK & TRUST COMPANY" and "Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER" are visible.

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests May 24 - June 6. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

May 28

John Paul Carver, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. Tim Holland made the arrest.

Angel Chavez-Zalapa, was charged with driving while impaired, driving after consuming under 21. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

May 29

Dana Marie Henry, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

May 31

Brittin Nycole Hereford Walsh was charged with probation violation. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Danelle Kay Jiminez, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

June 1

William Grady Baughn, was issued a fugitive warrant. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Elizabeth Claire Cook, was charged with felony larceny, possession of stolen goods, obtaining property by false pretenses. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Richard Frank Sanford Jr., was charged with larceny, possession of stolen goods. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Joshua Blake Gerrald, was issued warrant service for domestic protective order violation. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Tracy Brandon Hall, was issued warrant service. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

June 3

Michael J. Crews, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense, possession of stolen goods/property, breaking and entering, larceny. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, habitual felon. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

George Ann Krouse, was charged with driving while impaired, reckless driving to endanger. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Paul Wayne Maynard Jr., was charged with assault on a female. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Kraig Allen Lackey, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, identity theft, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Kyle Lee Lackey, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense, identity theft, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Rickey Elli Wright, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Esteban Vasallo Corteguera, was charged with possession of marijuana, probation violation, sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a place for controlled substances. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

John Paul McCall, was charged with probation violation. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Guy Richard Boisclair, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

June 4

Billy Chance Schmeltz, was issued a warrant for out of state felony. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Jason Christopher Webster, was charged with assault on a female. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

June 5

Anthony Christopher Beaver, was charged with domestic violence protection order violation, domestic criminal trespass, breaking and entering. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Evaristo Mendoza Mendoza, was charged with fell/elude arrest with motor vehicle, no operators license. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

June 6

Jeremy Lewis Horner, was issued warrant Service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 5

Philip Jason Fenker, 47, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

June 6

Micah Dillon Breeden, 24, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 24

Tiffany Marie Ward, 32, of Acree Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Denise Smoker Rattler, 47, of Snowbird Rd., Robbinsville, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoke impaired revocation possession/displayed/altered/fictitious/revoked drivers license. A secured bond of \$1,750 was set.

Amber Nicole Simon, 26, of Cullowhee, was charged with possession of nontax paid alcoholic beverage, second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Salvador Hugo Taylor, 29, of Mali Rd., Cherokee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon causing serious injury. No bond was set.

Zachary Martin Bombay, 27, of Wagon Wheel Gap, Cherokee, was issued a child support purge, failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,150 was set.

Crescent Zoranna Perry, 25, of Paint Bucket Dr., Whittier, was charged with harboring a fugitive. No bond was set.

Colton Heath Wike, 23, of Maple Lane, Bryson City, was charged with indecent exposure. No bond was set.

May 25

Daniel Keith Reece, 30, of Sylva, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Joshua Clifford Marks, 42, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation, failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Andre Johannes Roestenberg, 79, of Whittier, was charged with second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Jonathan Michael Freeman, 32, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for trespassing, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

May 26

Brittany Nicole Woodard, 30, of Fairview Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Joshua Clifford Marks, 42, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Johnathan Michael Freeman, 31, of West Main St., was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Kimberly Crowe Juarez, 37, of Crane Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

May 27

Kimberly Ann Santy, 40, of Cornis Lane, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, first degree trespass, resist a public officer, trespass, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

May 28

Johnathan Michael Freeman, 32, of West Main St., was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

May 29

Jonathan Adan Garita, 19, of Young Cove Rd., Franklin, was issued an order for arrest for purchase fortified wine/liquor/malt beverage by person less than 21. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Tommy Lee Henderson, 37, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation, larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Elizabeth Ann Watty, 38, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property false pretense. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

May 30

Wyatt Alexander Whitmire, 18, of Plateau Ridge Rd., Cashiers, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Adam Warren-David Evitt, 32, of Windy Gap Rd., Cullowhee, was issued a child support purge. A \$13,222.81 bond was set.

Jeremy Isaac Sequoyah, 27, of Bradley Dr., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

May 31

Darrell Lee Driver, 35, of Toohow Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of a firearm by a felon, domestic criminal trespass, possession of a schedule III controlled substance. No bond was set.

Foraging for food possible in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Before there were convenience, dollar, and grocery stores around every corner, Natives and settlers alike relied not only on agriculture and hunting for their sustenance, but foraging as well. Clayton, Georgia-based Cara-Lee Langston, Wildcraft Kitchen, was in Macon County recently teaching interested individuals how to accurately and safely find wild-grown plants for culinary and medicinal uses.

Langston attributes her interest in foraging and cooking with wild foods to her upbringing in Cape Town, South Africa, which she defines as a “culturally-diverse, stunning natural environment,” and adds, “My family and I spent a lot of time outdoors and enjoying traditional foods. Almost every weekend was spent exploring nature, hiking the mountains and beach trails of the Cape Peninsula. My parents are incredible nurturers who worked in the medical field so I always had an understanding and appreciation for health and well-being.”

She eventually immigrated to the United States and worked in food service and health-care. She desired to use her knowledge of natural healing, so in 2011, she enrolled in the BotanoLogos School of Herbal Studies Medical Herbalism Certificate Program in Clayton and met Patricia Kyristi Howell, who became her herbal mentor.

“She really opened my eyes to the world of herbalism and taught me about the Appalachian plants that I now use for food or medicine.”

Langston notes that the Southern Appalachians are “lush” with forageable foods and also medicinal plants.

“Many herbalists refer to this area as the apothecary of the United States. There are at least 100 species of wild edible and medicinal plants that are endemic to our region, mean-

ing that they are not found anywhere else in the world,” she said.

