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June 11, 2020 • 24 Pages

Volume 38 Number 4

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Black Lives Matter movement came to downtown Franklin on Tuesday with demonstrators holding signs and chanting at passing cars in protest of the death of George Floyd, a black man who died at the hands of a Minneapolis Police officer. Word about the protest was spread through the distribution of fliers and social media. A peace walk is planned for Friday, June 12, beginning at 4 p.m., from Town Hall, down Main Street, up Harrison Ave., and ending up back at Town Square. More photos on page 2.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

IN THIS ISSUE

Sample Ballot - Republican Party 2nd Primary
Macon County, North Carolina
June 23, 2020

R0001

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BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

FEDERAL OFFICES

US House of Representatives
District 11
(You may vote for ONE)

Lynda Bennett
 Madison Cawthorn

End of Ballot

Page 4

Early voting for Republican primary continues



Page 13

Rafting down the Nantahala on a hot afternoon

Commissioners approve loan program

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

Macon County Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins, at the direction of Commission Vice-Chair Ronnie Beale, has developed Reopening Macon Fund, a small business loan program for Macon County business that mirrors a program initiated in Jackson County.

“If there has ever been a time for this board to help our local business owners, that time is now,” said Beale. “A loan of \$2,500 could make the difference in staying open or closing for good to a lot of our local stores.”

The loan program, which will provide \$250,000 in loans, was unanimously approved by the board of commissioners Tuesday night. Funding for the program will come from the county’s Economic Development Fund, which currently sits at just under \$1 million. The program will be administered through Mountain BizWorks, a non-



Cory McCall, co-owner of Outdoor 76 addressed commissioners on Tuesday in support of a loan program developed by the Macon County Economic Development Commission which would provide loans for businesses impacted by the coronavirus

profit serving the business community in Western North Carolina.

See **LOANS** page 3



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Gardeners ambivalent about butterfly bushes

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A peaceful protest

Photos by Vickie Carpenter and Betsey Gooder



Highlands begins hiring process for new chief of police

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Town of Highlands learned they would need to search for a new Chief of Police the same day Chief Bill Harrell accepted the Chief position for the town of Franklin. Without prior notice, the town of Highlands did not select an interim Police Chief, but rather turned to existing leadership to keep the department operating while a replacement was found.

Captain Mike Jolly and Lieutenant Andrea Holland are working together to ensure the department operates business as usual,” said Highlands Town Manager Josh Ward.

Captain Jolly has served in law enforcement since 1996 and has worked for the town of Highlands since 2006. Lieutenant/Detective Holland has worked in law enforcement since 2004 and started in Highlands in 2007.

Chief Harrell served as the Chief of Police for Highlands for 14 years, helping to grow the department during his

tenure. The Highlands Police Department currently has 12 full-time officers and 10 part-time officers. The department also includes two K9 officers.

According to Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, the application process in Highlands has closed and the town has a pool of 13 qualified applicants to consider. In terms of filling the position, Mayor Taylor said he hopes to complete the process as soon as possible. Ward noted that interviews for the position will begin next week.

Ward noted that the 13 applicants is a diverse group of individuals which includes local candidates as well as candidates from outside of the area. The Town of Highlands will utilize the Public Safety Committee within the town during the hiring process as well as resources available from the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Highlands Commissioners John Dobson, Donnie Calloway, and Brian Stiehler serve on the hiring committee.

LOANS

Continued from page 1

The mission of the Reopening Macon Fund is to support the basic needs of individuals employed by small businesses by providing bridge funding to small businesses during the COVID-19 crisis. Cory McCall, co-owner of Outdoor 76 addressed commissioners during the meeting in support of the fund.

“We never thought that we would be in the position, which is typically our busiest time of year – Spring during hiking season,” said McCall. “But here we are.”

McCall urged commissioners to approve the program, which could quickly provide working capital to local businesses who were shut down during the initial quarantine and who continue limited operations under current restrictions.

Timothy Crabtree, owner of Motor Company Grill, noted

that as a restaurant owner operating on a 3 to 4 percent profit margin, when his business was shut down, he lost several thousand dollars in food, which by mandate has to be used within a week.

“We have seven days to use those fresh fruits and vegetables, which we weren’t able to do,” said Crabtree. “While \$2,500 may not sound like a lot to many people, but with our profit margins, it is pretty substantial.”

The loans can be up to \$10,000 with a minimum loan of \$2,500 – with no payments of any kind for the first six months of the loan. After six months, any principal that has not been refinanced by an SBA Disaster Loan or otherwise repaid, will convert to a second phase of 36 months principal and interest payments at a 5.5 percent interest.

The loans can be used for payroll, accounts payable, fixed debts, or other bills. Businesses with less than 50 employees who have a physical location within Macon County are eligible to apply if they demonstrate a loss of revenue of 25% or more due to COVID-19.

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Early voting now open for Republican Primary

Early voting for the Republican Primary in Franklin began Thursday, June 4, at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on Georgia Road and at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands. Voters in the Nantahala Precinct will vote at the EMS building located at 1096 Junaluska Road, Topton. Early voting will run through Saturday, June 20, at 3 p.m., with the primary to be held on June 23, at the same locations.

Voters are casting their ballots to decide between Haywood County Republican Lynda Bennett and Henderson County Republican Madison Cawthorn. A candidate must receive more than 30 percent of the vote to win the ticket and Bennett came in at 23 percent of the vote with just 2,000 more votes than Cawthorn in the March 5 primary. The winner will face off against Democrat Moe Davis in the general election on Nov. 4

Voters registered as an Unaffiliated and voted a Republican ballot in the 1st Primary Election, (March 3, 2020) are permitted to vote in this Primary Election.

At the close of voting on Monday, June 8, 383 people had voted – 188 females and 194 males.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot - Republican Party 2nd Primary Macon County, North Carolina June 23, 2020	R0001	
BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:		
A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.		
B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.		
FEDERAL OFFICES		
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> Lynda Bennett <input type="radio"/> Madison Cawthorn		
End of Ballot		
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		North Carolina
		Ballot Style R0001

Drive-thru job fair Friday

The Macon County NCWorks Career Center will hold a Drive-Through Job & Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 12, at the Macon County Public Library.

According to NCWorks career center manager, Paula Alter, “A traditional job fair had previously been scheduled for June 19 at the library but Covid-19 changed those plans. We know our area employers want and need to connect with job seekers and vice versa. This type of event will still provide that connection in a no-contact way.”

Participants will enter the library from Siler Road and drive through the parking lot to the outdoor book drop-off kiosk area opposite the front entrance, roll down the driver’s side window and take a bag from staff wearing a mask and gloves. The bag will contain information from area employers that are hiring. In addition, attendees will also be offered a bag of resource information from multiple area organizations.

“The dual focus of this event will employ the mantra from last December’s Community Resource Fair: Be connected. Feel empowered. Get informed. Leave with hope.” Alter says she and her staff look forward to putting a new twist on their previously successful events. “There’s also an unsubstantiated rumor that a local T-Rex may make a cameo appearance but that remains unconfirmed.”

Although the career center remains closed to public access at this time, additional information on the drive-through fair or NC-Works Career Center services may be obtained by calling (828)369-9534 and entering your zip code, sending an e-mail to ncworks.3700@ncommerce.com or visiting www.ncworks.gov.

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REACH hosting a virtual tea party fundraiser

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

While people across the nation are being asked to stay home to stay safe during the COVID19 Pandemic, victims of domestic violence are in more danger than ever. According to Andrea Anderson, executive director of REACH of Macon County, REACH is finding that both shelter and community client needs are intensifying.

“At present, our shelter has seen a 100% increase as compared to last year, and our hotline a 150% increase as compared to last year,” said Anderson.

“During this challenging and unprecedented time, REACH is continuing to see an increase in a demand for services including emergency shelter, domestic violence protective orders, and basic supplies to support direct client service provision, including but not limited to, food, cleaning supplies, clothing, medications, protective equipment, and shelter supplies.”

Over the last several months, the emergency shelter facility for victims of domestic violence has continued to remain at capacity.

“We are constantly identifying other safe resources to house victims when we are full,” said Anderson. “The expenses associated with an increase in a demand for shelter, as well as off-site support has seen a significant increase in costs associated with transportation, food, and staff time.”

Not only is REACH seeing an increase in the need for their services at the shelter – with more people unemployed and struggling to make ends meet, REACH is seeing an increase in demand across the board.

“REACH is also continuing to see an increased need to utilize ‘fill in the gap’ funds to support clients in the absence of employment,” said Anderson. “This includes, but is not limited to, money for medications, transportation (as staff are not providing transportation due to social distancing requirements), and other essential supplies/needs. This is significantly impacting both shelter and community clients. For example, we have increased food provisions to ensure shelter residents have less of a need to leave the facility, and we are getting daily requests for food boxes from active community clients who are unable to feed their families as they are currently not employed.”

With demand at an all time high, one of REACH’s main funding store, the thrift store, has been forced to close due to restrictions to slow the spread of COVID19.

“This has been a critical blow to our agency’s ability to utilize unrestricted monies to assist in offsetting expenses associated with maintenance, adaptive equipment, security, and unexpected expenditures associated with the many changes we are experiencing as a result of Covid-19,” said Anderson.

This Saturday, REACH of Macon County will be hosting its annual “Tea Party” online in hopes of raising funds for the



Pictured (L-R) are Brett Murphy with Arrowood Construction, Scott Manshack and Amy Manshack with State Farm Insurance presenting a check to Brittany MacLean with REACH, and Amanda Shaw with Macon Rental Company.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

organization.

“This year would have been our 12th annual tea party, which typically sells out and hosts about 200 people per year,” said Anderson. “The tea party is a wonderful event that brings generations together to support a great cause. The event is not only a joyful event with great food, activities, and door prizes, it is also a way to help encourage young people to care about their community and ways they can make a difference.”

Although this year’s in-person event had to be cancelled, the tradition of coming together to support REACH and the clients they serve is continuing thanks to the organization’s fundraising committee and their tea party enthusiasts.

“While some of our supporters may not be able to participate online the day of the event, several have pledged their support in the spirit of honoring the event and in supporting the ultimate goal of raising funds to help victims in our community,” said Anderson.

The REACH Tea Party is one of the most celebrated events hosted throughout the year. Women of all ages, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and friends come together in a room full of beautifully decorated tables, delightful treats, raffle prizes and games for the girls, to drink tea and celebrate. It’s a heartfelt time for everyone involved and being able to support REACH is the perfect finisher.

“This year we have decided to keep the event going online, Help support REACH by sponsoring a virtual table for \$75,” said Brooke Smith, who serves on the Fundraising Committee for REACH. “Grab your favorite girls and set up our own tea parties from the comfort of your homes (and gardens) on Saturday, June 13, at 1 pm. Share memories together and do not forget to send pictures to our event page! There will be the American Doll of the Year giveaway and door prizes.”

Local businesses such as Arrowood Construction, Amy Manshack State Farm, and Macon Rental have signed on to sponsor this year’s virtual event to help raise money for REACH.

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Mountain Heritage Center offering 'summer camp' packets for pickup

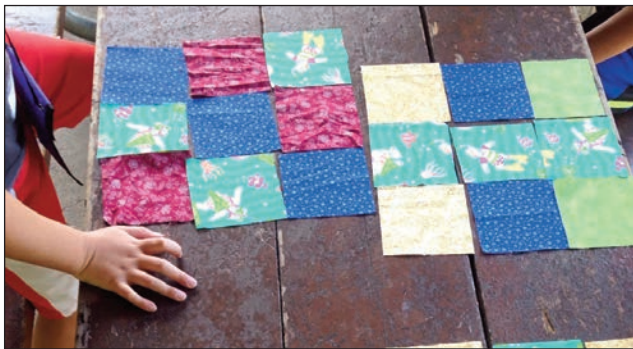
While summer camp programs have been suspended at the Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University's museum of Appalachian culture will provide "Step Back in Time" activity and crafts packets to elementary school students on a limited basis.

Beginning Friday, June 12, and through Friday, July 31, packets with seven different themes, each offering a look at mountain life and self-sufficient skills, will be available upon reservation. Packets are free, but donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of craft supplies.

Online links to supplemental materials and videos will be provided for additional information on the history and culture of Western North Carolina. A list of topics can be found on center's webpage at <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-center/kids-corner.aspx>.

The Mountain Heritage Center holds artifacts and exhibitions and offers demonstrations and classes in traditional music, crafts and skills. Currently closed due to precautions for the COVID-19 pandemic, the center is located at Hunter Library on the WCU campus.

