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Volume 39 Number 3

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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This weekend Franklin will be celebrating Scottish/Cherokee Heritage with Scottish music, a shortbread cookie contest, lectures, Cherokee storytellers, a fun run and more. Among the performers will be the John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes and Drums (pictured). For a complete schedule of Saturday's activities in downtown Franklin, see page 7. Photo by Ellen Randall

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Franklin man arrested after physical altercation



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Local artist bring a bit of color to downtown



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Fawns get second chance in Macon County

COVID stabilizes in N.C; call center to close

On June 18, Macon County will be closing the COVID Call Center. The Macon County COVID Call Center opened January 16 to handle the high volume of calls in response to the launch of public vaccination efforts for COVID-19.

With the closing of the call center, members of the public who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or need to be tested for COVID-19 are encouraged to call the Macon County Health Department directly at (828)349-2081, and schedule an appointment for either testing or vaccination.

Kathy McGaha, Macon County Health Director, said of the closing, "We are so thankful for the community members who stepped up to help our community and make the vaccine call center possible. This is not the end of our push to have Macon County residents vaccinated against this deadly virus, but we are beginning to incorporate our COVID-19 response with the important work we do every day."

With the support from Drake Enterprises, Macon County was able to launch a dedicated call center that could handle the demand for vaccines. The call center was also able to hire temporary positions to staff the call center with funds

made available by the Macon County Board of Commissioners, in addition to realignment of existing Macon County employees, and Macon County citizens who volunteered their time to help their community.

Integral to the opening of the vaccine call center was County Manager Derek Roland. Roland was able to mobilize various county agencies, to assure the success of the call center.

"The success we had at the call center would not have been possible without Mr. Phil Drake and his willingness to donate his facility, staff and equipment. In addition, the hard work and dedication of Sheriff Robert Holland, Tammy Keezer and all those employees and volunteers at the call center, whether it be disseminating information or registering individuals for vaccines, directly resulted in Macon County having one of the highest per capita vaccination rates in the state. As a Macon County citizen, I will never be able to thank these individuals enough for the excellent job they

made available by the Macon County Board of Commissioners, in addition to realignment of existing Macon County employees, and Macon County citizens who volunteered their time to help their community.

"... the hard work of all those employees and volunteers at the call center ... resulted in Macon County having one of the highest per capita vaccination rates in the state."

— Derek Roland, county manager

See COVID page 2

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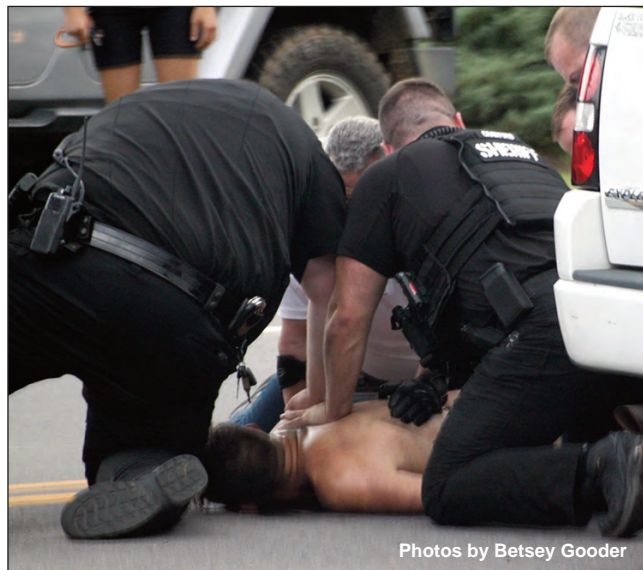
Franklin man behind bars for attempting to steal Police Chief's vehicle

While attempting to address a public disturbance, Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell found himself in a violent altercation Friday, June 11, near Macon Plaza off Highlands Road.

According to Harrell, based on his 27-plus years of experience in law enforcement, he observed a male without a shirt displaying traits conducive to being under the influence.

"He was flailing around and approaching some passing motorists, including those attempting to enter the Plaza parking lot," said Harrell. "When I saw this, I activated my emergency lights to draw his attention away from others."

After turning on his emergency lights, Harrell said he observed the male, later identified as 25-year-old Jesse Machuca, become increasingly agitated. Harrell exited his vehicle in an attempt to calm the individual down, at which point Machuca, who is six feet tall and weighs 250 lbs., rushed Harrell who is 5'8", 200 lbs., and



Photos by Betsey Gooder



I took several police officers and a couple of civilians to apprehend a 25-year-old Franklin man who attempted to steal Police Chief Bill Harrell's vehicle.

was able to overpower him, gaining control of Harrell's police vehicle.

"As we struggled for possession of my vehicle, to which he gained entry, I engaged the emergency brake while he was trying to drive away and we then continued to struggle," said Harrell.

According to Harrell, at that point, the actions of citizens nearby were directly re-

sponsible for preventing the incident from escalating further.

"This could have ended much worse if he had gotten control of the vehicle, but because of the fast thinking and actions taken by citizens and law enforcement together, this was prevented," said Harrell. "Thank you to all those who acted selflessly, placing the safety of others above their own, and to those who have reached out to check on everyone involved."

Citizens who witnessed Harrell struggling with Machuca acted quickly to aid Harrell in subduing Machuca until additional officers from the Franklin Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's

Office arrived on scene.

"Several brave citizens that will be recognized at the appropriate time and place, stepped up and assisted until more officers from FPD and MCSO arrived," said Harrell.

The offender was charged with one felony count of attempted larceny, one felony count of breaking or entering a motor vehicle, misdemeanor disorderly conduct, four counts of resisting public officer, one count of assault of a government officer, and one count of injury to personal property. He was booked into the Macon County Detention Facility under a \$200,000 bond.

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COVID UPDATE

Continued from page 1

have done. As Macon County manager, it is an honor to work alongside these individuals each and every day."

The last day the Vaccine Call Center will be active will be Friday, June 18, at 4 p.m. Those who wish to schedule an appointment after that time are asked to call Macon County Public Health at (828)349-2081. The Health Department is open Monday through Friday from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m.

Due to the stabilization of the COVID-19 situation in Macon County and North Carolina, MCPH's Daily COVID-19 updates to news outlets will be transitioning to a weekly update beginning June 18 and subsequent Fridays.

As of Tuesday, June 15, five active positive cases were listed in the update, with four cases pending, 3,183 recovered, and 41 deaths. Nearly 10,000 tests have been conducted by the health department and more than 20,000 countywide. Public health has administered 12,575 vaccines with a current inventory of 1,214 doses.