Some examples are sassafras, spicebush, sochan (which has been a “favorite wild green of the Cherokee,” according to Langston), morel mushrooms, chanterelle mushrooms, lion’s mane mushrooms, black cherry, bear huckleberry, paw paw, serviceberry, mulberry, smilax, black walnut, hickory, oak, beech, birch, persimmon, sumac, and more.

“Some edible or medicinal wild plants, such as ramps (*Allium tricoccum*/wild leek) and ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), are at risk of becoming endangered due to overharvesting,” she said. “I always share resources with my students to help them be better stewards of the earth and to protect at-risk plants by practicing ethical wildcrafting. The United Plant Savers are an excellent resource to learn more about this. For instance, the most ethical way to harvest ramps in our area would be to only harvest one leaf per plant (depending on the size of the stand or patch of plants) and to not dig up the root as the root takes five or more years to develop, and once you pull up the root the plant is done. Just like the root, the leaves have a great flavor too!”

She also helps people feel comfortable about foraging for nonnative invasive plants. “If you are going to forage for wild foods, why not become an invasivore? Consuming invasive plants is more sustainable and ethical than consuming native plants. Even kudzu is edible!”

The concern that many people have about foraging is that they might make a mistake and eat a toxic or poisonous plant or mushroom. She instructs, “When foraging for food, especially fungi, it is very important to get 120% positive ID and remember ‘when in doubt, leave it out’ as my mom always says. Thankfully, mushroom toxins aren’t transdermal and so you can handle a poisonous mushroom to

study it closely. This is actually very important. You should never try to identify a mushroom (and this goes for plants too) by just one feature. You have to look at the cap, the fertile surface, stem, internal, and external color, spore print, the substrate that it is growing on, and its habitat or relationship to trees. No doubt, it takes time and studying great guide books from sources like Tradd and Olga Cotter at Mushroom Mountain, who is the number-one resource for mushroom education, mushroom products, and mushroom cultivation supplies in our area.”

Aside from poisonous mushrooms, Langston educates regarding various toxic plants as well. “One example is poison hemlock, which can easily be mistaken for edible wild carrot in its very young growing stage,” she said. “Also, a plant can have both edible and toxic parts. For instance, only the fruit of the Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) is edible when it is perfectly ripe (it yellows and falls to the ground) but all other parts are toxic. Some plants have toxic look-alikes too, so studying botany is an important part of foraging.”

Although Langston said her South African upbringing and focus on natural eating did not leave her when she moved to the U.S., healthy eating became a lifestyle after studying at BotanoLogos and then completing a master’s degree in Nutrition and Integrative Health.



Cara-Lee Langston of Wildcraft Kitchen in Clayton, Ga., was in Macon County in mid-May to teach interested individuals about foraging for local, wild foods.

Langston and her husband, Keith, grow specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

“We also offer a plant sale in the spring and fall that features some interesting and unique varieties of heirloom tomatoes, medicinal and culinary herbs, and flowers.”

And, besides the Wildcraft Kitchen, which

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involves teaching adult workshops and offering programs for children, as well as leading foraging tours, Langston works in “food justice and nutrition education for a local food bank.”

Langston explained that foraging has been a skill passed down through generations in rural and mountain families, yet the interest in foraging and sustainability and self-reliance increased last year due to the pandemic.

“When grocery store shelves began to empty and seeds became harder to acquire, I think a lot of people realized the importance of heritage or resilience skills such as gardening and foraging and how easily we can suffer when the systems that were built to provide

these vital things for us start to break down. I think many people realized or were reminded of the value of self-reliance.”

Langston enjoys not only making her own food from plants foraged and grown, but also making food for other people – and sharing recipes.

“I love to make pesto with spring and fall wild greens such as dandelion, violet, and chickweed. If you're new to wild foods, you can also use half basil and half wild greens. I recommend starting slow with wild foods as anyone can have a reaction to anything and our bodies are more accustomed to cultivated or grocery store foods nowadays. It is best to get to know each and every plant individually and how it interacts with your body. We are all biochemical individuals after all.”

Wild Greens Pesto

1 cup fresh basil, washed and roughly chopped

1 cup wild greens such as dandelion, violet, chickweed, a few ramp leaves, washed and roughly chopped

1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed

1/2 cup high quality olive oil

1/4 cup toasted nuts or seeds (I like pine nut, walnut, sunflower or pumpkin seed)

1/4 cup Parmesan cheese (optional)

Salt to taste

Add wild greens, basil (if using), garlic, and 1/4 cup olive oil to a food processor or blender. Blend until finely chopped. Add nuts, remaining olive oil, and Parmesan and blend until your desired consistency is reached. Pesto can be blended until smooth or kept chunky. Use on fresh pasta, pizza, roasted vegetables, chicken or fish, or in salad dressings and marinades. Store in the refrigerator for 5-7 days or freeze for up to 6 months.

Note: if you don't have a food processor or blender, a mortar and pestle can be used.



Many edible foods can be found in area woods and fields, according to Cara-Lee Langston, including ingredients to make white pine needle shortbread cookies with wildflowers.

Mark Lowry returns to Franklin

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts welcomes Mark Lowry back to the stage Friday, June 18, to delight audiences with his unique gift of communicating Biblical truths through music and storytelling. Showtime is set for 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$25 each, with priority seating available.

Mark Lowry is a Christian comedian, songwriter, and singer who has been entertaining and inspiring audiences for more than 40 years. He is known and loved around the world as a trusted voice in gospel music and beyond. He has been recording albums and videos since age 11, and he co-wrote the lyrics to “Mary Did You Know,” a popular Christmas song that has been recorded more than 400 times by artists such as Kenny Rogers, Rascal Flatts, Reba McEntire, and Donny Osmond.