Packets will be available for pickup on Fridays, except July 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with safe social distancing delivery made by staff to vehicles. To reserve a packet, call (828)227-7129 or email lstiles@wcu.edu.



Kirkin procession set for Sunday, June 21

First Presbyterian Church has held a Kirkin o' the Tartans as part of Franklin's Annual Scottish Heritage Week since 1979. Because Franklin's traditional Sunday for the Kirkin Service falls on Father's Day, and First Presbyterian Church is not yet holding inside services, it will not be celebrated in the usual way, and an alternative celebration is planned. Instead of a worship service including Tartans, Bagpipes, Reformation hymns, and Scottish liturgy, there will be a Kirkin o' the Tartans Procession on Sunday, June 21, around 10 a.m. The time-honored service will return next year on Father's Day 2021.

The bagpipe procession pays tribute to the dedicated group of individuals who host the yearly Taste of Scotland Festival, featuring such things as Scottish games, Parade of the Tartans, crafts, Celtic music, and Border Collie demonstrations. Due to health precautions, the festival is postponed until 2021; yet in honor of those who have annually given so much time and energy to Franklin's Taste of Scotland, FPC will be bringing bagpiper, Michael Waters, to town to give a Celtic sound of appreciation.

Three churches on the hill of Franklin's Church Street, have been ringing their bells at 10 each Sunday since indoor services have been canceled. Following the ringing of the church bells on Father's Day, a small procession of pastor, Piper, a Beadle (a Scottish ceremonial officer who carries and looks after the Bible), and a family carrying the Tartans will process down Church Street, ending at the town Pavilion for a reading and Scottish blessing.

The Kirkin' tradition is due in part to a practice started by Peter Marshall, pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (later Chaplain of the United States Senate.) During the Second World War, Rev. Marshall held prayer services to raise funds for the British war relief. In one of these prayer services he delivered a sermon entitled "the Kirkin o' the Tartans."

This tradition is also continued in honor of the Scottish traders, soldiers, and settlers that came to this area in the



Bagpiper Michael Waters

18th century. The Kirkin' O' the Tartan is also a celebration of our Scottish Tartan Museum dedicated to the history and traditions of Scottish Highland Dress. Much more about our Scottish ancestors, tartans and traditions can be found on their website and in their many displays.

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Be on the lookout for...

Unemployment Scams

Scammers may use stolen personal information to file for unemployment in your name. Protect your personal information, guard your PINs and passwords, and beware of phishing scams. If you believe you might be a victim of unemployment fraud, report it to the N.C. Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security.

Coronavirus Scams

As we face COVID-19, scammers are using fear to trick us into separating from our hard-earned money. Beware of calls/texts/emails/visits about any of the following:

- Financial relief from the Small Business Administration
- Nursing homes and assisted living facilities requiring you to sign over your economic impact payments
- Scammers posing as COVID-19 contact tracers

If you or a loved one has been the victim of a scam, report it to our office:
ncdoj.gov/complaint or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM

State Attorney General Josh Stein has released the May Scammer Scorecard that lists the prevalent scams being perpetrated including the contact tracer scam. If you think you have been a victim of a scam, you may file a complaint at ncdoj.gov/pricegouging or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Scam alert: COVID contact tracing inspires copycat scams

Public health officials are rolling out COVID-19 contact tracing programs to help slow the spread of the disease by informing people who have had contact with someone who has tested positive. Of course, scammers are finding nefarious ways to use these efforts for their personal gain.

How the scam works

You receive an unsolicited message via text, email, or a social media messenger. The message explains that you've come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The message instructs you to self-isolate and provides a link for more information. Alarmed, you are tempted to click and get more details. But don't fall for it. These links can contain malware that downloads to your device.

Another version of this scam involves a robocall claiming to be part of "contact and tracing efforts." Again, the call informs you that you've been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. After electing to speak to a representative, the "contact tracer" asks you to verify personal information. This starts with questions about your full name and date of birth, but can quickly move to personally identifying information and/or financial accounts. While contact tracers do normally reach out by phone, be sure to hang up if the caller doesn't meet the guidelines described below.

How to tell a real contact tracer from a scam

Contact tracers will ask you to confirm your identity, but not for financial information. Tracers will ask you to confirm your name, address, and date of birth. In most cases, they will already have this information on file. They will also ask about your current health, medical history, and recent travels. They will not ask for any government ID numbers or bank account details.

Contact tracers will identify themselves. The call should start with the tracer providing their name and identifying themselves as calling from the department of health or another official team.

Contact tracing is normally done by phone call. Be extra wary of social media messages or texts.

A real contact tracer will never reveal the identity of the person who tested positive. If they provide a person's name, you know it's a scam.

Think the link may be real? Double check the URL. Scammers often buy official-looking URLs to use in their cons. Be careful that the link is really what it pretends to be. If the message alleges to come from the local government, make sure the URL ends in .gov (for the United States) or .ca (for Canada). When in doubt, perform a separate internet search for the website.

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Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation funds solutions to expanded primary care access

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) is excited to announce a formal agreement to expand access to primary care on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau by funding a new practice that includes a rural teaching program in conjunction with UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC. The partnership is with HCHF, Blue Ridge Health (BRH), and the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC). This collaboration exemplifies the fulfillment of the HCHF's mission to improve the health and well-being of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities.

"We acknowledge from the outset this project's scope is wide and our goal and related objectives are ambitious requiring significant contributions of time, talent and treasure from the partners and members of the community," stated Dr. Walter Clark, Chair of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. "However, we know with the determination of these partners along with the philanthropic passion of this community, we are on the road to a true success."

The partnership will work toward the goal of opening a primary care clinic in the Highlands-Cashiers area that will provide universal access to healthcare for the population of Highlands and Cashiers as well as the workforce that travels from other communities throughout Macon and Jackson Counties. The long-standing problem of access to primary care in the area was among the primary drivers in the formation of this partnership and its dual focus on immediately and directly ex-

panding primary care access, while simultaneously increasing the long-term stability of the communities on the plateau.

More details will be announced in the coming months surrounding the timeline and physician team that will serve the area. In the meantime, residents can be assured that we are working toward access to universal, integrated healthcare and an increased supply of healthcare providers for the area. If you would like to support this endeavor, contact HCHF at (828)482-6510 or visit www.hchealthfnd.org.

The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation was established on Feb. 1, 2019 as an independent public charity with a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Highlands, Cashiers, and surrounding communities.

Blue Ridge Health (BRH) is a nonprofit healthcare system that works closely with communities to meet the healthcare needs of the region with high-quality, comprehensive, and accessible healthcare services. With 28 locations throughout western North Carolina, BRH offers primary care, dental, pharmacy, behavioral health and nutrition services.

Mountain Area Health Education Center was established in 1974 and serves a 16-county region in Western North Carolina and is one of nine Area Health Education Centers in North Carolina. MAHEC's mission is to recruit, train and retain the workforce needed for a healthy North Carolina with a focus on primary care in rural communities and those with less access to resources.

DHHS shares health guidance to safely re-open public schools

New health guidelines released Monday, June 8, represent a first step to help North Carolina K-12 public schools find a safe way to open to in-person instruction for the 2020-21 academic year, health and education leaders announced Monday.

The StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) lays out a comprehensive set of baseline health practices that public schools should follow to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students, staff, and families. In addition to specific requirements, the Toolkit recommends practices that schools should implement to minimize spread of COVID-19 while allowing in-person teaching to resume.

Governor Roy Cooper, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson, State Board of Education Chair Eric Davis, and NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Mandy Cohen shared the guidance Monday.

"Getting children back to school to learn is a high priority, but they must be able to do so in the safest way possible," said Cooper. "Every child, family and public school educator in North Carolina deserves strong protection to lower the risk of virus spread."

Schools are asked to plan for reopening under three scenarios – Plan A: Minimal Social Distancing, Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing, or Plan C: Remote Learning Only. NC DHHS, in consultation with the State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction, will announce by July 1 which of the three plans should be implemented for schools to most safely reopen. The remaining plans may be needed if the state's COVID-19 metrics change over time.

"Opening schools will be possible if we keep working together to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will each need to do our part and practice the 3 Ws – Wear a cloth face covering. Wait six feet apart. Wash your hands frequently. These easy actions will have outsized impact in keeping viral spread low to in order to help get our children back to school," said Cohen.

The Public Health Toolkit was developed collaboratively by DHHS and DPI with input from a range of stakeholders across the state, including local superintendents, State Board of Education members, the Governor's Teacher Advisory Council, and members of the Governor's COVID-19 Education and Nutrition Working Group.

"We are working together to balance the need for all of our children to get back to school – especially children who rely on public schools for their education, health, safety and nutrition – while at the same time

proceeding cautiously and deliberately to protect their health and safety," said Davis. "I know meeting these public health requirements will take a tremendous effort by our schools – but I also know we are doing the right thing and that our schools will rise to the challenge."

The StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit will be a companion to operational guidance under development by DPI that will offer strategies for how to implement the public health guidance, and cover other non-health areas for reopening planning, including scheduling, instructional practice, and staff training.

"Today, North Carolinians have the important first step of returning to schools in the fall with this release of the final health guidance for schools from the NC Department of Health and Human Services," Superintendent Johnson said. "In addition, the North Carolina education agency has already been leading workgroups, comprised of diverse stakeholders from teachers to school staff to superintendents to other support professionals, to create draft operational strategies that will help our school systems prepare for the fall. We will now seek feedback on the draft operational strategies from other stakeholders across the state to ensure that we best capture the needs of all our schools."

The StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) was developed using the most current CDC guidance for schools and includes requirements and recommendations for eight areas: Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure; Cloth Face Coverings; Protecting Vulnerable Populations; Cleaning and Hygiene; Monitoring for Symptoms; Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19; Communication and Combating Misinformation; Water and Ventilation Systems; Transportation; and Coping and Resilience.

For example, it requires students and others to be screened for illness before entering school, and requires floor markings to maintain social distance. It also includes sample screening symptom checklists in English and Spanish, a flow chart protocol for handling suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, and a checklist of infection control supplies schools may need. The Toolkit will be updated as new health guidance is released by the CDC and additional resources are added.

Questions about the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) should be directed to StrongSchoolsNC@dhhs.nc.gov (in English or in Spanish).

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Covid-19 cases on rise in Macon

In the past week, two cases of COVID-19 have been found among Macon County employees including one at Macon County Public Health. Both are isolating at home and doing well. Close contacts of the county maintenance employee have been notified, tested, and are quarantined until they receive their results. The County Maintenance department has performed the necessary steps to disinfect the affected area. The Public Health employee has not had contact with the public as a part of their duties during the COVID-19 response.

As of June 9 at 4 p.m., 139 active cases have been identified in Macon County with 17

recovered and one death, for a total of 157 cases, an increase of 37 cases since June 4.

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation is holding a testing clinic in Highlands on Saturday, June 13. The format will be drive-through, pre-scheduled appointments. Participants should call (828)506-6907 to initiate registration.

The tests will be administered by Mountain Park Urgent Care (MPUC), Sylva. The

County Health Departments are provided COVID-19 test reports as required by NCDHHS. To expedite the drive-through testing process, pre-registration is required, and no unscheduled "walk-ins" can be accepted. Each interested participant will be called back (after initiating the registration phone call) to schedule a time, and provide required health

Macon County Public Health

Daily COVID-19 Update

Today's Date and Time: June 9, 2020 at 4:00pm

Total COVID-19 Tests Reported to Macon County Public Health	2227
<small>This number reflects all the COVID-19 tests performed in Macon County that have been reported to Macon County Public Health by private physicians, hospitals, and other area health facilities performing COVID-19 testing.</small>	
Number Tested at Macon County Public Health Department	1815
Pending Results	319
Reported Cases and Deaths	
	<small>Cases Deaths</small>
United States (CDC)	1,956,421 110,925
North Carolina (NCDHHS)	37,160 1029
Macon County (MCPH)	157 1

Macon County COVID-19

Total Cases 157

Active Positive 139

Recovered 17

Deaths 1

WNC Confirmed COVID-19 Cases
(Cases/Deaths)
(6/9/2020)

history, insurance and ID information. Uninsured and self-pay participants are eligible for this testing initiative. Confidential results will be provided directly to participants by phone.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, and other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, call the Health Department at (828)349-2517. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

NCDHHS updates guidance on who should undergo testing for COVID-19

On May 15, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services issued updated guidance on who should be tested for COVID-19. The new guidance recommends that clinicians test any patient in whom COVID-19 is suspected.