Macon County
Public Health

Daily COVID-19 Update

Today's Date and Time: June 15, 2021 at 4:00pm

<p>Total COVID-19 Tests Reported to Macon County Public Health 20,368</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Macon County COVID-19</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Total Cases</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">3183</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Active Positive</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Recovered</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">3137</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Deaths</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">41</td> </tr> </table>	Total Cases	3183	Active Positive	5	Recovered	3137	Deaths	41
Total Cases	3183								
Active Positive	5								
Recovered	3137								
Deaths	41								
<p>Number Tested at Macon County Public Health Department 9,604</p>	<p>Call to make a vaccine appointment at 828-524-1500. Schedule testing appointments at 828-349-2517.</p>								
<p>Pending Results 4</p>									

CHEROKEE/SCOTTISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Downtown Franklin at the Gazebo on the Square

Heritage Demonstrators throughout the day:

Cherokee Artisans: Freeman Owle and Mary Thompson
Kathryn Sellers and the Scottish Traditions 18th Century Demonstrators
Blacksmith, David Burruss: Sponsored by Folk Heritage Association of Macon County

- 10:00 am Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration Opening Ceremony
- 10:30 am Music - John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums (Clock Tower/Garden)
- 11:00 am Music - Rainbow's End (Celtic Music by Dave, Maria and Katharine)
- 1:15 pm Music - Thunder Muggs (Scottish and Re-enactor Camp Tunes)

Town Hall Entrance: Re-enactment Camps

- 11:30 am Music - Thunder Muggs (Scottish and Re-enactor Camp Tunes)
- 12:00 pm Music - John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums
- All Day Roving Fiddler, Richard Tichich
- All Day Reenactment Camp: The Breacan Clann

Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub

- 12:30 pm Music - Rainbow's End (Celtic Music by Dave, Maria and Katharine)
- 1:30 pm Music - John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

Outdoor 76: Rock House Lodge

- 11:00 am Lecture - Charlie Rhodarmer: 18th Century Highland Dress
- 11:45 am Lecture - Freeman Owle: Cherokee Storyteller
- 12:30 pm Lecture - Mary Polanski and Marty Greeble: The Women's History Trail - Stories of Rebecca Na-Ha, Salley, and Timoxena, written by Barbara McRae
Monologue: "Salley - The Sexton's Tale" performed by Stan Polanski

Kitchen Sink, Inc. on Main

- 12:00 pm Shortbread Contest with Big First & Second Place Prizes and Free Samples

Call (828)524-2956 with any questions or to register by Friday, June 18 at 5pm. Between 10am-11am, please bring your entry on a disposable tray with your name & phone number attached to The Kitchen Sink. If you are willing to share your recipe, please bring a copy for us to post on Facebook. Free samples available after contest judging. *All kinds of Scottish Shortbreads are welcome.*

Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration is a Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center Event. Great shopping and exhibits available throughout the day at The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, 86 East Main Street, Franklin, NC (828) 524-7472 www.scottishtartansmuseum.org

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Possible widening of Hwy. 28 has some citizens concerned

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The proposed and not-yet 100% approved 2021 Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (MCCTP) includes a need/recommendation that elicited concerns from some citizens. A few pages in the extensive every-decade-or-so report includes an “Identified Need” and “Recommendation” to modernize and improve Hwy. 28, also known as the Bryson City Road.

Word spread of what citizens assumed would be an imminent and massive road construction project along the bucolic two-lane roadway that connects Franklin to Bryson City, and Rose Bauguess, Rural Planning Organization director for the Southwestern Commission, began fielding calls and emails.

“NC 28 was one of many proposals recommended in the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan,” said Bauguess. “The plan identifies potential transportation needs in the county through the year 2045. These plans are typically updated every 10 years or so to reflect the most recent data and changing conditions. It is important to understand that none of the proposals in the plan have been funded, so these are not imminent projects. If a proposal is prioritized and added to the State Transportation Improvement Program, it becomes a funded project with a schedule. At that time, studies would begin and public meetings on the project would be held. There really is no timeline for NC 28 because it is not a project yet, and has not been prioritized for funding.”

However, citizens began weighing in when MCCTP was published in April. Wrote one person concerned that the beauty of the route would be disturbed: “I think that the plan to widen Highway 28 would hurt more than it would help. ... The recreational and heritage tourism that has been and continues to be built



The 2021 Macon County Comprehensive Transportation plan includes a proposal to modernize and improve Highway 28, also known as Bryson City Road. While not yet a project, the idea has some citizens worried about disturbing the flora and fauna along with affecting recreational and heritage tourism.

here is very important to the prosperity of our county. And, the wildlife and native flora and fauna must be considered. ...”

Bauguess said she “understands completely” any worries over changes to the highway, and she has been spending time helping citizens understand the process. The proposed recommendation in the MCCTP states: “Construct 11-foot lanes, 5-foot paved shoulders, and add a park-and-ride lot near the intersection at Sanderstown Road (SR 1335). Improve the Y intersection at Cowee Creek Road (SR 1340).”

Before anything is even considered regarding improvements to roadways, much data must be collected.

“We look at population projections, crash rates, etc.,” said Bauguess. “We review all the

data and conduct an extensive public survey. We look at perceived needs through 2025. We make some assumptions just to plan ahead so we won’t be blindsided. And then we consider plans and proposals again in about 10 years. Because the lanes are narrow and because there is limited shoulder on which to walk or bike, this is a topic that has been brought up in the past.”

But Bauguess assuaged citizens’ concerns by pointing out: “It’s not a project coming up. It hasn’t been prioritized. It’s not a top need or on the short list for discussion. And, it’s not funded. In fact, there are a lot of other needs in the county that are considered a high priority. In the report are 19 roadway projects, three public transportation projects, and 22 pedestrian/bicycle-type projects, such as multi-use

paths, greenway, etc., so NC 28 is just one of many.”

Bauguess emphasized that there is no proposal to add lanes to NC 28 and turn it into a major high-speed highway. If and when improvements become a topic of focus, she said the process of the project getting to the point of fruition is an arduous one. Surveys are conducted, public input is encouraged, and funding must be allocated.

Currently the MCCTP Steering Committee is made up of “a diverse cross-section of individuals with interests in the environmental, health, education, business, the economy, as well as planning,” said Bauguess. For example, Ben Laseter, of Mainspring Conservation Trust, Cory McCall of Outdoor 71, and Todd Gibbs, of Macon County Schools are a few names on the committee that are not directly involved – as a career – in infrastructure planning. “We all live here, so we want areas to stay beautiful as well, but it’s about a balance of improvements without too much impact.”

She said another reason NC 28 has been on past and present planning radars is consideration of “the overall resiliency of transportation networks. NC 28 is a connection to adjacent counties. So we have to consider alternative routes, if there is a slide or something that happens. If there was ever a catastrophic event, roads like NC 28 become important because it’s a connector.”

Bauguess acknowledged that a main draw to Macon County is its beauty as well as its historical significance. One of her roles is to help the general public better understand documents like the MCCTP, which is available to the public.

“We don’t want change, but if it happens, we want to be prepared for it. And we don’t want to damage the environment because that’s why people want to be here. Plans [like MCCTP] are mainly to look ahead.”

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Environmental review process finds no significant impact regarding Corridor K

A major milestone has been reached in the planning phase of a project to improve Corridor K in Graham County.

NCDOT and Federal Highway Administration officials recently signed documentation that determines that proposed improvements to U.S. 129, N.C. 143 and N.C. 28 between Robbinsville and Stecoah will have no significant impact on the human or natural environment.