Lowry has spent more than 20 years as the baritone singer for the Gaither Vocal Band and serves as the comedic sidekick for Bill Gaither in both live shows and the Gaither Homecoming video series. His quick-wit and clean comedy is both refreshing and entertaining.

A broad range of musical inspiration is found in Lowry's life work which includes a large catalog of diverse projects including videos, books, and CDs. Lowry also participates in a film series and podcast called Dinner Conversations with Andrew Greer, a Christian singer and songwriter. Together, the pair welcomes award-winning singers, songwriters, and authors to discuss topics such as being perfectly imperfect, faith and



Mark Lowry

fears, and family matters. Lowry also does weekly Facebook Live videos called “Mondays with Mark,” where he speaks with industry friends about scripture, childhood memories, and much more.

Lowry exhibits an entertaining personality that makes showgoers laugh, cry, and think about their personal walk to salvation. His deep thinking and outrageous sense of humor, as well as his broad range of musical inspiration, keeps audiences of all ages on the edge of their seats. Lowry's song “Love is Not a Fight” was the theme song for the movie “Fireproof.”

To purchase tickets or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit GreatMountainMusic.com or call (866) 273-4615.

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Robert Lewis Cowart

Robert Lewis Cowart, 52, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, May 28, 2021.

Born in Thomasville, N.C., he was the son of the late Jessie James and Hilda Leatherwood Cowart. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepmother, Barbara Ledford Cowart.

He was an avid Nascar fan, loved golfing and visiting with friends. He was a member of Tellico Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Marcella Cook Cowart; daughter, Angelica Leigh Cook of Cabot, Ark.; four sons, Brandon Lewis Cowart, Christopher Logan Cowart, and Ryan Blake Cowart, all of Franklin, and Conner Hobbs of Griffin, Ga.; brother, Keith Cowart of Franklin; sister, Teresa Hall of Asher, Ky.; and step siblings, Brian Terrell, Jack Terrell, Laura Fountain, and Cheryl Hicks; one grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service was held Friday, June 4, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Gary McCoy and Rev. Jamie Passmore officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Macon Funeral Home to help with the expenses.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Joan Marie Flanigan Wilson

Joan Marie Flanigan Wilson, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday May 30, 2021. She was born April 17, 1933, in Chicago, Ill. to the late Elmer Flanigan and Urbanie DeZutter Flanigan. She was a secretary at Honeywell Aerospace Industries. She was an active member in the Ladies Auxiliary, VFW and American Legion and a member of the St. Francis Catholic Church. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Flanigan and a son, Michael Buppert.

She is survived by a daughter, Victoria Oppenheimer; three sons, David Wilson, Jim Wilson and Larry Marsh; and eight grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wilson family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

Herb Magee

Herb Magee, 91, formerly of Franklin, N.C., and Spotswood, N.J., passed away May 13, 2021, in Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Orville and Myrtle; Betty, his beloved wife of 53 years; brothers, Kenneth and Melvin; sisters, Erma (Herb) Butler, Edith (John) Ferencze, Eleanor (Roy) Boyce, Marilyn (Robert) Hogue; and brother-in-law, Herman Jensen.

He is survived by his children, Ron (Mary), Debby (Mark) Jeffers, Kathryn (Randy) Goossen; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; in-laws Margaret Magee, Jim and Beulah Asher; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Saturday, June 5, at Rush Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your charity of choice.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of local arrangements.

Valerie Gail Crisp Hughes

Valerie Gail Crisp Hughes of Appling, Ga., departed this world and was received by her Heavenly Home Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

She was a native of Macon County, was born in the Hickory Knoll Community in the home of her late grandparents, George and Fannie Stiles, and is the eldest daughter of the late Frank L. and Leneta Crisp of Franklin. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by one sister, Donna Smith; and one nephew, Caleb Nathaniel Norton.

She is survived by her husband, Tony Hughes of Appling; and two sisters, Sandra Talley of Franklin and Ruth Thomas of Hiwassee, Ga.; an aunt and uncle, Doyle and Linda Stiles of Franklin; and four nephews and several grand nieces and nephews that will miss her dearly.

She was a graduate of Western Carolina University and received her Masters Degree in Education from Clemson University.

Upon her graduation from Western Carolina University, she was one of few chosen to participate in an exchange teacher program to South America. From there, she continued her teaching career in Westminster, S.C., Cashiers, N.C., and Augusta Ga.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, she lovingly served as the primary and teen Sunday School teacher at Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church. It didn't matter if she had only two to three children in a class, she never faltered on a lesson plan or attendance because she loved to teach children about God's unconditional love and the stories of Jesus. She had an unflinching love for the Lord, her family and children. The children in the family have always had an enduring love for her. She was the member of the family that always brought love, joy, humor and structured chaos. Family get-togethers will never be the same.

She was a charter member of The Shepherds Church in Appling. She took on the role of Sunday School director and was responsible for Children's Church and all the seasonal presentations such as greening of the church for Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other events.

A service was held Monday, June 7, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home, Franklin. Burial followed at the Hickory Knoll Community Cemetery in Franklin, N.C.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 13, at 2 p.m., at "The Shepherd's Church" in Appling.

Mary Giles Stewart

Heaven's Gates opened wide on May, 12, 2021, to welcome Mary Giles Stewart, into Glory.

She was born on June 7, 1929, to the late Virgil and Myrtle Garner Giles. She loved the Lord with all her heart and enjoyed worshipping at Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church where she was recognized as the oldest member of the congregation. She loved to read and was a very prolific reader. After she retired and had time, it seemed as if she read at least a book a day. Her family stayed on the go returning books to the library and borrowing more books. She also looked forward every month to getting her favorites, *Guidepost* and *Reader's Digest*, in the mail.