The new guidance recommends clinicians ensure the following populations have access to testing, regardless of symptoms:

- Anyone with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
- Close contacts of known positive cases, regardless of symptoms
- Persons who live in or have regular contact with high-risk settings (e.g., long-term care facility, homeless shelter, correctional facility, migrant farmworker camp)
- Persons who are at high risk of severe illness (e.g., people over 65 years of age, people of any age with underlying health conditions)
- Persons who come from historically marginalized populations
- Health care workers or first responders (e.g. EMS, law enforcement, fire department, military)
- Front-line and essential workers (grocery store clerks, gas station attendants, etc.) in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain

"We want anyone who needs a test to get one. This is particularly important for those at high-risk for severe illness, those at great

est risk for exposure and those who are being disproportionately impacted by this virus," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.

Testing, along with contact tracing and supplies of personal protective equipment, is part of the state's strategy to slowly ease restrictions, while protecting North Carolinians from COVID-19. The state is looking at

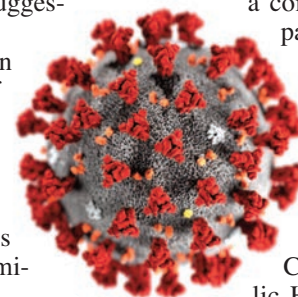
a composite of metrics to guide its path forward, including the number of cases, the percent of tests that are positive, the number of hospitalizations and the number of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness.

The new guidance updates testing criteria for the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health. Those include hospital-

ized patients, health care workers or first responders, persons who live in or have regular contact with a high-risk setting, persons who are at higher risk of severe illness and for whom a clinician has determined that results would inform clinical management, and uninsured patients.

Staying home is still the best way to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect North Carolinians. When going out, remember the 3 Ws. Wear a face covering. Wait at least six feet apart. Wash your hands often with soap and water.

For information on the North Carolina COVID-19 response across state government, visit nc.gov/covid19.



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New Patients Welcome!

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I was perusing the June/July issue of *Fly Fisherman* when I came across this statement by Takaknotire, a Kayapo Tribal Elder and Warrior living on the Amazon River. He declares, "Our river does not have a price, the fish we eat do not have a price, and the happiness of our grandchildren does not have a price."

That statement made me pause and reflect about my vision concerning preservation and progress. I have viewed these concepts as not mutually exclusive. Since its founding, Highlands has sought progress initiatives while at the same time embracing a strong commitment to preservation of our beautiful, natural environment. Over the decades there have been voices calling for the preservation of this unique ecological system. The Highlands Improvement Association began around the founding of the town, and evolved over a century ago into the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. The Highlands Biological Station was founded in the 1930s. Scientists like Harbinson, Zahner, to name a few, have conducted botanical and zoological research on our remote unique plateau. All these organizations and voices have spoken for preservation.

I find it ironic, and with a level of guilt, that I am here. I want all the amenities of life, while at the same time I am an advocate for preserving natural resources of the plateau. I assume a somewhat arrogant attitude that us folks on the plateau are more sensitive to the environment than those people in the cities and suburbs. But, save for the national forest, much of our land is like in other areas, "suburbanized."

On the other hand, I realize we need a thriving business community where people can make a living. It was not that long ago that local residents had to leave Highlands in the winter to find work in those same cities and suburbs. We certainly do not want to bring back "the good old days" of financial stress once visitors leave. With the onset of the pandemic, we have many businesses and workers in a tremendously stressful situation. We should all hope our reopening will bring back the prosperity of recent times.

I don't have all the answers. I'm only one voice, although I have a leadership role to play, which I accept. I also believe we need many voices of the community to set a new direction and plan for Highlands. That is why I am enthusiastic about Highlands developing a new comprehensive plan in the coming months.

Several specialists in comprehensive planning, have expressed an interest in guiding us through the process. The planning board will take the lead in developing the comprehensive plan, but organizations throughout the community will participate.

Major community issues will be addressed. For instance, how does Highlands preserve our natural assets while at the same time promote economic prosperity? How much should we grow, if at all? How many more people can we accommodate, provide services, and maintain social and infrastructure support systems?

This census year will be a good time to start this process. What price will we put on preservation? What price will be put on progress? What value will we place on that special happiness of living in Highlands for generations to come?

Letters to the Editor

Irresponsible behavior tantamount to murder

To begin with, I whole heartedly agree with Mr. Robert Wilson in the May 21 issue, as well as Mr. David Stearns in the May 28 issue, in Letters to the Editor. I think we have heard quite enough from one of your contributors.

Secondly, and this is much more important, the Covid-19 virus is a very real threat to all of us. 100,000 American deaths prove this fact. If everyone took this pandemic as seriously as they should and wore the recommended protection devices when in public, and this includes President Trump, the virus would indeed die out due to a lack of new hosts.

I, as a senior citizen with a compromised immune system, will not survive the virus should I become exposed yet I am forced to gamble with my life every time I go into the grocery store or the hardware store or the post office because of others who are not wearing their PPEs. This kind of irresponsible behavior is tantamount to murder for those of us how are vulnerable.

There is no "tyranny" involved here. It was, and still is, just good common sense to limit the exposure of the populace and to exercise "physical distancing" (not social distancing) and wearing your PPEs.

Lastly, are we to understand that the "Herd Immunity" theory means the 20 to 40% of the population must die so that the remainder can continue to be "socially irresponsible?"

James Rold - Franklin, N.C.

Time to stop the ignorance

I'm sorry but anyone that thinks social distancing is a good idea for the next few years, wearing a mask should be mandatory, or thinks that a "benevolent" dictatorship is for the good of humanity, I don't want to give that point of view any of my energy. It is a sheep mentality. The ruling elite are counting on the spread of mis-information and fear to destroy Constitutional principles in order to gain more control over the masses who refuse to think for themselves.

I am a free Human Being and if you want to stay home, stay home. That's your sovereign right to choose.

If you want to wear a mask, wear a mask. That's your sovereign right to choose.

If you want to avoid large crowds, avoid large crowds. That's your sovereign right to choose

I am not required to descend into poverty for YOU.

I am not required to abstain from human contact for YOU.

I refuse to participate in "quarantine life" until there's an unsafe, untested vaccine released in 18 months.

I refuse to receive a vaccine to make others feel more safe. That's my sovereign right to choose!

If you're convinced the vaccine is safe and effective, you can get it yourself.

Some of you are allowing fear and policies devoid of scientifically accurate data to destroy the country you live in and ruin

your life.

We have a constitutional right to take risks. Life is full of bacteria and viruses, many of which spread before symptoms manifest and after they subside. Get over it. You want to know what is really dangerous? Get in your car and take the chance of a vehicle accident because other drivers are on the roads with you. Where is your hysteria over those risks?

The virus data was inaccurate at best; purposely overblown to justify government overreaction at worst.

Stop allowing the government to destroy:

The food supply;

Small businesses;

Medical autonomy;

Access to healthcare;

Mass gatherings;

Privacy rights;

Our mental health & freedom

If the "new normal" is filled with starvation, depression, suicide, child abuse, domestic violence, imprisonment, governmental spying, and pure desperation, the "virus" is going to look preferable to the world YOU helped facilitate.

I'm going to turn this around on people from now on. Those that say I'm (or anyone that supports this) putting money over lives by wanting the country back open for business, hear this:

-YOU don't care about the people that will kill themselves out of hopelessness

-YOU don't care about small businesses that'll close their doors (THEIR LIVELIHOOD) permanently

-YOU don't care about the children/women/men that'll be victims of domestic abuse

-YOU don't care about people defaulting on their mortgages

-YOU don't care about bills going unpaid by families with ZERO income right now

-YOU don't care about people wondering where their next meal will come from

-YOU don't care about the people that'll lose their sobriety and slip back into alcoholism

-YOU don't care about the people that will starve

-YOU don't care about people's mental health

-YOU don't care about the children that DO need teachers and educators to guide and educate them

-YOU don't care about the economy crashing down around us

-YOU love your shackles

-YOU are pathetic, begging your leaders for MORE shut down and MORE regulations and MORE handouts. How can you continue to trust a government that abandons your constitutional rights?

I will NOT tolerate another person telling me that I don't care about lives or safety.

I care about the situation in its entirety.

But YOU don't care about any of that so...

YOU stay home.

YOU wear a mask.

YOU live in fear.

It's not the virus that is destroying the economy; it is YOU complying with tyranny. Get off your high horse and get a grip of reality.

Jim Gaston - Franklin, N.C.

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Look no further for freedom-voing patriots

Where are the freedom-loving patriots? For the most part, they are located in the good old South. I live in N.C. and these people "love" their freedom. They will be one of the final states to go down or give up.

Florida is in the South, yes, however, most of those people are not Florida natives, they are there from the north, therefore Florida is not included. Consequently we have left Georgia and South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. They fly Rebel flags as well as don't Tread on Me flags. They have bumper stickers – "Do You Know Your Neighbors?" as well as "Give Me Liberty or Give me Death." They are for the most part, law-abiding citizens. They believe in the Constitution. These folks fly the USA flag. Mostly voted for Trump. They own land, farms and many of them are real "preppers." They (some of them) wear cowboy hats and have great big trucks, some with big ole tires on them so they can make it back to the land they own far into the woods/country and more. So, if you want good ole freedom lovin' patriots these are places to be.

All hell will break loose before they give into government control. Don't Tread on Me is another flag you might see in "all" of these states. They know how to spell "freedom, equal rights, and depend on me!" They believe what Martin Luther King said in his famous speech. They grow their own veggies, tend their own gardens and ride their own horses. They plow their fields, they give a hoot, they give to their neighbors, they are (for the most part) good, decent, down-to-earth souls. They own a Bible. They believe in "freedom" at all cost. Yes, they own guns (lots and lots of them) and they never turned them in for money when many people were doing so.

They believe in the right to assemble peacefully. They don't want their lives/freedom trampled on. It just ain't gonna happen!

Only God has that right, but man will not do that to them.

They are patriots, they are warriors, they are Southerners and they are free!

Wanda Kate Robinson – Franklin, N.C.

The U.S. and law enforcement will never be the same

Covid-19 in combination with the recent nationwide riots/demonstrations has dramatically and permanently changed the very fabric of the U.S. and our law enforcement community.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in 43 million unemployment claims in the United States. Decisions by government leaders resulted in almost the entire nation succumbing to a "total lock down" (businesses closed, schools closed, government services curtailed or non-existent) as well as a requirement that citizens maintain a minimum physical distance of six feet while wearing a facial mask and implementing disinfecting routines. The medical professionals were overwhelmed with the sick while clinics and hospitals became full to overflowing with patients. Citizens lost jobs, savings, their homes and loved ones.

Law enforcement across the nation has also been overwhelmed.

Organized anti-American groups were bused to major cities across the country to incite, inflame and destroy. They brought with them weapons, bricks and other objects to inflict damage. Unidentified members of these groups positioned bricks and cement blocks at key locations within those major cities – to be utilized later by the rioters. Some riotous groups took it upon themselves to provide their own transportation to the major cities and likewise possessed weapons, bricks and cement blocks.

The organized anti-American groups are solidly funded at this time by unidentified sources and have been well trained in Urban Warfare / Guerrilla Tactics as evidenced by their actions during the riots, and their own admission.

National, state and city leaders have refused to lead. For days they refused to curtail the violence, theft and fires. They trembled in their elected offices saying to the rioters, "Please stop." and "Please remember to maintain a minimum distance of six

feet from one another and wear your face masks."

State, county, city leaders, police chiefs, law enforcement officers and our military have all knelt with the rioters. They will quickly retort, "No ... we were praying and kneeling with the peaceful demonstrators." Yet, just as the violent rioters (by and large) cannot be identified in person or via video recordings, the "peaceful demonstrators" had violent rioters in their midst.

President Obama has encouraged the rioters by publicly stating, "... make people in power uncomfortable."

The DOJ has identified foreign influence and "on the ground" participants in the riots.

What has been inflicted upon America the past number of days is no less than an assault on the U.S Constitution, The Bill of Rights, federal/state/local laws and the very fabric of our nation.

The actions of these rioters and demonstrators had nothing to do with a death and everything to do with tearing down our existing government and way of life. This is verified by their voices chanting such in their marches, while putting graffiti on National Monuments, looting stores and assaulting police and citizens.