The signing of the Finding Of No Significant Impact, or FONSI, document completes the environmental review process for project. Engineers will soon begin detailed design of the project, and rights-of-way acquisition will likely begin later this year with construction scheduled to start in the fall of 2022.

“This historic milestone is the result of the numerous coordination efforts of the team, with not only NCDOT’s normal local and agency partners, but efforts to understand the concerns of environmental advocacy groups, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Tribal

partners and many others.”

The FONSI document is based on the environmental assessment as well as other documentation from public, environmental resource agencies, and environmental advocacy groups. Additional documents are available on the Corridor K website.

This project will improve mobility and reliability between U.S. 129 in Robbinsville and the existing four-lane section of N.C. 28 at Stecoah. The typical roadway section includes one lane in each direction plus alternating climbing and passing lanes with an eight-foot shoulder. It also makes conditions safer for pedestrians in Robbinsville, as well as hikers along the Appalachian Trail. The project also includes a land-bridge for animals to safely cross the busy highway.

Corridor K extends from I-75 in Cleveland, Tenn., to Dillsboro in Jackson County. It is part of the Appalachian Development Highway System, which Congress established in 1965. It is the last of the ADHS corridors to be completed.



An artist's rendering of a land-bridge over N.C. 143.



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Local artist bringing a bit of color to downtown Franklin

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The walls and alleys in Franklin are getting a facelift with the help of local business owner, Matt Taylor. Taylor, who owns the Dusty Pallet on Main Street in Franklin has been teaming up with local businesses to bring a unique and colorful touch to the area.

“I am so honored that businesses like The Art Room trust me to create something beautiful not only for their business but also for the community to enjoy,” said Taylor as he started painting the skyline for a mural that should be completed this week in the alley between The Art Room and Wells Fargo Bank.

Taylor has added his creative vision to the sides of several businesses in town including beautifully colored butterflies on the Rusted Arrow and a whimsical dandelion design for Spa Siobhan. His latest art piece in the alley will feature black bears in front of a picturesque mountain scene.

“The folks at The Art Room told me that they wanted mountains and bears and have trusted me to really just run with it,” Taylor said. “I wanted to incorporate black bears and some cubs and hope to see people stop and have their picture taken here. It is something unique that just makes Franklin a little more special.”

Taylor essentially donated his time and talents for The Art Room mural, just having the business supply the paint. As a business owner on Main Street, Taylor said that the opportunity to contribute to the uniqueness



Photos by Vickie Carpenter

Matt Taylor, local artist and owner of The Dusty Pallet on Main Street, begins work on a mountain scene mural for The Art Room.

of Franklin is extra special and something he is personally invested in.

“I am really hoping to have this mural finished by this weekend in time for the Scottish Tartans Festival that will be held downtown,” said Taylor. “As long as the weather allows, I think we will be able to do it.”

“I like being able to create things that spark joy and can bring a smile to people,” said Taylor. “I love seeing people pose for pic-

tures in front of the paintings I complete and really hope that more opportunities will arise to paint different scenes around town.”

Taylor was the artist behind the holiday mountain scene that was erected at the Gazebo last Fall. The sunset mountainscape labeled “Franklin, North Carolina” was a priority stop for town visitors and locals alike. Taylor said he has already started brainstorming something special for this year, if the opportunity presents itself.

“I really hope to be able to do another painting this year, assuming the new town manager is agreeable,” he said. “I have lots of ideas that I think would be great.”

Bringing color to the streets of a town isn’t something new for Taylor — he said he has been commissioned to paint murals ranging in size and purpose, with the most memorable piece coming shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attack when he was asked to paint the scene from ground zero on a fire station wall.

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‘Where We Live’ series to feature history of forest service acquisitions

The lecture series, “Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture” has resumed. The next program will be Monday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, and will continue the third Monday of each month thereafter.

Brent Martin will present the program – “My Daddy sold all that land to the government for a dollar an acre!: A History of Forest Service Acquisitions in the Cowee Mountains.”

Martin’s lecture covers the history of Forest Service land acquisitions in the early 20th century on the Cowee Mountain Range. Many local landowners willingly sold their land to the government at rock bottom prices during the depression of the 1930s, and many large out of state interests did as well. Most of this land was al-

ready cutover or grazed, but some was still relatively wild. Learn how this process unfolded and how the Cowee Mountains became part of the National Forest System.

Martin is the executive director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy and co-owner of an eco-tourism business. His most recent publication, “The Changing Blue Ridge Mountains: Essays on Journeys Past and Present” was published by History Press in 2019. He lives in Cowee valley with his wife, Angela Faye.

The program will last approximately one hour. It will be held at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center in Franklin, at 51 Cowee School Rd. Masks are required for those who are not fully vaccinated.

Next up, on July 19, is The Archaeology of Watauga Town by Dr. Ben Steere.



Brent Martin

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Shuler's offers variety of materials

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony with Shuler's Mulch Inc. located at 1465 Bryson City Rd. Franklin, right behind the Village Trader.

Shuler's Mulch is a family owned and operated business that prides themselves on offering the community with top quality products. Austin, Shannon, and their son Stetson Shuler purchased the business in January 2021. With a new location and a larger variety of products, Shuler's Mulch is ready to help with all your landscaping needs.

The business offers a wide variety of premium grade mulch, rock, topsoil, gravel, firewood, stump dump



Shuler's Mulch Inc. offers a variety of landscaping products including mulch, rock, topsoil and gravel as well as firewood, stump dump recycling and delivery services. For more information, call (828)369-0731.

recycling, and delivery services. Check out Shuler's Mulch Facebook page or call at (828)369-0731 for more information.

Rose Creek Campground has new owners

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony with the new owners of Rose Creek Campground & Cabins to celebrate the opening of the 2021 season at 140 Terrace Ridge Drive in Franklin.

Jesse and Shelby Harrison are excited to open their very first season as owners of the park.

"We have made some additions and renovations to the campground and love welcoming folks to stay with us," said Jesse Harrison.

Full hook-up RV sites are available for campers up to 43ft with 30 and 50 amp service with both pull-through and back-in, shaded sites. Pop-up and tent sites include

primitive or water with electricity. There are cabins and RV rentals, as well as, coming in July, two covered wagon rentals. A new dog park has been added to the property and the swimming pool has been converted to salt and is now open. The bath house has been remodeled and a picnic pavilion has been added. Live music will also be featured on select weekends for campers. Campposts are always on site to help in anyway they can. These are just a few of the amenities awaiting you at Rose Creek Campground.

Booking is easy online at www.RoseCreekCamping.com under the reservation tab. Check out their facebook and Instagram pages at RoseCreekCCFranklin.



Rose Creek Campground & Cabins is located five miles north of Franklin on 140 Terrace Ridge Road off Rose Creek Road. Visit www.RoseCreekCamping.com for more information.

Foundation invests more than \$204,000 in 27 WNC nonprofits

Nantahala Health Foundation has announced its intent to invest more than \$204,000 in Western North Carolina nonprofits and public service organizations working to improve health and wellness outcomes for all. Needs Immediately Met (NIMble) grants have been approved for 27 organizations in support of essential organizational needs and/or health and wellness programs.