She was a faithful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. Next to her love for her Lord was her love for her family. Visitors to her house knew to come hungry because she was going to make sure she fed you while you were there.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, John B. Stewart; and three siblings, Betty Holbrooks, Roxie Peebles, and William C. Bennett.

Left with many wonderful memories are her son, J.B. Stewart (Linda); and her grandchildren, Shane Stewart (Virginia) of Clayton, Ga., and Rev. Chad Stewart (Julie) of Clarksville, Ga.; six great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, three nieces, and three nephews.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Valerie Hughes

Lloyd William Hall

Lloyd William Hall, 80 of Franklin passed away Monday, May 31, 2021. He was born Jan. 4, 1941, in Clinton, Ill., to the late William Hall and Sally Farley Hall. He was a welder and worked as a Boiler Maker traveling the country to work at different power plants, but the job he enjoyed most was being a farmer. He always had a vegetable garden and loved giving it away to others. He liked to cook and smoke Boston Butts. He loved his grandchildren and always put others before himself and would help or fix anything he could for others. He was a member of the VFW and served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

He is survived by his daughter, Tamara McFeeters (Steven); a son, Eric Charles Hall (Sheryl); two grandchildren, Pierce McFeeters and London McFeeters.

No services are planned.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Hall family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

Donald Carroll McConnell

Donald Carroll McConnell, 69, passed away Monday, May 31, 2021. He was the son of the late John Furman and Pauline Wyatt McConnell. He grew up in his grandparents, Arthur & Minnie McConnell, and his aunt, Jessie McConnell's home. They, and a brother, John Keith McConnell, preceded him.

He was a Macon County native and a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He is survived by a brother, Tim McConnell of Corpus Christi, Texas; a sister, Robin Townsend, and a step sister, Paula Cowick, both of Lenoir, N.C.; caregiver, Sheila Conley (Larry) of Franklin, N.C.; and several cousins.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



Donald McConnell

Edmund S. Cameron

Edmund S. Cameron, 90, loving husband and father of four children, passed away Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

He was born on the farm he grew up on near Gibson City, Ill., on June 5, 1930. While growing up he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in the Prairielands Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and was honored by being named salutatorian of his high school graduating class. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Science degree from Purdue University. On June 9, 1960, he married Delores Anne Suter, a marriage that lasted for over 60 years. After serving as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army and teaching at the University of Illinois, he taught for 25 years at Lake-Sumter Community College in Leesburg, Fla. The couple raised four children in Leesburg, Daniel, Stephen, Douglas, and Melissa. In his 40s and 50s, he was a competitive road runner at 5K and 10K races throughout central Florida.

He spent the last 25 years of his life happily retired with Delores near Franklin, N.C. He was an outdoorsman, a horticulturist, a birder, and an avid collector of early American pressed glass. If you see a bluebird house in Macon County, North Carolina, it was likely placed there by Ed, as he put up and maintained hundreds of bluebird houses over the course of over two decades. He was a life-long student of both Latin and calculus. He is remembered fondly in his community for his longstanding support to the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church food bank, as well as generous support to numerous other Catholic charities and wildlife conservation organizations.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edmund, and his mother, Kathryn.

He is survived by his wife, Delores, all four of their children, his children-in-law Dorian, Joy, and Guy; and his grandchildren, Andrew, Travis, Edmund, Matthew, Ava, Wallace, and Gwyneth.

A funeral mass was held at the chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on April, 19, 2021.



Deaths & Funerals

Kate Penland Crawford

Kate Penland Crawford, 93, of Franklin, N.C., died Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Born in Clay County, she lived most of her life in Franklin. She was the daughter of the late J. Bayse and Alva Henson Penland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, George Emerson Crawford, who passed on January 28, 2021, as well as, son Brent Crawford, and brothers Neal, Howard, and Stanley Penland.

She was a wonderful homemaker and served Mt. Hope Baptist Church faithfully for many years. This included serving as a Sunday School teacher, VBS director and teacher, WMU leader, and using her gardening skills to provide flowers for the sanctuary.

She is survived by daughter, Martha Orr (Gary) of Williamsburg, Va.; son, Emerson Crawford (Valerie) of Kernersville, N.C.; daughter-in-law, Eugenia; brother, Pete Penland; and sister, Martha Nell Penland Parris (Bob); seven grandchildren, Cheryl, Natalie, Landon, Cameron, Caitlin, Patrick, and Penlyn; seven great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of lives will be held for both Mr. and Mrs. Crawford on Saturday, June 12, at 1 p.m., in the afternoon, at Mt. Hope Baptist Church in Franklin.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers; especially Charlene Hall, Maria Lopez, and Jackie and Jerry Guffey for their outstanding care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mt. Hope Baptist Church or the WNC Hospice House Foundation.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.
Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Willa Mae Baumgarner Stewart

Willa Mae Baumgarner Stewart, 90, of Cullowhee, N.C., passed away Tuesday, June 1, 2021. She was born April 27, 1931, in Jackson County, North Carolina, to the late Claude Baumgarner and Arizona McCall Baumgarner.

She was a life-long resident of Jackson County and was a homemaker. She was an active member of the Sr. Walk Program at the Cashiers Rec Center and a member of Yellow Mountain Baptist Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Cynthia Stewart; a sister, Eddie Robinson; four grandchildren, Dixie and Michael Romano, Kent and Ashley Stewart, Kyle and Rachel Jacobs and Amiee Stewart-Marquez; two great-grandchildren, Mia Mae Romano and Nico Marquez.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Deck Stewart Jr.; a son, David Stewart; a grandson, Joshua Boyer; a sister, Martha Ingram and a brother, Marvin Baumgarner.