Across the nation, police officers of every description have experienced the disheartening rejection by their elected leaders. Two officers were immediately fired for arresting demonstrators violating an established curfew. Others were summarily fired without benefit of an Internal Review or investigation in to their involvement in an officer involved shooting. And others have been immediately disciplined for legal use of physical force to contain and subdue suspects.

The NYPD officers are at odds with Mayor de Blasio for his lack of support for their department; others are similarly at odds with Governor Cuomo for the same reason. The same disgusting lack of support by elected leaders is evidenced in other locations as well.

New York City has an "arrest and release" policy in place which completely negates any law enforcement actions taken on the rioters.

Elected officials in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and elsewhere have publicly stated their intentions to defund law enforcement agencies as a means to appease the rioters and the anti-American groups that infiltrated/participated in the riots. Additionally, some leaders issued "Executive Orders" banning the sale of guns and/or ammunition which prevented the ordinary citizen from protecting themselves, their families and their property.

Law enforcement officers in numerous cities across the country stood motionless as they witnessed rioters smash windows, break and enter numerous businesses, run away with stolen merchandise, start fires in commercial establishments, assault citizens in their midst, set afire police and private vehicles, severely damage other vehicles by smashing windows and damaging the body metal, and other crimes as well.

Rioters have brazenly attacked law enforcement officers with fire extinguishers, bricks, blocks, boards, knife stabbings, as well as gasoline or shootings.

The violence and criminal acts will hopefully subside in the very near future as law enforcement has finally begun to exercise its sworn duties.

But ... after the riots stop and the demonstrations cease ... there will be an increase in isolated attacks on law enforcement across the nation. I am not speaking of a return to the level of violence prior to the riots. No ... the level will be something never before experienced in this country.

The level of violence and property damage will rise to a level witnessed in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

Why?

Because our elected leaders refused to lead...

Because state, county, city leaders, police chiefs, law enforcement officers and our military have all knelt with the rioters ...

Because our elected officials are unwilling and/or unable to cooperate with one another ...

Because the changes that are required at this point in our nation's history and are being implemented by a minority of our leaders, are under constant attack and opposition.

Because law enforcement has become vilified across our na-

tion ...

Because the rioters are emboldened to a level of anti-American, lawless actions never before perpetrated ... and they now understand what authorities are willing to accept ...

Because the America you grew up in is gone forever and never coming back. The Replacement America, no matter how hard you try, will not be what you envisioned or want ...

Because the Leaders of Tomorrow are rioting on the streets today.

Jim Gagliolo – Franklin, N.C.

The Numbers Racket

In the criminal justice community there is a highly contentious issue called "the benchmark problem." In City A, if population group B is 15% of the total population but is involved in 60% of all violent altercations and is also on the receiving end of 60% of cases of violent force used by police, then what should the unloved statistician conclude? Should they say that population group B received police force at the expected level or at four times the expected level? Is the correct "benchmark" for comparison the total population of group B or the level of violence of group B?

These kinds of numbers aren't imaginative but real in almost every large American city. In New York City in 2018, for example, blacks were 23% of the civilian population, accounted for 72.6% of shooting suspects, and were 57% of "stop, question and frisk" subjects by the police. Whites were 34% of the civilian population, accounted for 2.8% of shooting suspects, and 8.4% of "stop, question and frisk" subjects. Most liberal experts in criminal justice currently maintain that the fact of 57% being much higher than 8.4% for a smaller total population is a racist outrage. Most conservative experts disagree, as in fact most liberals did in times past. It all depends on which "benchmark" is being used.

In September 2019, the House Judiciary Committee, controlled by Democrats, called a hearing about a "series of deaths of unarmed African-American men while in police custody." Speaking for conservatives, Heather MacDonald of the Manhattan Institute cited several important studies showing that it is the rate of violent crime in an ethnic community that determines the level of killings by police, both justified and unjustified. These papers were all by prominent scholars at places like Harvard and in publications like "The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." Next up to speak was Phillip Atiba Goff, recipient of big grants from about every leading American foundation, who brazenly lied to Congress that the authors of these (just published) studies had already retracted them and were now "embarrassed" by them.

After the hearing, MacDonald immediately called the various authors, who all said they had no idea what Goff was talking about, and that they stood by their research 100%. MacDonald has noted that Goff's own recent study mentioned, in a footnote, that, "The average lethal-force rate against white civilians is over twice that against black civilians for every 1,000 violent arrests, and nearly twice that for every 1,000 arrests overall." (See "False Testimony," by MacDonald in city-journal.org, Sept. 26, 2019.) Her article concludes that The Narrative that the police are collectively a threat to black communities is very dangerous and rests on a gigantic lie.

America's police kill more than 1,000 civilians nearly every year, under a huge variety of circumstances. But the riots currently wracking this country are NOT about whether that total

For more LETTERS see page 12

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

LETTERS

Continued
from page 11

number is way too high and should only be half that amount (a proposition that I probably agree with). They are ENTIRELY about the utterly false idea that blacks today – not those 75 years ago – receive a disproportionate amount of that police violence. Heather MacDonald, a brilliant and courageous scholar, has spent the past 20 years working overtime to diffuse this ticking time bomb. Though probably too polite to say so, she probably believes that the lying Phillip Goff, who so shamelessly misled our Congress, has blood on his hands.

Patrick Wallace – Franklin, N.C.

Scared about what we're seeing lately

First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I am just a 69-year-old white haired guy in today's complex world. So I try to go back to the basics and get to the roots of where we come from and what we have to do to move forward in today's lightning fast internet world.

I write this letter because I am scared of what I see lately. We pardon people who have admitted they are guilty of federal crimes. We are in a global world of a virus that has killed more than a 100,000 people in the U.S. in a number of months and yet we have no national plan other to say let the states do what they want.

And the world watches as we go through civil unrest because we have allowed racism to march back into our lives as the world is watching us and Russia and China are laughing out loud.

And instead of working with the communities and religious groups to help move forward, we send in the troops to clear a church square for a photo op. I have no love for the people who promote violence and destruction.

I do applaud the people who should have rights in today's world and expect to have the same treatment as this old white guy gets.

Bob Vitale – Franklin, N.C.

Confirmation Bias ignores how science works

How did wearing a Covid-19 face mask become a political statement? A face mask is a simple and prudent precaution to reduce the spread of the virus. The virus doesn't choose which political parties to infect. So why do we see opinions about this epidemic split along political party lines?

The reason may be Confirmation Bias. This is when people look for reasons that support their pre-existing points of view, rather than first looking at research data and then reaching a conclusion based upon the meaning of that data. Confirmation Bias is a result of a fundamental misunderstanding of how science works. Scientists observe nature in action and then attempt to explain the causes of their observations. Scientists do not attempt to explain "how and why" without gathering enough data to support their explanations. Scientific knowledge evolves over time as new observations lead to new explanations. When epidemiologists initially said that wearing masks may not prevent the spread of the virus, that was because scientists had simply not gathered enough data to support that explanation. Scientists have since observed that the virus is passed in the fluid droplets we expel when we cough, sneeze. These droplets, not the tiny viruses by themselves, are mostly too large to pass through a cloth mask, which explains why face masks help to curtail the spread of the virus.

A recent letter to the editor gave us a good example of Confirmation Bias. The writer had decided the recommendations to wear a face covering made by nearly all scientists, doctors, and virologists are wrong. Instead, the writer sought out an "expert" whose publications support the preconceived idea that wearing masks is dangerous. The writer cites a retired surgeon

selling books and newsletters online that contain medical information not supported by peer reviewed research. Additionally, these publications also contain overt political opinions which would appeal to some political groups, probably to increase sales. Genuine researchers do not expect payment for their published findings. This former surgeon also claims membership in two "esteemed" medical organizations whose members espouse views not supported by published peer reviewed research.

So, choosing to not wear a face covering may simply be following the example of our government leaders of choice. The problem is, that in deciding how to deal with the virus, many of our leaders have chosen political reasons, not medical or scientific reasons, for their approach to the virus.

The count of Macon County residents infected with Covid-19 was eight just three weeks ago, and has since jumped to 140 today. That dramatic increase is not due to increased testing, as some have suggested. Covid-19 testing is still mostly being done on people already showing symptoms, not on the general population. We should rely on advice from bonafide medical researchers and scientists, not politicians, if we want to minimize the sickness and death of our fellow Macon residents due to Covid-19.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

A picture worth many words

I saw a picture that had Jesus wearing a face mask, with a caption that read "Love Thy Neighbor." I think this picture says it all, especially to those that refuse to respect their neighbors.

Glenn Kruse – Macon County, N.C.

Who can you depend on?

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32, KJV. Do you believe that Jesus spoke those words? Why do you believe them? Are the words sound even if not from the Bible? Do courts of law seek the truth? Why does the truth matter at all? Are you willing to tell a lie to get what you want?

What is the truth about coronavirus? Did it disappear as Donald Trump claimed? Have you heard any scientist claim to know everything about the disease? Have you benefitted from the advance of scientific knowledge? Have you or someone in your family received crucial medical treatment? Polio? Cancer? Diabetes? Vision? Other?

Do you trust Donald Trump's scientific knowledge more than that of Dr. Anthony Fauci?

Upon reflection regarding your family's health you may realize that you are safer and healthier due to the rigorous study of science. You may determine that it could be dangerous to your health to trust the limited scientific knowledge possessed by Donald Trump. Who can you depend on in this dangerous situation? Remember the saying: "Dance with the one who brought you?"

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

How Trump paved the way for Covid19 pandemic

On the heels of the H1N1 and Ebola outbreaks, President Barack Obama warned that the U.S. needed to prepare for the next upcoming pandemic in the next five to 10 years. This was 2014. In 2016, on Obama's advice, the National Institute of Health finalized a 69-page "playbook" that outlined what response would be needed both domestically and internationally to battle the next pandemic outbreak.

Days before the Trump inauguration, the Obama administration briefed Trump's top aides on the potential dangers of a new pandemic, warning of the challenges the administration would face in regard to shortages of protective personal equipment (PPE's), medicines and supplies in depleted federal supplies. The Obama admin had established pandemic-focused teams within federal agencies to prepare for the next outbreak.

After three years of inaction, Trump began to dismantle the preparedness and recommendations established by the Obama administration. He dissolved the very teams for preparedness, recommended cuts to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the agency in charge of the response to outbreaks such as Covid19, and \$3 billion in cuts to international efforts for global health programs. He ignored the advice of science and medical experts and some of his own advisors warning of the need to prepare, as well as requests by our allies for a coordinated global response.

At the outset of the pandemic Trump did little to nothing for the first two months and then spent weeks downplaying the virus. After reluctantly acknowledging the existence of the pandemic, he refused to take any responsibility for his inaction, and attacked reporters who questioned his response as "nasty."

On March 19, Trump stated: "Nobody knew there would be a pandemic or epidemic of this proportion. Nobody has ever seen anything like this before."

Adding insult to injury, he recently cut funding and ties to the World Health Organization and its effort to contain the pandemic.

President Trump's failed response to Covid19 is criminal. He and his administration are responsible for thousands of deaths that could have been saved. Many more will suffer due to the economic fallout of the pandemic due to our delayed response. How do we hold this administration responsible for its actions or in this case inaction? In one simple word: Vote!

Paul Chew – Otto, N.C.

Dispute the assertion that the U.S. is racist nation

I would like to respond directly to Mr. Bondurant and his claim that the U.S. is a racist nation. Mr. Bondurant's comparison of 6% of the population being black males to 40% of those killed is highly deceptive. According to the 2019 census, American's population was at just over 330 million. So, by his numbers, there are 19.8 million black men in the U.S. Of those, a total of nine unarmed black men (.000045%) were shot and killed last year by the police, while 19 unarmed whites met the same fate. Additionally, of the 429 people shot and killed last year by the police, 88 were black. Meaning that 20% of all people killed by the police were black. While any death at the hands of police is a tragedy, this is not the astronomical number he insinuates. Additionally, his claim that 1 in 1,000 black men can expect to be killed by the police is a bald-faced lie and intended only to inflame hatred in an already tense situation! He is alleging that 19,800 blacks are killed by the police every year when nothing could be further from the truth. It is estimated that a total of 1,098 people of all races and nationalities were killed by the police in 2019. Again, this is a tragedy, but not the racist mass murder he asserts.