Organizations awarded NIMble grants are working to improve the health and well-being of individuals in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Jackson and Macon counties, as well as on the Qualla Boundary. Additionally, NIMble grant funds support programs designed to address NHF's funding priorities, which include access to healthcare and general wellness opportunities, formal and informal education initiatives, economic stability, and community and organizational capacity building. Within these priority categories are many of the social determinants of health known to impact up to 80 percent of an individual's health over a lifetime.

"An ever-growing body of research has proven that where and how a person lives, learns, works and plays far exceeds cumulative clinical visits when it comes to determining health outcomes," said David Garrett, NHF's board chair. "Addressing these social determinants is the primary reason Nantahala Health

Foundation has chosen to work with organizations to specifically identify and support upstream methods of improving wellness for all in Western North Carolina."

NIMble grant investments totaling \$204,222 have been awarded to organizations in three categories, Health and Healthcare, Economic Security and Education. Recipients in Macon and Jackson counties are listed.

Health and Health care

- **AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center, Sylva** – To support the purchase of their current facility, thus providing the agency with a permanent operational headquarters.

- **Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project, Cashiers** – To enhance their organization's technological capacity to better serve free dental clinic patients.

- **Full Spectrum Farms, Cullowhee** – To create an art studio and educational space that will allow the organization's growing list of clients to be served in a safe indoor setting.

- **Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Franklin** – To purchase appliances necessary to the operation of the nonprofit's facility, scheduled to open later in 2021.

- **North Carolina Bartram Trail Society, Franklin** – To repair trail maintenance equipment and ensure their secure storage, thus ensuring safe equipment is available to

volunteers during scheduled workdays and further ensuring trail users experience a safer, more enjoyable outdoor activity.

- **Rotary Club of Franklin-Daybreak, Franklin** – To support the repair of a Little Tennessee Greenway pavilion, thus providing the public an additional outdoor meeting space within Macon County.

Economic Security

- **God's Way Fellowship, Balsam Grove** – To increase food security for at-risk residents of Jackson County.

- **Macon Program for Progress, Franklin** – To decrease financial hardships for Macon County's most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled, and veterans of America's armed forces, thus ensuring their basic, day-to-day needs are met.

- **Mountain Projects, Waynesville** – To decrease financial hardships for Jackson County's most vulnerable populations, including the elderly and disabled, and low-income workers, thus ensuring their basic, day-to-day needs are met.

- **Rolling Start NC, Sylva** – To repair at least six donated vehicles, which can then be gifted to individuals in need of safe, reliable transportation.

Education

- **Heart for Families, Franklin** – To purchase

materials and support facilitator stipends as required to offer the Love and Logic program, thus providing parenting classes designed to improve childhood and family experiences.

- **Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, Franklin** – To provide Earn While You Learn program availability online and in Spanish via DVDs, thus eliminating a variety of barriers their clients have faced when attempting to access this educational resource.

- **Southwestern Community College, Sylva** – To purchase a chemistry analyzer, thus ensuring health science students have access to this educational tool in support of their chosen field of study and to support the outcomes of community clinics offered to the public.

Included in the total NIMble grant investments, \$112,104 (or 55 percent) has been allocated to grow organizational capacity-building efforts, while \$146,122 (or 72 percent) will address organizational needs related to overcoming the impacts of COVID-19.

NHF's 2021 NIMble grant cycle, during which grants were capped at \$10,000 each, marks the organization's fourth completed grant cycle and a collective community investment to date of nearly \$2.4 million in support of addressing social determinants of health.

For more information, visit nantahalahealthfoundation.org or connect on Facebook and Instagram.

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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House held no-vote sessions on Monday, May 31, (Memorial Day), and Tuesday, June 1. Various committee meetings were held throughout the week as the House prepares to put forth its version of the state budget. On Wednesday, I attended the Appropriations, Education Committee where we held discussions pertaining to state education funding.

Wednesday's session convened and we considered various bills, including:

- SB248, Additional Info. on Health Ins. Cards, which would require health insurers to note on their insurance cards whether the plan is fully insured or self-funded. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 104-3.

- SB255, 2021 AOC Legislative Changes, would make various changes and technical and conforming corrections to the laws governing the administration of justice as requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). I supported the bill and it passed by a vote of 103-3.

- SB586, Study Lipedema, would require the Legislative Research Commission to study medical issues surrounding lipedema and to report findings and any proposed legislation to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly. The bill passed unanimously, 107-0.

On Thursday, the House reconvened to vote on the following proposed legislation:

- SB43, Protect Religious Meeting Places, would authorize carrying a handgun in a place of religious worship that is also educational property under certain conditions, such as the handgun is only possessed and carried on the property outside of the school operating hours. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 70-38.

- SB116, Putting North Carolina Back to Work Act, would:

- Withdraw from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC) agreement that provides an additional \$300 per week to unemployment insurance claimants through Sept. 6, 2021.

- Allow individual and corporate taxpayers, for the 2020 and 2021 tax years only, an income tax deduction for expenses paid using a loan forgiven under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

- Exclude \$10,200 of unemployment insurance benefits received in 2020 from State taxable income for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income below \$150,000.

I voted in favor of the bill and it passed by a vote of 71-36.

– HB654, Statewide Contracts/Nonprofits for the Blind, would require State departments, agencies and political subdivisions to purchase goods and services under contracts established between the Department of Administration and nonprofit work centers for the blind and severely disabled under certain circumstances, and appropriate thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 106-2.

The House held a no-vote session on Monday, June 7. On Tuesday, numerous House Appropriations subcommittees met to continue discussions on the budget. I attended the Appropriations, Education Committee where we received presentations from the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, as well as from the UNC System of schools. The President and Chief Financial Officer from the respective entities provided presentations on the budget priorities they would like the legislature to consider.

Tuesday's House session consisted of votes on one bill, HB85. House Bill 85 is a local bill pertaining to the Cleveland County Board of Education vacancies. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 104-3.

On Tuesday, the House and Senate announced an agreement on the state budget spending total. General Fund spending for the fiscal year 2021-22 will not exceed \$25.7 billion, a 3.45% increase in spending. The fiscal year 2022-23 expenditures will increase by 3.65%, to not exceed \$26.7 billion. Exactly how the money is to be spent will be determined over the coming weeks.

Wednesday's schedule included numerous committee meetings, of which I attended the Appropriations Committee and the Agriculture Committee. For Wednesday's session, the House considered various bills, including:

- SB50, Estate Planning Law Changes, would make various changes to the General Statutes regarding estates and trusts. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 76-32.

- HB84, Sex Offender Premises Restrictions, would extend premises restrictions to certain additional sex offenders. The Senate made various changes from the original version of this bill, and the House voted 106-1 (I voted in the majority), not to concur with the Senate changes. A conference committee of various legislators will now meet to attempt to strike a compromise between the two legislative chambers.

- HB743, Remove ID Mark/Increase Punishment, would make the alteration or destruction of an identifying number from personal property or certain machinery a Class H felony if the value of the item was greater than \$1,000. The bill passed unanimously, 108-0.