A graveside service was held Friday, June 4, in the Stewart Cemetery, Cullowhee, with Rev. Carl Stepp officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be made to Yellow Mountain Baptist Church, 34 Mill Creek Road, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Stewart family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.



Kate Crawford



Willa Mae Stewart

Michael Ray Dills

Michael Ray Dills, 64, of Franklin, N.C., went to be with his Savior on June 6, 2021, surrounded by his family due to complications from COVID-19. He was born Feb. 26, 1957, in Brevard, N.C., to Ray and Louise Dills. He grew up in Franklin where you could most often find him at his dad's service station where he worked. He later married his high school sweetheart, Eva Jane Mashburn. He began doing telephone work after high school until he retired.



Michael Ray Dills

He was a born again Christian that loved the Lord and loved to serve others. He was a deacon at Cartoogechaye Baptist Church and was actively involved in Vacation Bible School, annual drive-thru nativity and Christmas programs, and the Night to Shine prom for special needs. What most people didn't see is that he never said no to any need the church or people had, whether big or small. He was the true definition of a deacon serving others and serving the Lord, not for his own recognition but for God's glory.

Hi favorite season was hunting season and whether it was deer, turkey, or rabbit, he loved being outdoors. He was always ready to swap deer tales and pictures with anyone that would listen. If he wasn't in his stand, he was looking for deer and turkey sign, running his rabbit dogs, fishing in the backwoods, or looking for ginseng. The only thing that he loved more than the outdoors was spending time there with his boys and being the fun, silly Papaw to the grandkids.

He is survived by his wife; sons, Justin (Sarah) and Cody (Lauryn); grandchildren, Canaan, Cal, Charlie, Hudson, Landyn, and Maddox; sister, Sherry Sanders, and a slew of family and friends that will greatly miss him.

Visitation will be at Macon Funeral Home on Thursday, June 10, from 6-8 p.m. Funeral will be held at Cartoogechaye Baptist Church on Friday, June 11, at 11 a.m., with Rev. Jason Smith, Rev. Brian Browning and Rev. Rick Potts officiating. Burial will be at Gold Mine Cemetery in Highlands, N.C. Pallbearers will be Cal Drake, David McCoy, Wade Shope, Ronnie Dowdle, Dennis Holland, Jeremy Holland, Rick Carpenter, Jimmy Teem, Ken Shepherd, and Kaitlyn Bishop. Honorary Pallbearers will be the deacons of Cartoogechaye Baptist Church.

Mike had a life-giving liver transplant in 2012. This gave him the chance to meet all of his grandkids and have nine more years of memories he otherwise wouldn't have had without a transplant. In lieu of flowers, a donation fund has been set up through Donate Life in hopes to encourage organ donation so someone else could have a second chance at life. Donate Life <https://www.classy.org/team/361090>

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Ralph Jacob Provost

Ralph Jacob Provost, 68, passed away on May 27, 2021. He was born on Sept. 6, 1952, to Albert and Joyce Chambers Provost.



Ralph Jacob Provost

He enjoyed reading, playing pickle ball and riding motorcycles. He was a member of Dryman's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Joan; his sons, Jacob Lee Provost (Corinne) of Laguna Beach, Calif., and Jesse McAulay Provost (Kerri) of Franklin, N.C.; his grandchildren, Jocelyn, Arley, and Chase; his brother, Tom Provost, of Rock Hill, S.C., and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Judy and Ann.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Ralph's family. Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



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Kyle Larson sweeps his second-straight race with victory at Sonoma

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

SONOMA, Calif. – Score another sweep for Kyle Larson, who dominated an action-filled Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday at Sonoma Raceway.

Through a spate of late accidents and restarts, Larson held off Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott and three-time Sonoma winner Martin Truex Jr. to claim a second-straight race in which he also swept both the first and second stages.

The victory was Larson's first at the 2.52-mile road course, his third of the season and the ninth of his career. It was the fourth straight 1-2 finish for Hendrick Motorsports and the first time since 2014 that HMS has posted four-straight wins.

The victory was the 270th for Hendrick, extending the record the organization broke last Sunday.

Coming off last week's win in the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte, Larson made the overtime win look easy. But looks can be deceiving, said the driver of the No. 5 Chevrolet.

"It was not easy," said Larson, who grew up in nearby Elk Grove, Calif. "Just keeping it on the track is tough, especially when you've got two of the best behind you on the last restart."

Elliott was able to stay on Larson's bumper after the race went to an overtime restart—the result of a four-car accident in Turn 4 on Lap 88 of a scheduled 90. But Larson inched away over the final two laps.

"I felt like I did a good job on the (restart) before and was able to stretch it out a little bit," Larson said. "I didn't want to give it another try at it, but (Chase) kept the pressure on. Martin was strong, too."

"What a car! I thought I would be okay today, but I really didn't know how I would race—I don't think any of us really knew with no practice, but our car was really good there, and I can't say enough about it."

The closeness of his hometown—east of Sacramento—made the victory that much more satisfying.

"It means a lot," said Larson, who crossed the finish line .614 seconds ahead of Elliott. "Northern California will always be home to me, even if I live way on the East Coast now ... To get back-to-back wins in the Cup Series is something I've always dreamed of doing, and to get it done feels great."

Elliott, the reigning series champion, achieved his best finish at Sonoma, but couldn't find a way past his teammate.

"I wish I knew (where Larson was stronger)," said Elliott, who has six road course wins to his credit. "I would have tried to give him a little better run. But congrats to Kyle and



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma Raceway on June 06, 2021 in Sonoma, California. Photo by Maddie Meyer/Getty Images

Hamlin and Kevin Harvick, who combined for 16 victories in 2020, left Sonoma still winless this season. Harvick was the victim of a seven-car chain reaction crash in Turn 11 on Lap 77 during a rash of four cautions within an 18-lap stretch near the end of the race.