Mr. Bondurant, where is your outrage at the fact that black on black crime is the largest sector of homicide in America? On average, 9,000 blacks are killed every year by other blacks. This is a tragedy that should be addressed by every black, brown and white leader in our country. Instead, we are pitted against each other daily by the liberal politicians, Hollywood elites, main stream media and every other race baiting organization that seeks to destroy the very core values of equality that America stands for. And while the existence of white supremacists is undeniable, the vast majority of Americans are decent, caring human beings who do not see color or nationality, but love one another unequivocally.

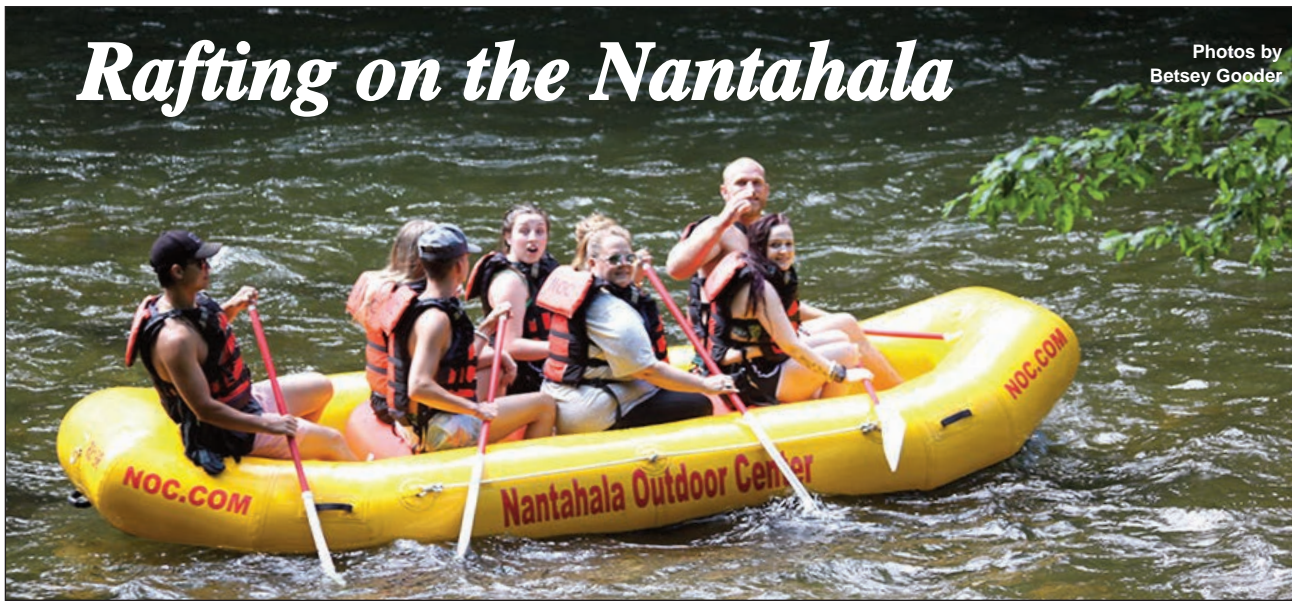
And while we see a small percentage of rioters and looters wreak havoc, death and destruction across this great nation of ours, we are also seeing and will continue to see a great multitude come together not as Blacks, Whites, Hispanics or Asians, but as Americans, joining forces to rebuild what has been destroyed.

There is not enough room in an editorial to address the rest of the lies and racist nonsense in your letter; so let me just say this, Mr. Bondurant, your race baiting and police hatred may work in Hayesville, but here in Macon County we will not bow ourselves to your form of racism.

Laurie Jay – Franklin, N.C.

Rafting on the Nantahala

Photos by Betsy Gooder



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests May 26 - June 8. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 2

Charles Russell Edwards, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Steven Blake Edwards, was charged with carrying a concealed gun.

June 3

Jeffery Paul Hooper, was charged with offense committed in jurisdiction. Matthew Canzone made the arrest.

Chandler Reed Stanley, was charged with littering. Matthew W. Bowman made the arrest.

Megan Joyce Ryan, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

June 4

Matthew Dakota Shuler, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Deneese Annette Johnson, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Robert Shane Laws, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation. Michael R. Holifield made the arrest.

June 5

Jonathan Stanley Leland, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, communicating threats, cyber stalking. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Heidi Johanna Dreml, was charged with misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Caleb William Sutton, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Matthew Dakota Shuler, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Amy Cochran Byrd, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

June 6

Dalton Keith Bates, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, break or enter a motor vehicle, possession of stolen goods/property, injury to personal property, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen motor vehicle.

June 7

John Wesley Simmons, habitual felon. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

Jon Nathaniel Crowe, was issued a true bill of indictment. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

Blaine Lamont, was charged with breaking and entering. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

John Henry Tyte Jr., was charged with breaking and entering, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Austin Engelskind, was charged with injury to real property, littering, resist/obstruct and delay law enforcement officer, breaking and entering. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

June 8

Shane Christopher Talley, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

May 30

Blaine L. Clark, 29, of Mathis Dr., was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

June 2

Jonathan William Talley, 33, of 800 Rose Creek Rd., was issued a warrant for arrest for careless and reckless, flee to elude, driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

June 4

David Matthew Green, 24, of Ives Lane, was charged with trespass of real property. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Norman made the arrest.

June 5

James Holmer Taylor, 59, of Forest Ave., was issued an order for arrest for habitual felon indictment. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 26

David Todd Loftis, 30, of Camp Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Carolyn Elizabeth Keck Loftis, 30, of Lemmond Acres Dr., Mint Hill, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

May 27

Piper Ann Betances, 38, of Audubon Trail, Cashiers, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense, insurance fraud. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Alexis Abel Anguiano Madrigal, 25, of Norris Rd., Otto, was charged with felony worthless check. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

May 28

Charles Mack Curtis Anderson, 38, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats. No bond was set.

Shelby James Davis, 28, of Slab Town Rd., Cashiers, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set.

Morgan Oldham, 22, of Legacy Lane Cullowhee, was charged with communicating threats, simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Crystal Beth Arkansas, 38, of Ruth Sneed Lane, Cherokee, was charged with trespassing. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

May 29

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Dr., was charged with misdemeanor child abuse, assault on a female. No bond was set.

May 30

Jonathan Lee Edmonds, 34, of American Lane, Raven, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for extradition to another state. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Chasity Lynn Austin, 27, of Copperhead Cove, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set.

June 2

Ontono Milan Rodriguez, 28, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Avery Bianca Thomas, 19, of Black Rock Rd., Cherokee

was charged with injury to personal property, assault with a deadly weapon. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

June 3

Stacy Cameron Hoyle Lowe, 27, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with simple assault, second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Charles Randolph Nash, 61, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with noise ordinance violation. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Brooke Tiffany Clonch, 28, of Sylva, was charged with failure to display registration plate, careless and reckless driving, failure to stop at stop sign, misdemeanor flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, possession of a schedule I controlled substance. No bond was set.

June 4

Tyler Dale Fisher, 22, of Guardian Angel Ridge, Tuckasegee, was charged with second degree trespass, breaking and entering forcible. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Paul Thomas Bowman, 34, of Forsythia Lane Candler, was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering, injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, possession of a phone/communication device by inmate. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Trent Harrison Kaspro, 27, of Troy Allen Dr., Bryson City, was charged with graffiti vandalism, injury to real property, injury to personal property. No bond was set.

Phillip Neal Clark, 62, of Charles St., was charged with display expired registration plate, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

June 5

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Rd., was charged with common law robbery, assault on a female, domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Felisha Faye Coggins, 32, of Cocoa Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond was set.

Kayce Crowe Maney, 45, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession of schedule VI controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of cocaine. No bond was set.

Kenneth Lee Maney, 43, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of cocaine. No bond was set.

June 6

Johnathan Aaron Wheatley, 45, of Larkspur Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with communicating threats. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Bobby Dean Williamson, 59, of Fisher Creek Rd., was charged with felony larceny, breaking and entering. No bond was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Meal Delivery Service has resumed. School buses will be delivering meals to students from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals will also be available for pickup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday thru Friday at the following locations: South Macon Elementary School, Mountain View Intermediate School, Iotla Valley Elementary School, Franklin High School, Nantahala School and Highlands School. This meal service is free for any child 18 years old and younger. For more information, call School Nutrition Director David Lightner at (828)524-3314 ext. 1010 or david.lightner@macon.k12.nc.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

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

New Song Church Cherokee 5th Annual Speak to the Mountain Divine Healing Conference is hosting a Hundred Days of Healing, through Sept. 6. Services held daily at 10 a.m. for prayer, 2 p.m. for teaching, and 7 p.m. nightly healing demonstrations. The church is located at 3548 Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee. Visit Newsongcherokee.com

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday Online Worship is held at 9 a.m., on Facebook Live at Franklin First United Methodist Church while social distancing due to COVID19. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or www.firstumcfranklin.org

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. with social distancing observed. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

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

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

Prentiss Church of God is holding two services in its sanctuary. One at 9 a.m., and one at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing is observed and safety measures are in place. Pastor Kevin Chapman invites the community to attend. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

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

whoever you request prayers for. You may also leave a request for a call back if you need one.

CHURCH LISTINGS (call for current schedules)

Grace Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m.; Sunday evening at 6 p.m., and Wednesday evening prayer meeting at 7 p.m. Pastor is Frank Rodriguez. The church is located at 143 Setser Branch Rd.

Bethesda Baptist Church Sunday morning service 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening 5 p.m. Direction are North Jones Creek Rd. to Giles Holler Rd., then turn left. For more information, call (828)524-2454.

Ridge Crest Baptist Church services are held on Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m., Sunday evening worship service 6 p.m. Listen live on WNCC 104.1 FM Radio. Wednesday evening Bible study 6:30 p.m. The church is located on 441N., at 206 Ridgecrest Baptist Church Rd. Rev. Guy Duvall, pastor (828)369-6252.

Community Bible Church of Sky Valley service times are 9 a.m. Sunday morning and small Revisit group meetings Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 696 Sky Valley Way #11, Sky Valley, Ga. Phone (706)746-3144. Gary Hewins, pastor.

Newman Chapel Weekly Services are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday night 6 p.m. and Wednesday night 7 p.m. The pastor is Rev. Dennis Ledford. The church is located on Mulberry Rd. in Otto.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday night service 6 p.m., Wednesday night prayer meeting 7 p.m. The church is located at 129 Emmanuel Rd. For more information, contact (828)524-3214.

House of Hope Church of God service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening services first and second Sundays are 6 p.m., third Sunday youth service 6:30 p.m. no fourth Sunday services. Bible school classes Wednesday 7 p.m. The church is located at 1111 Tessentee Rd. in Franklin. For more information, contact Pastor Greg Bartram (828)524-5361.

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

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

Email church items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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E	L	S	E	E	G	E	G	A	N	T	E	S	E



Bears in Holly Springs Community

On a recent Tuesday night at 11:30 p.m., the Holbrooks family heard their dogs barking wildly, waking their owners. Jaime Holbrooks looked at their cameras and saw that there were bears on the porch – five of them! The bears did no apparent damage, just “snooped around a bit” and then left. Sarah Holbrooks said, “This is not what you want to wake up and see around your house.”

Nonprofits can apply for emergency program grants

Macon County Department of Social Services is the local administrator for 2 Emergency Food and Shelter Programs that will provide small reimbursement grants to Macon County non-profit organizations to assist with emergency food and shelter operational needs.

Phase 37 funds total \$12,810 while the Supplemental CARES Act funds total \$18,264 and both will be available to Macon County non-profit organizations.

◆ Phase 37's reimbursement period is January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021

◆ The reimbursement period for the Supplemental CARES Act is January 27, 2020 through January 31, 2021

Applications for both will be accepted June 1, 2020 until June 15, 2020 at Macon County Department of Social Services. A local board will determine amounts awarded to non-profits who apply.

For grant applications or questions, please contact Chrissy Wallace at 828-349-2126 or cwallace@maconnc.org.

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Applications sought for Judy Moore memorial scholarships

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment is a scholarship established for students enrolled in courses of study in the field of Nursing. The Committee for the Endowment has extended the deadline for accepting applications for the 2020 season to Friday, June 26. The endowment is an affiliate of the NC Community Foundation.

This Scholarship Program for Nurses was established in 1997 as a memorial to Judy Moore, RN who was killed in a tragic accident in 1996. A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a Community Health Nurse and as an OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner. Since the first award in August of 1998, the scholarship has been given to 36 individuals (some have been awarded funding more than one year) and over \$44,000 has been granted.