No votes were held during Thursday's House session.

Booze It and Lose It in Hayesville

I met with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission officers in Hayesville, along with local law enforcement, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement, MADD NC, and other agencies to promote sober boating and driving.

Letters to the Editor

Seeking answers to Republican questions

Why do Republicans criticize everything Democrats do as cancel culture when they seek to cancel the retelling of actual well documented historical facts regarding the history of race in the U.S.?

Why do Republicans deny the violent and brutal storming of the Capital on Jan 6 in which five people died and over a 100 law officers were seriously injured defending the our Capital when they profess be so pro law enforcement, and the rule of law?

Why do Republicans legislatures seek to pass hundreds laws that restrict voting in order to guard against fraud, when there was no actual provable documented proof of fraud in the 2020 presidential election?

Why do Republicans seek to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election because of alleged fraud only in states that Trump lost, when the voting practices were similar in the states he won?

Why do Republicans claim to make the economy work better for the working class when they pass tax cuts for the most wealthy, without any proof that the extra money to the rich has ever to the trickled down to us?

Why do Republicans claim that the Trump created the best economy when The Obama administration pulled us out of the worst recession since the great depression and created many more jobs than Trump ever did? Clinton, Carter and Regan all created many more jobs than Trump, who has the worst jobs record since Herbert Hoover.

Why do so many Republicans refuse to get vaccinated against Covid when the deaths and serious sickness from covid are now virtually all in people who chose not to get vaccinated?

Why do Republicans claim to be for religious freedom when they promote Christian values to the exclusion of any other religious faith?

Why do Republicans claim to believe in family values and Christian morals when they idolize and vote for a man who has cheated on his wives and brags about grabbing women by their privates and has a proven record of cheating on his taxes and indulges in corrupt business practices?

I don't know why. Do you?

Louis Vitale – Franklin, N.C.

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Skate park seems like much-needed outlet

I was happy to read that two gentlemen from JE Dunn builders have stepped forward with offers to start a fundraising drive, obtain building supplies, and recruit volunteers for a permanent skateboarding park here in Franklin. I have been enthused about this project ever since young Mr. Lampkin addressed our last meeting of the Holly Springs community. Not only was he an impressive young man personally, but his push for this recreational opportunity seemed like a much-needed outlet for all the skateboarders in town who are looking for a place to use their boards legally.

I hope the Town will approve the skateboarding park and the offer of the employees of JE Dunn to spearhead the development and construction of this project.

Barbara Bonsack – Franklin, N.C.

Trump continues to promote violent overthrow

It's time to open our eyes and ears as to what is unthinkable, Trump and his friend Michael Flynn, are having thoughts of a coup in this country. I think its time to place Trump in a padded cell. as he is getting dangerous. He has been so full of hatred, full of hate and greedy ways. He continues to promote a violent over throw of the government as we seen on Jan. 6 a coup is when the military takes over. Can you imagine that happening in this country we once had. We were No. 1 in the world until 4 years ago. I cannot imagine a country like the United States liveing under Communism a system of a social organization based on all the holding or belonging of all property in common actual ownership of a community as a whole, to the state. All economic activity is conducted by state dominated by a single and self perpetuating political party. You will belong to them. I just can't imagine setting back and letting that happen. A country that has always been looked up to, for our freedom of democracy. Are you willing to live under another Hitler or Putin, like the soviet union who Trump as always said he admires. I can not imagine any one willing to raise their children. under such conditions. It seems to be what we could be headed for if we just set back and let it happen. Americans used to stand up and fight for our democracy guess they must all be out there in a military cemetery someplace.

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor**



Patrick Taylor

The Highlands real estate market is super hot. With that bull market comes the push to build, build without delay. Everyone has to have their project done now, without delay on a nonstop basis. Therein lies the problem.

The Highlands Community Plan has revealed that most of us view the town as a small village community, a respite of sorts from the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan areas. Folks want to get away from all the city noise, traffic and construction. People come here, especially on the weekends, to have a modicum of peace and quiet.

But these days they too often encounter contractors and landscaper working crews all times of the day and well into evenings, and even on weekends. Uh, the escape from big city noise and clatter may not be as evident as it was in the past. I am getting more and more complaints.

A town ordinance states that construction work can only be done Monday through Friday starting at 7:30 a.m. and going to 6 p.m. Residents hearing construction activity before or after these times can call the non-emergency county dispatcher number at (828) 526-4131. A Highlands police officer will investigate. The same procedure can be followed for weekend violations. Commercial work is not allowed on weekends. If a special permit has been obtained, work can be done on Saturday. Those permits are normally issued for public works projects, such as utility installations, where time is of the essence.

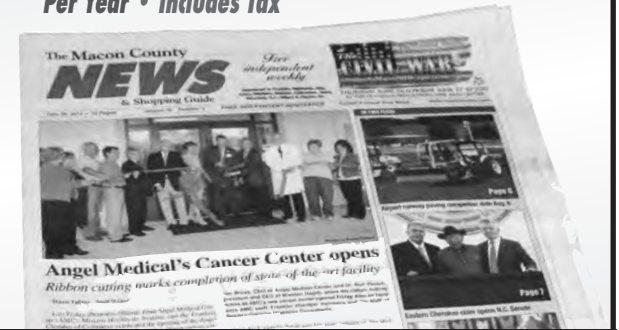
Violations are complaint driven and guided by good judgement. For instance, the police would not stop a commercial paint crew from working inside a building on a Saturday where no noise is being generated. A resident personally mowing his or her lawn on a Saturday afternoon is not a part of the ordinance. Also, judgement concerning noise level per the town noise ordinance is also applied in most cases.

I encourage everyone to visit the town website and review the community plan. The first rollout of the plan took place yesterday. A zoom public meeting concerning the plan is scheduled for 6 p.m. on July 1. An ongoing review of the Highlands Community Plan will continue in the coming weeks before a final draft is adopted by the town board.

The June meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners is tonight [Thursday] at 7 p.m., at the Highlands Conference Center. The first item on the agenda will be a public hearing for the town budget for FY 2021-22. Another hearing will be for proposed amendments to the UDO [Unified Development Ordinance] for NCGS 160D Compliance. Specifically, we will be changing several labels on the town zoning map to comply with state wording. We are not changing any zones or other items on the map. These changes are editorial adjustments only.

Also on the agenda is a request for parking improvements by Mountain Findings. The board will also revisit the credit card fee waiver for paying utility bills. This item was reviewed at the last meeting, and staff will be providing further information before a final decision is made.

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Rescued fawns get second chances with licensed rehabilitators

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

"Life is all about perspective."

– Bambi, 1942

Like Walt Disney's fictional Bambi, fawns by the hundreds lose their mothers annually for various reasons, primarily cars, predators, and disease. Yet, two women in Macon County are licensed to rehabilitate orphaned fawns so they have at least a chance at survival. Although only about 50% do survive rehabilitation in a human-run environment, both Cindy Meier and Colleen Behan believe those odds are worth the effort.