Without a hood or right front fender on his car, Harvick salvaged a 22nd-place result.

AJ Allmendinger rallies for dramatic NASCAR Xfinity Series win at Mid-Ohio

With a remarkable run from the back of the field in the final stage at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, AJ Allmendinger charged to an overtime victory in Saturday's B&L Transport 170 and tied Marcos Ambrose for the most NASCAR Xfinity Series road course wins all-time.

The triumph at the home track of team owner Matt Kaulig was the fifth in the series on a road course for Allmendinger, the first two-time winner at the technical 2.258-mile, 13-turn circuit. Allmendinger went to Victory Lane in the inaugural event at the Lexington, Ohio, track in 2013.

After suffering a rear-of-the-field penalty for not taking the required 50 seconds on pit road under modified pit road rules, Allmendinger restarted 19th on Lap 56 of a scheduled

(crew chief) Cliff (Daniels) and everybody on the 5 team. They've been doing an amazing job.

"I'm really proud of our NAPA group, though. I felt like we were a lot better there at the end than we were at the beginning. That's definitely the best I've ever been here at Sonoma."

Truex came home third, followed by Joey Logano and Kyle Busch, who summed up Larson's dominance in one sentence.

"The 5 was just out of this world," Busch said.

Chip Ganassi Racing teammates Kurt Busch and Ross Chastain were sixth and seventh, respectively. Denny Hamlin, Alex Bowman and Ryan Blaney completed the top 10.

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AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 RAMCO Specialties Inc Chevrolet, and guest celebrate in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series B&L Transport 170 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on June 05, 2021 in Lexington, Ohio. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

75 and quickly began working his way through the field.

When teammate Jeb Burton slid into a gravel trap off Turn 4 on lap 68 to cause the sixth caution of the race, Allmendinger had climbed to third and took full advantage of a restart on Lap 72, diving to the inside and taking race leader and reigning series champion Austin Cindric and second-place Ty Gibbs three-wide in the first corner.

Allmendinger survived contact with Gibbs' Toyota and came out of the corner with the lead, but Cindric pin-balled off the cars of Gibbs and Michael Annett and spun through the grass, ending his winning chances.

After a seventh caution for a wreck involving, Kris Wright, Alex Labbe and Kyle Weatherman, Allmendinger pulled away from Kaulig Racing teammate Justin Haley to win by .809 seconds. Haley nursed a car with right-front damage to the runner-up finish, one spot ahead of Gibbs.

"I'm not going to lie; I was a little upset," Allmendinger said of the penalty. "But we win and lose as a team, so I was going to fight until the checkered flag flew. I knew we had the best car ...

"I was shocked that Cindric took the outside (on the restart) ... I know these guys would do it to me, so I was barreling in there when I saw a gap, and I was going to come

out on the other side clean."

Indianapolis 500 winning car owner Michael Shank, who fielded the team with which Allmendinger won the 50th running of the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona in 2012, was watching from the pits and predicted his good friend would recover from the penalty.

"He came here to see me," said Allmendinger, who won for the second time this season and the seventh time in his career. "How lucky am I? I love Shank. And this is Matt Kaulig's Super Bowl ... It's just such a big deal. I always want to win for him, but here, I put a lot more pressure on myself to try to win."

Gibbs, for one, wasn't happy with Allmendinger's move to the inside on the decisive restart.

"The 16 (Allmendinger) did us a little dirty there," said Gibbs, who nevertheless collected his sixth top five (including two wins) in his seventh Xfinity Series start. "I feel like there is a point, you know ... we are racing in Xfinity cars at road courses. It's always going to be rough, but he took it to the next level.

"I guess I was a little torpedoed. I got the 22 (Cindric), knocked him out, but, yeah, I didn't really have anywhere to go. That's just part of it—part of the end of these races. Things get rough."

Cindric, who led a race-high 30 laps to Allmendinger's 23, finished 14th. Brandon Jones and road course ace Andy Lally ran fourth and fifth, respectively. Brandon Brown, Michael Annett, Josh Berry, Ryan Sieg and Josh Williams completed the top 10.

In addition to finishing 1-2, Allmendinger and Haley won Stages 1 and 2, respectively. Allmendinger increased his Playoff point total to 13, seven behind Cindric's series-leading 20.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Northbrook Carolina Hydro II, LLC
HydroLand Carolinas I, LLC

Project No. 2603-050

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND PROTESTS

(June 1, 2021)

On May 13, 2021, Northbrook Carolina Hydro II, LLC (transferor) and HydroLand Carolinas I, LLC (transferee) filed jointly an application for the transfer of license of the Franklin Hydroelectric Project No. 2603. The project is located on the Little Tennessee River, near the City of Franklin, in Macon County, North Carolina.

The applicants seek Commission approval to transfer the license for the Franklin Hydroelectric Project from the transferor to the transferee.

Applicants Contact: For transferor: Mr. Kyle Kroeger, Northbrook Carolina Hydro II, LLC, c/o North Sky Capital, LLC, 33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4646, Minneapolis, MN 55402, Email: kkroeger@northskycapital.com and Mr. John C. Ahlrichs, Northbrook Energy, LLC, 14550 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Suite 210, Scottsdale, AZ 85260, Email: cahlrichs@nbenergy.com with a copy to: Mr. Curt Whitaker, c/o Rath, Young and Pignatelli, One Capital Plaza, Box 1500, Concord, NH 03302, Email: mcm@rathlaw.com.

For transferee: Mr. Cory Lagerstrom, CEO, HydroLand Carolinas I, LLC, c/o HydroLand, Inc., 4603 Homestead Drive, Prairie Village, KS 66208, Email: cory@hydrolandcorp.com.