At least \$1000 in scholarship funds will be made available for the 2020 year. This scholarship application is for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships. Applicants must have completed their first semester in the Nursing Program and have met other eligibility requirements.

Applications are available on line via the NC Community Foundation site - <https://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships/judy-moore-memorial-scholarship-endowment> or get additional information by calling Anne Hyder at (828) 524-6564.



Welch, Collins to wed in October ceremony

Anthony and Denise Welch of Mountain City, Ga., Laura Reynolds of Greensboro, N.C., and Rickey and Elizabeth Collins of Franklin, N.C., announce the engagement of their children, Sarah Welch of Mountain City, Ga., and Hunter Collins of Franklin. The bride-elect is a graduate of Rabun County High School and Piedmont College. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and is employed at Stephens County Hospital. The groom-elect is a graduate of Franklin High School and is employed at Mark Wilkinson Lumber. The wedding is planned for October 10, at Densmore Farm in Cleveland, Ga.

Library offers to remove on most overdue fines

Fontana Regional Library locations in Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties are offering to forgive most overdue fines until June 30 for any patrons who make the request.

“We know how difficult the COVID-19 crisis has been for our patrons, and we want to help as many people as possible get their library accounts back in good standing,” said Regional Library Director Karen Wallace. “Anyone who would like to help the library financially can opt to pay their overdues or make a separate contribution.”

Overdue fines for books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other materials that have been returned can be forgiven, but not the fees to replace never-returned or damaged items. Also, collection agency fees cannot be forgiven.

“Even if you have something that has been overdue for years, go ahead and bring it back in before June 30 and ask us to check your account. We can help,” says Wallace.

Call the Macon County Public Library to find out if there are any fines on your account, and ask that they be forgiven.

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



Four generations

Four generations of the Fred Campbell family were together at a recent family gathering. Pictured are Linda Collier Campbell, daughter Becky C. Benton, Becky's daughter Darcy Tate and Darcy's children, Chelsea, Lydia and Valor.



Wayah Bald slow to recover from wildfires of '16

Wayah Bald still shows signs of the wild fires of November 2016, with bare tree limbs that still have not recovered from the devastation of the fire. Once home to rare, native white azaleas, vegetation has been slow to return to the mountain.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



FHS graduate Elijah Trey Hawkins named 2020 Arts Council Scholarship recipient

Elijah Trey Hawkins is the 2020 winner of the Arts Council of Macon County's \$1000 Arts Scholarship. A 2019 graduate of Franklin High School, Hawkins is pursuing a degree in Fine Arts and Graphic Design at Western Carolina University. He is the son of Maria and Jeff Hawkins.

The Arts Council's Arts Scholarship is awarded annually to a Macon County resident seeking a college degree in an arts field. Award criteria include talent, commitment, educational goals, and career aspirations. For further information, contact any Macon County high school guidance office or the Arts Council, 524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.

Fireworks in Sylva approved; concert still in question

On Tuesday, June 9, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved the fireworks permit for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's annual July 4 fireworks display in downtown Sylva.

The chamber is still planning to have the fireworks display in Sylva on Saturday, July 4, at dark (about 9:45 p.m.) From this point, the chamber is awaiting to see how the Governor moves forward from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of Covid-19 recovery and how that affects crowd size numbers for gatherings.

Once those recommendations are released (believed to be on or before June 24-26), the chamber will be able to make a decision about whether or not it will still host the concert by the All in One Party Band in Sylva's Bridge Park, tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

"Worst case, we'll all be able to see the fireworks in downtown Sylva from various safe social distances in the surrounding downtown area," said Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Julie Donaldson. "We'll keep you posted and hope that we can all be together to celebrate Independence Day safely in Sylva."

For more information, visit www.mountainlovers.com.



Nonprofit INTO LIGHT seeks submissions from those who have lost loved ones to drug addiction for Art Exhibition

INTO LIGHT, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to remembering, through art, those who have lost their lives to drug addiction, is requesting submissions for its fall exhibit at the A-B Tech/Mission Health Conference Center Gallery in Asheville, NC. The exhibit is scheduled to take place Oct. 19 – Nov. 20, 2020, depending upon current COVID restrictions at that time, and will feature 41 graphite portraits of "loved and lost" created by INTO LIGHT founder Theresa Clower.

To date, Clower has received 23 submissions and seeks an additional 17 to complete the installation. She welcomes submissions from all across N.C., but encourages families from Western NC, particularly from persons of color, to consider participating. Each framed portrait is accompanied by a narrative depicting their life as told by their loved ones and gifted to the family at the conclusion of the exhibition. There is no cost to the family to participate. N.C. residents who are interested in submitting an application on behalf of a loved one lost to drug addiction should visit INTO LIGHT (<https://intolightproject.org/submit-images-asheville>) for guidelines.

INTO LIGHT exhibitions seek to erase the stigma and honor loved ones who have lost their lives to drug addiction with exhibitions across the country.

"Rather than have our loved ones forever defined by the disease of addiction and the cause of their death, we wish to portray them in their entirety, both the light and the dark," said Theresa Clower, founder, INTO LIGHT. "A goal of the project is to alleviate the stigma surrounding drug addiction and bring to light the victims' lives, rather than focus on the darkness surrounding their deaths."

Clower was inspired to create INTO LIGHT shortly after the death of her son, Devin Bearden, to an accidental drug overdose in Baltimore, Md., in February 2018. Having never attempted portraiture work before, she picked up her graphite pencil and began drawing. It was a cathartic experience that allowed her to say goodbye to her son. In so doing, Clower tapped into an entirely new calling – drawing the faces of others who had lost their lives to drug addiction. From there, she held her first exhibition in Baltimore in 2019. Asheville will be her second, with California, Ohio, and Pennsylvania slated for 2021.

INTO LIGHT partners with colleges and universities across the United States, providing not only an opportunity to view the exhibit of the portraits, but a forum for sharing stories, providing support and offering education and activities that address the drug epidemic. All activities and educational programs are open to the public.

Applications for the Asheville exhibit will be accepted through Sept. 1, 2020. Those who wish to apply for a loved one to be a part of the exhibit can visit <https://intolightproject.org/submit-images-asheville> to review guidelines.

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Butterfly bushes foster love-hate relationship among gardeners

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

I have never met anyone who disliked butterflies but I have run across many who do not care for Butterfly Bushes. At first glance that seems to be a contradiction. Why would you not enjoy a plant that attracts multitudes of butterflies to your yard? One explanation is that Butterfly shrubs produce seeds – lots of seeds that germinate easily and in abandon. Your neighbors three houses down will get some whether they want them or not. These seedlings are not selective where they grow except they need full sun. They are not particular whether the soil they grow in is acid or alkaline. The good news is that you can prevent the seed distribution by simply pruning off the spent flower heads before the seeds mature and drop. This stimulates the plant to put out a second flush of blooms but this would require even more pruning. If you want to extend the period of color display this is a plus. Because of its seed production and ease of germination Butterfly Bushes are considered invasive but are a still a favorite among many gardeners. They are particularly effective as the back border of a perennial bed.



Dr. Bob Gilbert

The scientific name of the Butterfly Bush is *Buddleja* or *Buddleia* (Bud-le-a). The plant was named in honor of an English botanist Reverend Adam Buddle (1662-1715). There are 140 species coming from Asia, Africa and the Americas. Nearly all are classified as shrubs, most are deciduous and a few are evergreen. They are found in temperate as well as tropical regions. The clusters of small tubular flowers have colors ranging from pink, blues, purples, strong yellows, red and white. The blooms are often fragrant. The pollinated flowers produce a berry that has a single viable seed. The small tubular nectar producing flowers attract butterflies as well as other pollinators such as bees and moths. The most popular cultivars are *Buddleia davidii* from China.

There are some differences in Old World and New World species. Those of the New World are nearly all deciduous and occasionally have both male and female parts on a single bloom (hermaphroditic) whereas the

Old World varieties are exclusively hermaphroditic.

Buddleia are deer resistant. Any soil will do as long as it drains well. There are no serious diseases but they do not like wet feet. The larger varieties are best pruned in late winter or early spring. They can be treated as perennials by cutting the stalks down close to the ground in late winter or early spring to control height. Blooms occur on new wood on almost varieties.

A popular species is *B. globosa*, Orange Ball Tree from Chile, Peru and Argentina. It has orange 3/4 inch globular very fragrant flower clusters and can grow to 12 feet tall. It blooms on old wood so pruning is done after it blooms. It is hardy in zones 7-9. It is considered non-invasive. I have never seen this plant growing. It looks wonderful in the catalogs and I think it would be fun to try it. However, I am in the woods here so do not have open spaces with full sun.

Butterfly bushes are easily cross-pollinated manually and by insects. There are now more than 100 cultivars and hybrids. Some grow tall and there are even dwarf cultivars. Sterile cultivars exist that do not produce seed. Dirr describes 78 cultivars in his 1998 edition of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. For example, I just received a nursery catalog that lists a new cultivar “Grand Cascade.” It grows to 5 feet with 12-14 inch and 4-inch-wide clusters of very fragrant lavender flower spikes that weep or cascade. It is hardy from zones 5-9. This is just a single example of what is available.

There is an easy way to remember the difference between a cultivar and a hybrid. If you cross Plant A with Plant B and always get Plant C, Plant C is a hybrid. You can always reproduce Plant C either by crossing A and B again or by making cuttings. All of the seedlings produced will be Plant C. On the other hand, if you cross D and E and get something different each time, let call it H, this is a cultivar. Next time crossing D and E you get S a different cultivar. You never get the same plant. It is a one-time occurrence. So, the only way to reproduce H or S or any other cultivar would be by cuttings. “Cultivars” are always written with quotes. It would be important to read about the many cultivars, hybrids and species available before making a final selection to



Butterfly bush (*B. davidii*) with swallowtail-2

find the one that will perform properly for your location. There are many options.

A partial list of seedless (sterile) or sterile *Buddleia*: “Asian Moon,” “Blue Chip,” “Blueberry Cobbler,” “Peach Cobbler,” “Snow White,” “Pink,” “Miss Ruby,” and “Fever Castle.”

For further information read *Plant Delights Nursery, Inc--“Buddleia davidii: The Butterfly Bush.”* This will have everything you want to know and then some.

I was just about ready to put this article to bed when I ran across an article “Three Reasons Not to Grow Butterfly Bushes”: 1. They do not stay at home 2. Our native insects such as butterfly caterpillars do not use them for food. Our native insects have no taste for aliens (non-natives). 3. Our native nectar gathers and pollinators are distracted by them instead of our native nectar producers. Interesting dilemma.

Given names inspired by plants

Not too long ago I was at a party and we were playing word games. For example, how many names can you think if that can be used by both males and females? Also, what given names can you think of that have plants as an origin? To make it a little more interesting someone has to actually know a person with that name. Fern, Aster, Holly, Laurel, Daisy, Arbutis, Poppy, Jack, Wood, Rose, Joe, Lilly, Heather, Hyacinth, Iris Lotus, Lavender, Rosemary, Olive, Timothy, Flora, Hazel, Forest, Mace, Pansy, Althea, Basil, Dahlia, Linden, Sage, Huckleberry, Moss.

Given names interchangeable for males and females – Patsy, Carol, Lynn, Bobby, Jim, Charlie, Francis, Colin, Taylor, Kelly and Jordan.

Dr. Bob Gilbert co-founder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in , Ga. Karen Lawrence from Franklin is a professional wildlife and horticultural photographer.



B. globosa

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Deaths & Funerals

Erica Nicole McConnell Nicholson

On Monday, May 4, 2020, Erica Nicole McConnell Nicholson, loving mother, sister, and friend, passed away at the age of 28.

She has always been a beautiful, fun, loving, kind-hearted individual. She enjoyed being with family and friends, but her biggest accomplishment was becoming a mother to her best friend, Garrett Nicholson, the love of her life.

She was born in Sylva, N.C., on May 25, 1991, to Ricky and Lillie (Smith) McConnell.

She leaves behind her son, Garrett Nicholson; two sisters, Cindy McCall and Sonya Collins; several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

We will cherish the memories we have with Erica, and until the day we meet again, I will carry you in my heart.



Erica Nicholson

Phoebe Ann Bateman

Phoebe Ann Bateman, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Thurman Franklin and Ruby Rogers Franklin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Ruby Lee Bateman; son-in law, Mitchell Bates; brother, Boyd Franklin as well as infant twin brothers.