Meier has been rehabilitating fawns in Macon County and surrounding counties for 13 years, while Behan, who mentored under Meier, is in her fourth year as a rehabilitator. Annually, the two women spend countless hours and funds, realizing that the deer they raise may eventually become injured, die, or get harvested. However, as Behan pointed out, every creature – if born – deserves a chance at survival.

Behan, who lives on six acres with her husband, Willy, rehabilitated 34 deer in 2020 at the cost of around \$5,000. At least half "made it" to be released into the wild of their property, which includes woods, fields planted with deer-attracting native plants, and a small pond.

"After we release them, they stick around somewhat for about a year, but they usually join wild herds and either leave completely or only come around occasionally."

Behan, retired from the military, said she "always wanted to rehabilitate deer." She inquired with the forestry service and was given Meier's name.

"I visited her and we became instant friends. I came home and told my husband, 'We have to do it,' so we built a barn, went through the application process, were inspected by the wildlife officer and biologist, got our licenses, and began taking in fawns. At first I thought we would have one or two a year." She laughs. "No way. We have at least 20-plus a year."

Meier acquired a passion for fawn rehabilitation when her husband, who passed in 2020, found a piebald fawn.

"Look what I found," she remembers him coming home and



Colleen Behan has been rehabilitating fawns for 3 years while Cindy Meier has been doing it for 13 years.

saying. "We put it in the barn and some of our neighbors thought it was a goat. But then we found out it was illegal to keep a deer without a license. The wildlife officer told us rehabilitators were needed, so we went through the process to become licensed and have been doing it ever since."

Behan also had a rare piebald deer. Unlike the albino deer, which has pink eyes, a pink nose, and pinkish hooves, piebald deer have normal brown eyes and nose with black hooves like a normal whitetail. However, their coloration is due to a rare inherited genetic defect that affects less than 1% of the white-tailed

deer population – and is the result of a male and female deer both having a specific recessive gene. Yet, most piebalds display one or a combination of such conditions as short legs, an arching spine, and internal organ deformities. Thus, they are not able to be released into the wild. Meier's piebald eventually left their property, while Behan's stayed on their property and lived to 9 months old.

"We don't get too upset when a fawn dies," said Behan, "because it's the natural cycle of things. It is sad, but we do what we can and that's all we can do. It's just not always successful."

Both Meier and Behan work with area veterinarians, who provide some discounted services. Vets Brittany Biel and Jessica Scruggs are "super," they agreed.

When fawns are delivered, via a wildlife officer, to their homes, they stay in a confined area for observation and to treat them for injuries, sickness, and pest infestations, such as fleas or ticks, as well as fly eggs, which eventually become maggots. Then they are taken to a barn area where they can move around and be bottle-fed, and eventually the barn door is opened to a lush play area mirroring the habitat in which they will eventually be released. After four to seven months, when a fawn is ready to be released into the wild, the two women first spend time letting them out of the fenced enclosure for segments of time, and then gates are left open so they can go in and out of the barn area. Eventually, the young deer leave altogether.

"After they are off the bottle, we make sure they have plenty of different native plants to eat so they are not always seeking food like hay or grain," said Behan.



A piebald deer is a result of a rare genetic disorder and has a short lifespan due to birth defects. Colleen's piebald, Todd, lived 9 months.



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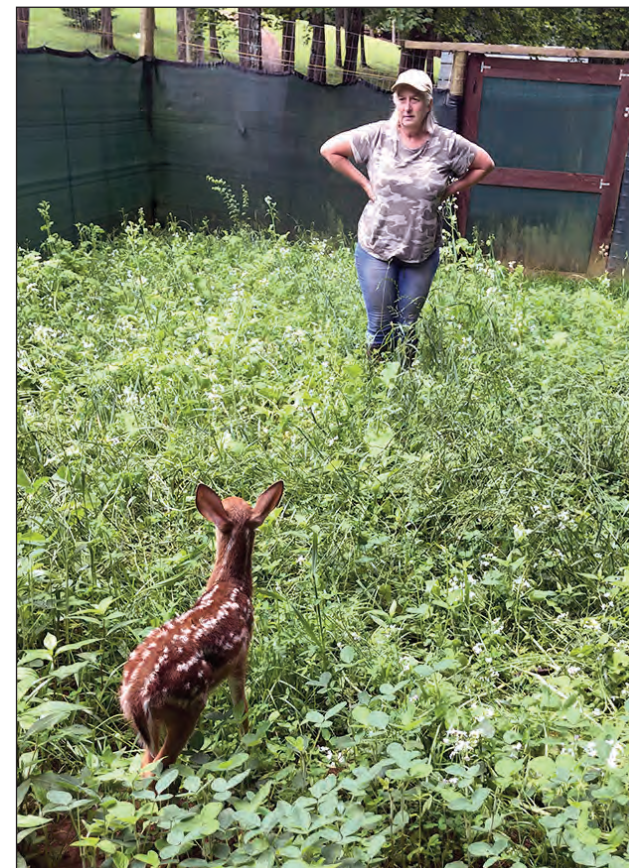
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Colleen Behan allows fawns to follow her as their "mother," but she stifles the urge to pet them or pick them up often so that they maintain their wild instincts



Colleen Behan recently began rehabilitating a one-week- and a two-week-old fawn, both males: Stuey and Marky Mark. All the fawns are named and she is able to tell them apart. Marky Mark (above) was raised for two weeks in a home before wildlife officers informed the unlicensed rehabilitators that it was illegal to keep the wild animal at their house.

“We put so much time into it,” said Meier. “You have to be dedicated to do this. But it’s worth it to know you helped them, and to just enjoy being around them.”

“Our lives, from spring to fall, center on the fawns’ eating and rehabilitation schedules,” said Behan.

Very young fawns must be fed at least five feedings a day – special formula in a bottle – from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. As they begin to eat more grain and native plants, the feedings are reduced gradually over several months.

Both women, in fact, would like to see more people become licensed in the area so that more people are rehabilitating fewer fawns, instead of a few people maintaining the bulk of the load. However, Meier and Behan also warn people who try to skirt the law and attempt to raise a fawn – or any wild animal – without proper training and licensing.

“You cannot take the wild out of deer, or other animals for that matter,” said Behan. “I have known people to try to raise a fawn in their home and allow it to sleep in their bed and hang out with the family dogs, and then when it gets older, it is going to exhibit its instincts. They are cute when little, but can be dangerous when adults.”

She noted such examples as during rutting season when a male might want to spar or rear up.

“Males especially can get aggressive, and it doesn’t matter if they were pets or not.”

Plus, the two women cautioned that treating a fawn like a pet means they will not survive in the wild.

Rehabilitators do not allow family dogs to come in contact with fawns or too much picking up and petting by strangers. Meier explained that wild deer need to maintain a healthy fear of humans and predators so that they can survive in the wild.

The Behans maintain several cameras on their property, and put out hay and corn – mostly during winter months – so they are able to identify some of the deer, due to particular markings, that they rehabilitated.