FERC Contact: Anumzziatta Purchiaroni, (202) 502-6191, anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: 30 days from the date that the Commission issues this notice. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to, Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to, Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2603-050. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

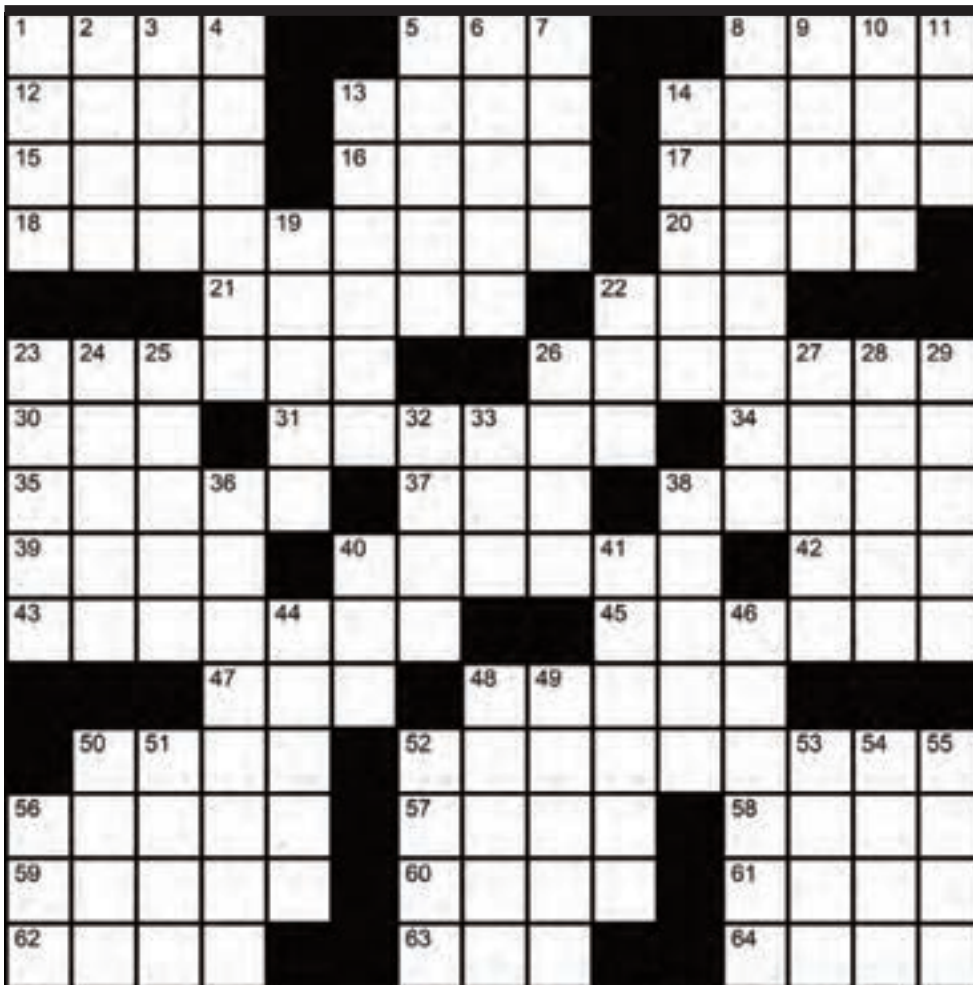
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5. Pharaoh's cobra
8. *Zeus' sister and wife, and character in Broadway musical "Xanadu"
12. Hair-dwelling parasites
13. Quinceañera or bat mitzvah, e.g.
14. Puts money in the bank
15. Pearl Harbor locale
16. Flair
17. Inuit boat
18. *Record-holding musical for most awards received by a single production, with The
20. *Broadway hit "Jagged Little ____"
21. *Comment to the audience
22. Web address
23. ____'er ____, at the pump
26. Private chapel
30. Keats' poem
31. Quit
34. Medley
35. ____ or do nothing
37. Right-angle building extension
38. Razor nick
39. Like lemon
40. Make a choice
42. 1960s teen idol, Bobby ____
43. Give authority
45. Bias crime perpetrators
47. *Theater, e.g.
48. Cordial disposition
50. Surrender
52. *Non-musical with



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- record number of Tony nominations
56. Shredded cabbage dishes
 57. *Melpomene, e.g.
 58. Just a little
 59. Gold unit
 60. Lodge fellows
 61. "Game of Thrones" bastard
 62. Without purpose
 63. Past tense of "is"
 64. Short-term employee

DOWN

1. Hoof sound
2. Yarn spinner
3. Canyon sound
4. Like medieval European society
5. Was sick

6. Fixed look
7. Montblanc and such
8. *Musical with record number of Tony nominations
9. Like most fairytale stepmothers
10. Madrid's Club de Fútbol
11. Pose a question
13. Chef's prescription
14. Toyota sports car model
19. Shylock's practice
22. Coffee pot
23. *Bob ____, choreographer with most Tony awards
24. *"Break a leg" or "have two left feet," e.g.
25. Reduce pressure (2 words)
26. Eye up and down
27. Mediterranean appetizer
28. Type of potato masher

29. Ox connectors
32. *Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
33. Feverish
36. *NYC district
38. Washington, e.g.
40. Sun's descent
41. Onion-like herb
44. Seize by force
46. Obsolete office position
48. Spurious wing
49. *Comedy and tragedy, on a Tony medallion
50. Attired
51. *James ____ Jones, multiple Tony winner
52. Old World duck
53. Like Silver's owner
54. H or O in H₂O, e.g.
55. Make a raucous noise
56. Mogul equipment

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REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

Misc. For Sale

FARMERS MARKET Spring Season 8-12, every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Winter Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Large Assortment of Cookies. Blueberry & Blackberry Bushes, Peonies. 200 Block East Palmer.