She worked in several local restaurants over the years and was a member of East Franklin Baptist Church.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Howard Grady Bateman; five children, Chuck Bateman (Renee) of Hayesville, Debbie Bates, Rhonda Williamson and Rita Lambert (Bob) all of Franklin and Trudi Mathis (Danny) of Sylva; siblings, Reba Beck (Sam) of Hayesville, Ray Franklin (Ola) of Robbinsville, Mark Franklin (Pat) of Hayesville and sister-in law, Judy Franklin of Petros, Tenn.; 10 grandchildren, Christina, Chris, Heather, Renee, Lee, Josh, Megan, Steven, Brandon and Seth; 14 great grandchildren, Chase, Mason, Jace, Makayla, Khyllan, Ryan, Shiah, Tiffani, Mackenzie, Tanya, Aubree, Kaylie, Jacklyn and Ivy; two great-great grandchildren, Aleena and Kolton and many nieces and nephews.

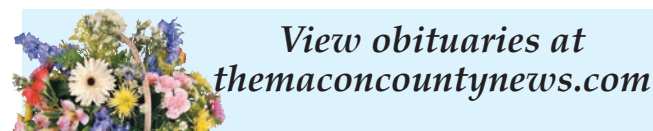
A "Going Home Party" was held Sunday, June 7, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Terry Jenkins, Rev. Gary McDaniels and Rev. David Lee Williams officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Danny, Josh, Kylan, Lee, Steven, Eric and Shane.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Macon Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses, 261 Iotla Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



View obituaries at themaconcountynews.com

Milton Dwight Estes

Milton Dwight Estes, 66, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was preceded in death by his father, Lloyd Edward Estes and his mother, Donna Lee Estes. He worked at Belden's, the mica plant, AmeriGas and Toccoa Natural Gas. He enjoyed fishing and cutting up with his friends. He also enjoyed spending time with Derick Pendergrass (Krystal) and Stephanie Teem (Jeremy) and Renee Metcalf (Lee). He was a member of Goldmine Baptist Church.

He is survived by a wife of 32 years, Joan Keener Estes; a son, Levi Jarod Estes of the home; a daughter, Lisa Field (Barry) of Laurens, S.C.; four grandchildren, Delaney Rae Estes and Archer Anderson Estes of Franklin, and Sydney Robison and Colin Field of Laurens; a sister, Sharon Morehead of Westminster, S.C.; and a brother, Steve Estes of Franklin.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, June 11, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Gary McDaniel and Rev. Frank Rodriguez will officiate. Burial will be in Mount Moriah Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., prior to the service at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Tallent, Randy Brown, Matt Moyer, Bobby Ledford, Derick Pendergrass and Steve Estes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice – Four Seasons Development Office 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Milton Dwight Estes

Norman Q. Heckel

Norman Q. Heckel, son of the late Q.R. and Mildred Heckel, went to his Heavenly home on June 3, 2020.

He was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1938 and the family moved to Fort Myers, Fla., in 1951 where he spent most of his adult life. He married the late Patricia Louise Geller.

He is survived by their four children, Susan A. Harrelle (Max), Norman "Butch" (Sylvia), Daniel Nathan and Amy P. Dale (Mike); 14 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren; three brothers, Max, Wayne and Richard; three sisters, Pat Yenour, Judy Shroyer (Eric) and Nanci Erp (Rob); several nieces and nephews and many, many friends. In 2003, he married Peggy Beyrodt Foreman of Lexington, Ky., and Boca Raton, Fla., where they lived before moving to Franklin in 2008.

He was a member of both the local Christ-Community Church and the New Hope Christian Church in N. Fort Myers, Fla. He was employed by UPS where he was a loyal employee for 29 years. His greatest joys were his family and serving others. He was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand and was held in high regard by all his friends and family members and loved dearly by all.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, Four Seasons Development Office, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731

A memorial service will be held later in the year in North Fort Myers, Fla.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Norman Q. Heckel

Bobby Ray Carver Sr.

Bobby Ray Carver Sr., 73, a wonderful husband to his wife of 55 years, and a great father to his daughter and three sons, went on to Glory on June 6, 2020. He was known as being dependable and industrious — a man's man who provided for his family by working on both the Sutton and Moore dairy farms in Macon County.

Born on Aug. 17, 1946, he is preceded in death by his parents, Hayes Junior Carver and Ruth Pauline Passmore Carver, along with an infant sister, Linda Ann.

With his quick smile and friendliness, he didn't know a stranger. From the baseball fields, supporting his children's efforts, or sitting around the fire barrel with his pal, Harley Gibson, he truly enjoyed life. Second to watching his children play ball, he absolutely loved hunting, fishing, and camping at Nantahala Lake or camping at Jack Rabbit.

Left to remember him is his wife, Eleanor Metcalf Carver; his daughter, Donna DeHart (Douglas); and his sons, Bobby Ray Carver Jr., (Anne), Timothy Carver (Dena), and Donovan Carver (Crystal). Known as Papaw by his grands, he leaves behind 21 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren; four sisters, Rosie Green (Raymond), Maxine Wilson, Nellie Carver and Faye Carver along with a number of nieces and nephews.

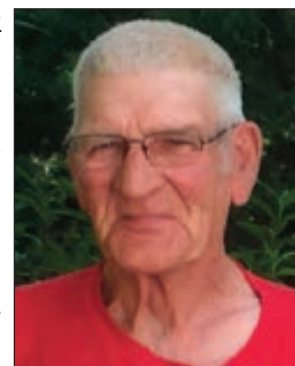
A private graveside service will be held at Jennings Cemetery, Holly Springs Baptist Church

The family will be gathering at Donovan's home, 5 Fox Layer Road, Franklin, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Moffitt Family Funeral Care to help defray funeral costs or the American Cancer Society.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the family.

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



Bobby Ray Carver Sr.

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AJ Allmendinger earns first career NASCAR oval victory

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR veteran AJ Allmendinger bested a field of the sport's best young talents leading the final 37 laps of Saturday afternoon's Xfinity Series EchoPark 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Making the run more impressive, Allmendinger rallied from a 30th place starting position.

Noah Gragson, last week's Bristol race winner, finished runner-up by 1.858-seconds but it was still good enough to earn the Dash 4 Cash \$100,000 money bonus given by series sponsor Xfinity. Next week Allmendinger, Gragson, Justin Haley and Daniel Hemric - the second through fourth place finishers - will be eligible for the Dash 4 Cash prize money.

"Oh my God, I won on an oval baby," a grinning Allmendinger exclaimed after climbing out of his winning No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet - referring to his previous three NASCAR wins on road courses.

Yes the 38-year old Allmendinger won, and he did so convincingly; pulling away from the field in the last laps, competition that included Harrison Burton, a highly-motivated Justin Allgaier, another of Allmendinger's Kaulig

Racing teammates Ross Chastain, Brandon Jones, Chase Briscoe and Anthony Alfredo who rounded out the Top-10.

The Top-10 work was some solace to Allgaier and Briscoe who were two of the strongest cars all afternoon. Briscoe led 40 laps and Allgaier ran consistently in the Top-5 - but were both penalized for speeding on pit road on a final stop with 39 laps remaining. They came out of the pits first (Briscoe) and second (Allgaier) before getting news of the penalty which dropped them to 25th and 27th - - respectively, for that restart.

Allmendinger had come out of the pits third, so he inherited the lead and never looked back.

"I just felt like we needed track position the whole time so once we go that lead it was about getting a good re-start," he said adding, "Had to kind of pace myself and the last 15 laps beg for no yellows."

A former IndyCar Series champion contender Allmendinger was highly regarded for his road course skills when he came to NASCAR. He earned his only NASCAR Cup Series victory in 2014 on the Watkins Glen road course and had three

previous Xfinity Series wins - on road courses at Road America, the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course and the Charlotte ROVAL.

"I just wanted to win on an oval," Allmendinger said. "There were definitely several opportunities in the Cup car to win on an oval but it never worked out. I wanted to win on an oval that we really had to drive and get after it."

Austin Cindric was also penalized for speeding on pit road in that final series of stops. The driver of the No. 22 Penske Racing Ford led a race high 68 laps and looked like the car to beat early - winning both the 1st and 2nd stages - his first of the year. His car was so dominant in the early laps that he won the first stage by nearly 9-seconds over Chastain. He finished 16th.

Briscoe beat Cindric out of the pits during the 2nd Stage break and the two Ford drivers kept one another honest with

"We had a good run today. Man, I ate AJ's bait there at the end. He started saving his tires and thought he had burnt his tires up. Just got beat by his experience. He's a phenomenal driver."

The Xfinity Series championship standings remain unchanged for positions one through six. Briscoe retained his led by four points over Gragson. The rookie Burton is third, 32 points back followed by Allgaier, Chastain and Cindric.

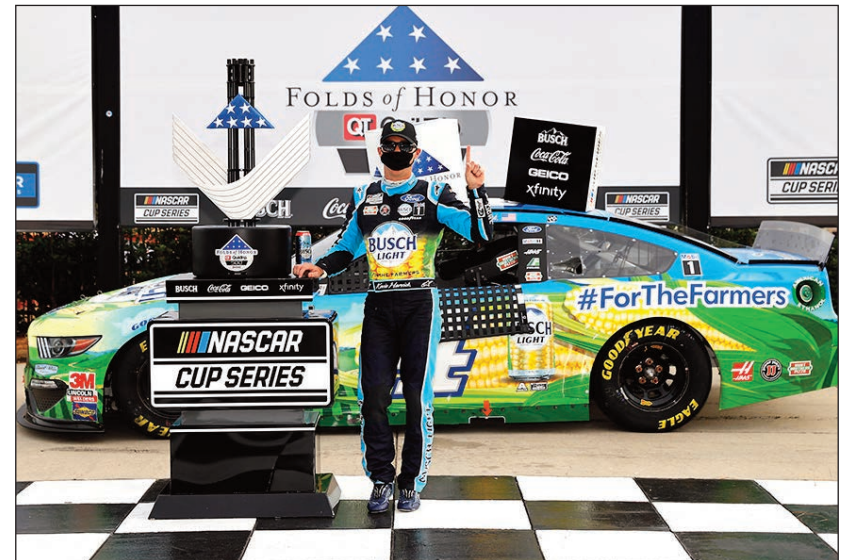
The series next moves to South Florida where the Xfinity Series will have a doubleheader - two 250-mile races at Homestead-Miami Speedway; one on Saturday (3:30 p.m. ET) and one on Sunday (noon ET).

Kevin Harvick continues Atlanta Motor Speedway Dominance

Kevin Harvick has had an exceptional relationship with Atlanta Motor Speedway and the 2014 NASCAR Cup Series



AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 C2 Freight Resources Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series EchoPark 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on June 6, 2020 in Hampton, Ga.



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Light For The Farmers Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on June 7, 2020 in Hampton, Ga.

Chastain right there followed by the JR Motorsports cars driven by Hemric and Allgaier. Hemric's fourth place finish was his fifth Top-10 in seven races he's competed in this year for the JR Motorsports team.

It was also a strong consistent day for Allmendinger's teammates, Haley and Chastain. Haley rebounded for a pit road penalty early in the race to rally to his third-place finishing position. Chastain ran among the Top-10 for most of the day. He finished sixth in the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series race earlier Saturday afternoon.

The Dash 4 Cash victory for last week's Bristol winner Gragson was a feel-good ending for the 21-year old who said he ultimately learned a lot racing Allmendinger. The driver of the No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet started on pole position and also ran among the Top-10 consistently having to rally from an earlier race penalty as well.

"It's an incredible opportunity what Xfinity is doing with the Dash 4 Cash program," Gragson said. "It's quite the privilege and the honor to be able to compete for \$100,000.

champion showed that again Sunday afternoon winning the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, his third victory at the historic track.

Harvick led a race high 151 of 325 laps en route to his 51st career win, prevailing in a valiant contest with Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr., who finished second and third.

Truex led 62 laps, won the opening two stages of the race and kept Harvick's No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford honest. Harvick passed both JGR Toyotas to open the third stage of the race and held them at bay to win by a healthy 3.527-seconds. Busch passed Truex for second with five laps to go.

It was Harvick's second victory of the season and it is the 44-year-old Californian's ninth top-10 finish in 10 races this year. With it, Harvick extends his NASCAR Cup Series championship lead to 48 points over Penske Racing's Joey Logano.