Annually, local fawn rehabilitators host a yard sale to raise money for food and medicine. For more information regarding how to assist financially with wildlife rehabilitation efforts, contact Behan at colleenbehan2013@gmail.com. People can also donate Tractor Supply gift cards since much of the fawn’s food, and other supplies are purchased there.

To become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, visit www.ncwildlife.org.

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All the staff at Gillette Law thanks you for your business and support. We have enjoyed serving our clients and our community, and hope to continue serving the community in different ways in coming years.

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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 31 - June 13. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 6

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

June 7

Jeremy Lewis Horner, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Austin Henry Posey, was charged with injury to personal property, injury to real property, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

June 8

Michael J. Crews, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

June 9

Pete Edward Ives, was charged with assault on a female. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Ronnie Queen, was charged with failure to appear, probation violation. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Nathan Shane Humphries, was charged with simple assault. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with being a habitual felon. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

June 10

Andrew Hesselbirg, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, identity theft, possession of stolen goods/property, obtaining property by false pretenses.

Ian Alexander Neal, was charged with communicating threats. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Hannah Eve Morrow, was charged with flee/elude arrest, no operators license. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Dustin Ty Daves, was charged with felony larceny, injury to personal property, possession of stolen goods. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Monica Huscusson, was charged with school attendance law violation. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Timothy Allen Wells, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

June 11

Matthew Paul Leonard, was charged with child support enforcement contempt, domestic criminal trespass. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Patrick Ellis Creighton, was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

June 13

Tyson Brooks Stager, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 5

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

June 6

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

June 8

Callee Suzanne Bowman, 32, was issued an order for arrest. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

Dennis Paul Kramber, 43, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Officer Hovis made the arrest.

Robert David Burch, 45, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set. Officer Chastain made the arrest.

June 10

Marshal Payne Balding, 20, was charged with breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Detective Foster made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

May 31

Krista Brooks Oxendine, 49, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for a probation violation. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Sonia Margarita Reyes, 24, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Steven Ray Dotson, 37, of Big Creek, was charged with failure to appear for fictitious/alterd title/registration card/tag, deliver/accept blank/open title, operate vehicle with no insurance, driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Kashayla Brooke Lossiah, 31, of Wrights Creek, Cherokee, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, possession of stolen motor vehicle. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Matthew Douglas Rowe, 33, of Pumpkin Town Rd., was charged with possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

June 1

Kristin Lee Devecki, 37, of Allen St., was issued an order for arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession

of heroin, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$51,000 was set.

Luis Angel Mejia-Garcia, 25, of Littlerock Circle, was issued an order for arrest for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Brian Thomas Koontz, 37, of Tanasee Gap Rd., Balsam Grove, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Thomas Frank Scott, 41, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with possession of ginseng in violation of general statutes, dig ginseng on property of another without permission. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Aaron Levi Owle, 25, of Wolf Town Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of counterfeit instrument/currency/check. A secured bond of \$5,000 bond was set.

June 2

Dylan Keith Wahnetah, 35, of Tom McCoy Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of LSD, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor probation violation for out of county. No bond was set.

Hunter Lee Sanders, 26, of Stony Brook Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking opium or heroin by transport, trafficking opium or heroin by possession. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Greta Lynn Pheasant, 42, of Enoch Oocumma Rd., Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for possession of methamphetamine/drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Amanda Angienete Pearl Buchanan, 25, of Gene Crowe Dr., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, felony possession of marijuana, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Richard Andrew Gilliland, 26, of Mockingbird Lane, was charged with simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Alyxzandrya Kaylenn Bell, 26, of Bell St., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

June 3

Kevin Ray Nations, of Mini Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation out of county. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

June 5

Amber June Franks, 21, was charged with all other offenses. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

George Sims, 44, of Log Cabin Rd., Waynesville, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

James Tanner Barron, 23, of Grogan Rd., Woodruff, S.C., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking heroin or opioid. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Matthew Howard Phillips, 37, of Buckberry Dr., Sapphire, was charged with misuse of 911. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Traci Lynn Mathis, 42, of Thomas Valley Rd., Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

June 6

Amanda Angienete Pearl Buchanan, 25, of Gene Crowe Dr., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be open Thursday, June 17, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Charles Bunion in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park on Saturday, June 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, details and reservations, call leader Robert Barnable (828)369-1565.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Chinquapin Mountain Near Highlands on Saturday, June 19, 9:30 am. to 4:30 pm. For more information, details and reservations, call leader Robin Lurie (954)632-7270.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Wayah Loop on Sunday, June 20, 2 p.m. Very rocky downhill from the tower. For more information, details and reservations, call leader Gail Lehman (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club Super Moon Hike to Siler Bald will be held on Thursday, June 24, 6 p.m. For more information, details and reservations, call leader Katherine Brown (828)421-4178.

Holly Springs Community Development Club will meet on Monday, June 21, 6 p.m., at the community building at 2720 Cat Creek Rd. Plan to come and bring a friend and your favorite breakfast dish since the menu is breakfast for dinner.

Slow Spokes will take an easy ride on the Greenway on Tuesday, June 29. Meet at the FROGS Shop at 6 p.m., ride begins at 6:15 p.m. This is an easy ride for enjoyment and meeting new friends. Ride about 1 to 1.5 miles, returning to the parking lot. For more information, text "Spokes" to (828)371-4925.

Macon County Art Association Encaustic Painting Classes will be held on Fridays, July 9 and 23, Aug. 3 and 27, Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery 30 E Main St., Franklin. For more information, contact Karen Smith, at karen@programs-services.org

Truth Seekers meet every second and fourth Friday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Macon County library meeting room to have a short video or other presentation by a member followed by lively discussion and Bible reading. For more information, contact jjurban55@gmail.com.

Macon County Art Association Veteran's Portrait Project will be held this year. Spots are open for four to seven veterans as applications remained from 2019. Macon County veterans or their family members can apply to have the veteran's portrait painted by a local artist at the gallery between Memorial Day and July 4. There is no cost to apply or for the portraits. The only requirement is that the veteran or their family member be present to receive the portrait on Veterans Day. Community members who wish to help support the costs for this program are also welcome. For more information, email at karen@programs-services.org.

Gem & Mineral Museum, located in the Old Jail on Phillips Street in downtown Franklin is now open Friday and Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m., featuring gems and artifacts from North Carolina as well as all over the world.

Friends of the Rickman Store are looking for volunteers to be greeters and assist in Saturday activities. No amount of time is too small. The store is open Saturdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call Connie Reynolds (828)524-0359.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin. Online meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

Historic T M Rickman Store is now open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Located at 259 Cowee Creek Road in the historic West - Mill District. Music Jams begin at noon.

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

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

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

Macon County Public Health is currently vaccinating those eligible in all groups. Individuals that want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, may call (828)349-2081 to register and schedule an appointment. The Call Center is open Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20, 11 a.m. Bill Groves will share on "Knowing the Divine Masculine." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

First Alliance Church is holding Sunday services June 20 at 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School (all ages) at 9:30 am. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will continue his message as part of a series on Genesis. Special music will be presented by Sacred Sounds. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

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

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

Prentiss Church of God is celebrating a Camo Father's Day by inviting everyone to wear camouflage to its Sunday morning worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m. 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.