Auctions

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO. online bidding, SmokeyMountainAuctionCo.hibid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat NCAL 10389 (828)634-4271.

Animals

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



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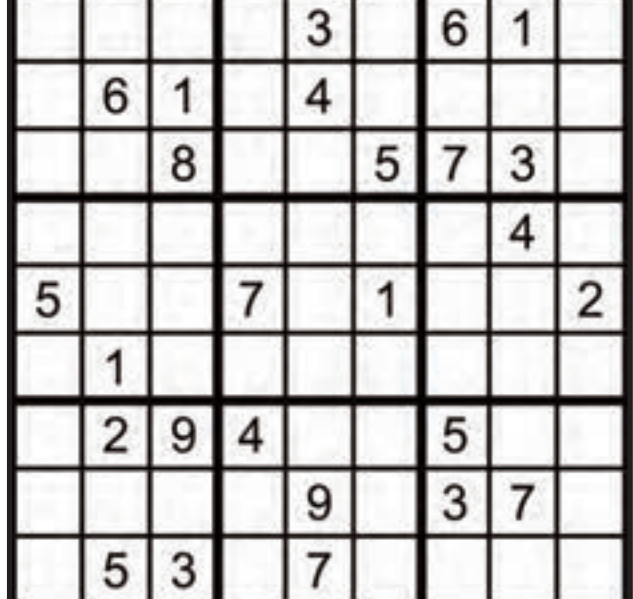
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Services

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GARY'S SMALL ENGINE Repair & Service, Repair to all brands of Outdoor Equipment at reasonable rates. Call (828)349-4623.

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

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

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Motor Vehicles

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

Boats & Campers

FIBERGLASS ROWBOAT with oars and an electric motor three adult capacity \$200 cash call (828)526-9705.

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

DIESCHER ELECTRIC Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

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

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FOR SALE BY OWNER 4 Lots in Gated Community. Long Range Views, Good Roads, Backed up to Indian Land. Light Restrictions. (828)421-4582.

Rentals

RV/CAMPER LOT Short distance to town. \$325/month. 6-month minimum. Includes water, sewer, and trash. Text your email address to (828)346-1200 for all the details.

2BD/1.5BA One level, new carpeting, paint, carport, utility room. Cowee. Landlord on property. Owner does yard work. Perfect for retired couple. No pets. First/Last/Security, \$1,000/monthly. Reference. Must meet lease requirements. Available May 1 (828)371-7760.

Commercial Rentals

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT In town professional building. Furnished. Internet. \$325 month. Call (828)421-7598.

Help Wanted

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR in Sylva looking for helper electricians. Must have tools, transportation, references, and willingness to work with others. Pay based on experience- Call (828)631-0341 for interview.

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CAROLINA MOTEL is Now Hiring for all Positions. Starting at \$15 per hour to qualified individuals. For interviews please call (828)524-3380 or apply in person at: 2601 Georgia Rd., Franklin, N.C.

LANDSCAPE TEAM MEMBER work outdoors in the fresh mountain air for an established small business. Landscaping experience preferred, but willing to train. Driver's license required. Cornerstone Landscaping (828)342-2706.

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER to lead construction crew for small family business. Pay based on experience. Critical thinker and team player a must. Willing to do all sorts of home remodel including mold remediation. 40 hrs/week. Paid holidays. Email resume to sonshineconstruction07@gmail.com or call (828)524-7176 for inquiries.

HAMPTON INN Now Hiring \$11.75. All Positions Apply in person. NO phone calls. 244 Cunningham Rd.

THE SUMMER HOUSE by Reeves furniture store in Highlands is looking for full and part time positions in sales and in warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands.

LOOKING FOR REAL Mechanic who Has Tool and Capable of Timing Belt Jobs. Honesty a Must, Lazy Need Not Apply. Apply in Person @ Ramsey's Auto Clinic.

AUTO MECHANIC WANTED Must have tools, Call (828)421-7332. Leave Message.

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

COMPANION HEALTH CARE is needing CNA's and In Home Aids, Part-time flexible hours. Contact Heather (828)524-6444.

Notices

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA County of Cherokee, South Carolina. Department of Social Services, Plaintiff, vs. April Nations) Dustin Bo Rodmaker Defendants. In the interest of: D.N. 2006 K.R. 2007) Minors Under the Age of 18. In the Family Court Seventh Judicial Circuit 2020-DR-11-545 Summons and Notice to Defendant: Dustin Bo Rodmaker You Are Herby Notified that a termination of parental rights hearing will take place in this matter on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cherokee County Courthouse, Family Court, 125 E. Floyd Baker Blvd., Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. You are Hereby Summoned and required to answer the complaint for termination of your parental rights in and to the minor children in this action, the original of which was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Cherokee County, Gaffney, SC on November 19, 2020, and to serve a copy of your answer to the complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the plaintiff at 1434 N. Limestone St., Gaffney, SC 29340 within thirty (30) days following the date of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time stated, the Plaintiff will apply for judgment by default against the Defendant Dustin Bo Rodmaker for the relief demanded in the complaint. You Are Further Notified that: (1) the Guardian ad litem (GAL) who is appointed by the court in this action to represent the best interests of the children will provide the family court with a written report that includes an evaluation and assessment of the issues brought before the court along with recommendations; (2) the GAL's written report will be available for review twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the hearing; (3) you may review the report at the GAL Program county office. /s/Andrew T. Potter. Andrew T. Potter, Attorney for the Plaintiff SC Bar# 13413. South Carolina Dept. of Social Services 1434 N. Limestone St. Gaffney, SC 29340. May 27, 2021. Gaffney, South Carolina

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