Logano's teammate Ryan Blaney and JGR driver Denny Hamlin rounded out the Top-5 at Atlanta followed by Kurt Busch, Jimmie Johnson, Chase Elliott and Penske Racing

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teammates Brad Keselowski and Logano. For Kurt Busch, the Top-10 was an especially impressive effort considering he started last in the field because of inspection violations.

Clint Bowyer led 58 laps only to have to pit late in the race and fall out of a Top-10 finish. He ended up 20th.

Harvick's Ford was considered the car to beat at Atlanta even before the retiring seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Johnson gave the command to start engines Sunday afternoon.

Harvick earned an emotional career first NASCAR Cup Series win at Atlanta back in 2001, three weeks after taking over driving duties for the late seven-time champion Dale Earnhardt, who was killed in the Daytona 500 season-opener. Harvick held up three fingers in a reverse victory lap Sunday in honor of Earnhardt and the champ's famed No. 3 car.

"First [career] win came for me here at Atlanta and this is just a race track that I've taken a liking to," Harvick said. "You always have those memories and now you want to celebrate everything that Dale Earnhardt did for this sport. To come here and be able to do that with wins and go to victory lane is pretty special."

Harvick has certainly been the driver of record as of late. He answered that first win 17 years later (in 2018) and is currently in the midst of an amazing nine-year run at the track. He's now led at least 100 laps in seven of the last nine races – more than 10,000 laps out front since joining the Stewart-Haas Racing team in 2014. And he's earned Top-10 finishes in nine of the last 11 races.

Truex Jr.'s two stages wins were the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion's first of the season. And for much of the race, he was there ready to interrupt Harvick's longtime dominance at the track. That opportunity never came.

It would have been the first win of the season for Truex, who has been so-close at Atlanta – finishing second in 2019 and scoring Top-10 finishes in the last six races.

Tyler Reddick, driver of the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, was the top finishing Sunoco Rookie of the Year candidate – with a 16th-place finish.

NASCAR implements plan to welcome back guests at Homestead-Miami Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – NASCAR announced its plan on Tuesday to reintroduce guests at select NASCAR Cup Series races beginning with the Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway June 14 and the GEICO 500 at Talladega Superspeedway June 21.

NASCAR's modified event procedures, protocols and number of attendees have been finalized with guidance from public health officials, medical experts and local, state and federal officials. All guests in attendance will be screened before entering, required to wear face coverings, mandated to social distance at 6 feet, and will not have access to the infield, among other revised operational protocols. NASCAR will continue to adapt and improve its procedures to ensure they are effective and can be scaled to support an increased number of fans in the future.

"We have tremendous respect and appreciation for the responsibility that comes with integrating guests back into our events," said Daryl Wolfe, Executive Vice President, Chief Operations and Sales Officer, NASCAR. "We believe imple-

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Cup Series Race: Dixie Vodka 400

Race Details

Location: Homestead, Fla.
Date: Sunday, June 14, 3:30 p.m.
Last Year's Pole: Denny Hamlin
Last Year's Winner: Kyle Busch

Homestead-Miami Speedway



Distance: 1.5 miles
Shape: Oval
Turns / Straights: 18-20^o / 4^o

Race Preview

The inaugural Cup Series race at Homestead-Miami Speedway was held in 1999, and was the final race in the NASCAR Cup Series from 2002 until 2019. As the season finale, it was also part of the Ford Championship Weekend, which consisted of two other races, the Ford EcoBoost 200 for the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series and the Ford EcoBoost 300 for the NASCAR Xfinity Series. In 2020, the race was scheduled to be held in mid-March after the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, but the COVID-19 pandemic postponed the event to this week. It will no longer serve as the championship race with the Fall race being moved to Phoenix Raceway as the championship race.

Top News Stories

NASCAR addressed racism head-on at Sunday' race

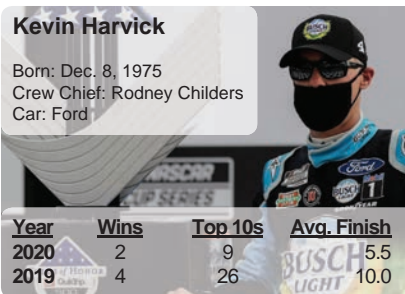
Long before soon-to-be retired driver Jimmie Johnson said, "Gentlemen start your engines," the NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday was already creating a buzz as drivers showed their support for the Black Lives Matter movement and the protests that have surrounded the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. A video montage of NASCAR drivers speaking out on recent issues and showing support of the movement was posted on social media before Sunday's race. The video featured retired and current drivers across NASCAR that joined together to send a message of unity vowing to learn, educate and push change over the unrest in the country. "The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others in the black community are heartbreaking and can no longer be ignored," the drivers said. "The process begins with us listening and learning because understanding the problem is the first step in facing it. We are committed to listening with empathy and with an open heart to better educate ourselves." Driver Bubba Wallace was wearing a T-shirt saying, "I can't breathe," on it. Wallace is currently the only black driver in the NASCAR Cup Series. As the race got underway, NASCAR President Steve Phelps also had the drivers silence their cars as he read aloud a statement on racial injustice to the drivers and their crews over their helmet headsets.

Last Weekend's Race: Kevin Harvick won at Atlanta

Kevin Harvick cruised to victory Sunday over Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. in the NASCAR Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, leading the final 55 laps on a day that began with the series acknowledging the social unrest in the country. Harvick won for the second time since NASCAR returned from the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic, adding to his emotional victory at Darlington in the first race back. "For me, this place is pretty special," said Harvick. "It brings back a lot of memories."

Kevin Harvick

Born: Dec. 8, 1975
 Crew Chief: Rodney Childers
 Car: Ford



Year	Wins	Top 10s	Avg. Finish
2020	2	9	5.5
2019	4	26	10.0

2020 Standings

Cup Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Kevin Harvick	421	9
2) Joey Logano	373	5
3) Chase Elliott	365	6
4) Brad Keselowski	346	7
5) Martin Truex, Jr.	334	5
6) Denny Hamlin	322	6
7) Ryan Blaney	317	4
8) Alex Bowman	314	2
9) Kyle Busch	308	6
10) Kurt Busch	284	7

Xfinity Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Chase Briscoe	340	6
2) Noah Gragson	336	6
3) Harrison Burton	308	8
4) Justin Allgaier	297	4
5) Ross Chastain	295	6
6) Austin Cindric	285	5
7) Justin Haley	267	5
8) Brandon Jones	258	5
9) Daniel Hemric	222	5
10) Ryan Sieg	217	4

Racing Trivia

How many times has Kevin Harvick finished out of the top 3 in the final Cup Series standings since 2010?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 5

Answer: b) Kevin Harvick finished 8th in the standings in 2012 and 2016.

menting this methodical process is an important step forward for the sport and the future of live sporting events. The passion and unwavering support of our industry and fans is the reason we race each weekend and we look forward to slowly and responsibly welcoming them back at select events."

NASCAR will continue its long history of honoring military members by welcoming them as the first guests allowed entrance to a NASCAR Cup Series event since March 8. Homestead-Miami Speedway will invite up to 1,000 South Florida service members as honorary guests for the Dixie

Vodka 400, representing the Homestead Air Reserve Base and U.S. Southern Command in Doral.

Talladega Superspeedway will allow up to 5,000 guests in the frontstretch grandstands/towers for the GEICO 500. In addition, there will be limited motorhome/5th-wheel camping spots available outside the track high atop the Alabama Gang Superstretch. Tickets are open exclusively on a first come, first served basis to fans who purchased tickets or reserved camping for the originally scheduled GEICO 500 (April 26) and live within a designated proximity to the track.

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THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15



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

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: OUTDOOR FUN

- ACROSS
- Sacred song
 - Chowed down
 - Acoustic repetition
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - 4 qts.
 - Teamsters' group
 - Affair, in Paris
 - Bit of binary code
 - Part of TNT
 - *Sleeping under the stars
 - *Horticulturist's hangout
 - Articulate
 - Combustible pile
 - Joe Louis move
 - Epiphany guests
 - Forgo
 - WWII side
 - *Bonfire fodder
 - Royal topper
 - Tiny river
 - Pond buildup
 - Miners' passage
 - Best not mentioned
 - *What seekers do
 - Fairytale beginning
 - Same as "slow down"
 - Upper hand
 - Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
 - Threads
 - Pie ___ mode
 - *a.k.a. shuttlecock
 - *Flying saucer
 - 2 halves of a diameter
 - Pilot's deadline
 - *Fire starter
 - Triangular road sign
 - ___ Luis Obispo
 - "Die Lorelei" poet
 - Other than what is
 - One laid

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
		57	58	59					60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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73. Poker stakes

DOWN

- First-rate, slangily
- Ditto
- Soon, to a bard
- They are usually drunken
- Biblical prophetess
- Full of excitement
- *Sun kiss
- Funereal lament
- "National Velvet" author ___ Bagnold
- Give a ticket
- Sound warning
- Lennon's wife
- State of agitation
- African antelope
- "Who ___ we kidding?"
- a.k.a toes
- *Banned lawn darts
- Type of rotation
- "The Hobbit" hobbit
- *Played with a driver
- Bye in Palermo
- Lacked, for short
- The oldest Goldberg sibling
- *Skier's turf
- Snail-like
- *Volleyball turf
- Painter Degas
- Beat the Joneses
- Interesting person, acronym
- Eli Manning's first name
- Ganders' companions
- *Famous ski town
- Get-out-of-jail money
- ___ of March
- Make someone angry
- Jack London's "White ___"
- *Fisherman's supply
- Marine eagle
- Augments
- Pastrami partner
- *"You're it!" game

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The Classifieds

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COVENTRY PLACE Multi-family yard sale 9 a.m.-till? June 12-13. Off Old Murphy Road. Please Wear Mask for Everyone's Safety.

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PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
1998	Buick	LeSabre	153,986
2003	Cadillac	DeVille	235,058
2019	Chevrolet	Blazer	17,294
2017	Chevrolet	Camaro	134,652
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	91,171
1969	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	69,247
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,698
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,630
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox	60,021
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox	12,239
2016	Chevrolet	Malibu	66,724
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	15,105
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,654
2016	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,798
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	114,928
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	25,450
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	255,565
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LD	34,349
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	50,327
2005	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	137,183
2005	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	86,504
2001	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	169,693
2017	Chevrolet	Tahoe	75,142
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	44,814
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	95,570
2016	Chevrolet	Traverse	80,732
2015	Chevrolet	Trax	32,279
2019	Chevrolet	Trax	7,439
2007	Chrysler	Pacifica	181,297
2014	Chrysler	Town & Country	150,724
2013	Dodge	Durango	141,512
2000	Dodge	Durango	214,249
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	45,143
2015	Dodge	Grand Caravan	64,249
2017	Dodge	Journey	76,764
2007	Dodge	Nitro	106,328
2001	Dodge	Ram 1500	215,775
2018	Ford	EcoSport	5,000
2018	Ford	Edge	52,660
2013	Ford	Escape	73,138
2019	Ford	Escape	34,909
2015	Ford	F-150	74,115
2013	Ford	F-150	101,572
2017	Ford	Fusion	43,886
1930	FORD	MODELA	78,269
2006	Ford	Taurus	176,151
2013	GMC	Sierra 1500	99,394
2016	GMC	Sierra 1500	38,808
2016	GMC	Terrain	64,919
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	41,477
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	FATBOY	2,318
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160
2017	Honda	Accord	21,739
2019	Honda	HR-V	13,836
2019	Honda	Odyssey	25,630
2017	Honda	Pilot	39,009
2017	Hyundai	Tucson	63,714
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,697
2019	Jaguar	XE	16,641
2019	Jeep	Compass	46,307
2013	Jeep	Compass	125,791
2016	Jeep	Patriot	57,115
2018	Jeep	Renegade	21,426
2016	Kia	Forte	30,564
2016	Kia	Sorento	79,870
2019	Kia	Soul	34,258
2015	Nissan	Altima	105,350
2019	Nissan	Frontier	25,659
2019	Nissan	Frontier	24,310
2019	Nissan	Frontier	19,914
2019	Nissan	Rogue	34,462
2019	Nissan	Rogue	36,401
2019	Nissan	Sentra	36,199
2019	Nissan	Versa	36,544
2017	RAM	2500	55,649
2018	RAM	3500	19,819
2019	RAM	3500	3,284
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,536
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087
2016	Toyota	Camry	68,815
2017	Toyota	Prius Prime	32,541
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712
2014	Toyota	Tacoma	123,087