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

All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin Services are held Rite I, 8 a.m. without music and Rite II, 10:15 a.m. with music, every Sunday. First and third Sundays at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St. and second and fourth Sundays at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd. Sunday 10:15 a.m. services can be viewed live on the website: www.allsaintsfranklin.org and past Sundays can be viewed on YouTube by searching "All Saints Franklin" to find our YouTube page.

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets at 9:30 a.m., on Sundays for in-person worship or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church. Note that COVID-19 health protocols are followed for in-person worship. Plan to arrive early for check in; masks are required. 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 visit www.firstumcfranklin.org.

Email calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

W	M	S	E	L	E	N	A	N
E	D	D	S	L	E	N	G	T
I	A	R	I	S	I	R	A	I
N	A	R	M	A	N	A	C	A
		O	P	P	O	L	I	T
R		W		P		S	T	E
E		H	A	K	A	P	S	A
		C	R	O	I	L	C	R
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S		H	E	H	A	W	S	
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Rainbow's End formed as nod to traditional Celtic and Scottish heritage

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A newly formed local musical trio, Rainbow's End, will be playing Saturday at the Gazebo at 11 a.m. and at the Rathskeller at 12:30 p.m. during the Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration. Performing traditional Scottish and Irish music, the three musicians will kick-off the weekend festival by introducing their music at Rathskeller on Thursday, June 17, from 7-9 p.m.

Band members are Katharine (Kate) Brown, singer, who also plays the bodhran [Irish drum]; Marie (Maury) Dunkle, who plays the fiddle and mandolin and sings; and Dave Stewart, a guitarist and vocalist.

Brown is also the current president of the Nantahala Hiking Club, and she explained that she wanted to do more than sing in the band, so she borrowed a bodhran from Dunkle a few months ago and took to the instrument. "I know enough to add to the authenticity of the band," she said, "and I'm really enjoying playing it."

Stewart said the band's name has meaning. "The rainbow conjures up Leprechauns shamrocks ... Irish kind of things. Plus there's a pot o' gold at the end of a rainbow."



The newly formed local band, Rainbow's End, is a trio made up of Katharine (Kate) Brown, Marie (Maury) Dunkle, and Dave Stewart.

The motivation for the group centered on Dunkle's interest and involvement playing for local Ceilidhs, which conveys Irish or Scottish

social gatherings. "These were happening before the pandemic and we played together, so we knew each other. We all decided to try a

Celtic band," said Stewart.

Stewart noted that people living in and around Macon County, and particularly throughout Western North Carolina, are often drawn to Scottish and Irish heritage and music because they are descendants from the first Scottish and Irish immigrants to America. Author Sharyn McCrumb, who writes about the Appalachian Mountains, wrote about the reason in Appalachian Voice: "Originally from Scotland and the north of England, they left the eastern seaboard to venture into the wilderness of the Appalachian frontier because they wanted highland vistas, land, and as few neighbors as possible."

"The music dates back to 300 A.D. Much of it can't be traced before 1600's. So it's very old and part of western civilization. And, Appalachian music has roots in Celtic," said Stewart. "Since the Scots and Irish settled this area, we also plan to learn old-time music, which was played here long ago and is still alive in this culture."

For people who are not drawn to Celtic music, Stewart assured that Rainbow's End will also be presenting their twist on songs by The Beatles, Crosby Stills Nash, as well as various acoustic folk/rock tunes.

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- Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin the Square



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Auntie Anne's Pretzels founder to headline women's in-town retreat

It seems everyone loves delicious soft pretzels as well as an inspiring success story. Attendees to "Finding Purpose Through Pain," a women's retreat at First Alliance Church in Franklin on June 18 and 19, will hear Anne Beiler, founder of Auntie Anne's pretzels, tell her story.

Anne Beiler began twisting pretzels in 1987 to support her husband's vision of offering free counseling services in their community. What started as a single farmer's market stand grew into Auntie Anne's, Inc., the world's largest hand-rolled soft pretzel franchise. Her professional success, however, was forged after years of darkness, depression and despair brought on by the death of her 19-month-old daughter.

Beiler is among an elite group of women who have founded national companies in America and is among an even smaller group that has owned an international franchise company. She was named one of America's 500 Women Entrepreneurs by *Working Women* magazine, and Entrepreneur of the Year by *Inc.* magazine. Television shows that have featured Beiler's entrepreneurial insights and personal story

include "Secret Millionaire," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and "Good Morning America." Her story has been highlighted in major publications, including *Fortune* magazine, *Inc.*, *Guidepost*, and *Nation's Restaurant News*.

Beiler sold Auntie Anne's in 2005 and authored "Twist of Faith," a revealing look inside her life and business. She also wrote "The Secret Lies Within," which provides an inside-out look at trauma and how to overcome it through sharing your story.

Today Beiler speaks to audiences worldwide. Her mission is to help women overcome the pain, blame and shame of their past by sharing their stories so they can lead with purpose.

The "Finding Purpose Through Pain" retreat is hosted by the First Alliance Church Women's Ministry to support the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center. The retreat will be held Friday, June 18 (7-9 p.m.) and Saturday, June 19 (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.), at First Alliance Church, 31 Promise Lane, Franklin. Tickets are \$25, and include lunch on Saturday. Tickets are available through the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center's events page on Facebook, or by calling (828)349-3200.



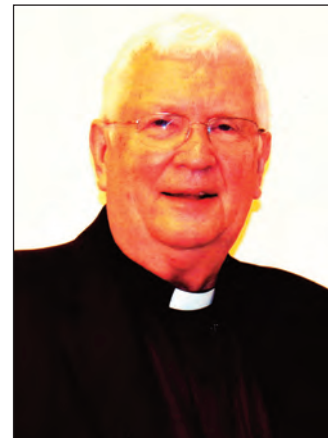
Anne Beiler

Good Shepherd Lutheran to honor Rev. Balke for 60 years in ministry

On Sunday, June 20, at 10:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will honor its pastor, Rev. Fred W. Balke on his 60th anniversary in the ministry. Rev. Balke and his wife, Sue, are residents of Franklin.

The couple started Good Shepherd in their living room more than 17 years ago. As the church grew and expanded, the members moved to a rented room at the Microtel Motel, later on moving to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and finally to the present location in a renovated storefront building at 235 Sloan Road, Franklin.

Throughout the years of his ministry, Pastor Balke has started or rescued four differ-



Rev. Fred W. Balke

ent churches in Michigan, Ohio, Florida and North Carolina. He has held several administrative positions in different Lutheran church bodies. He served as executive director of the Lutheran Center in Detroit, Mich.; served as a member of the Michigan Board of Directors for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; the administrative assistant for the American Association of Lutheran Churches; and the director of the Bethel Series for the Adult Christian Education Founda-

tion. Pastor Balke earned Masters degrees in theology and social psychology before beginning his career in the Lutheran Church.

Zonta Club awards \$500 leadership scholarship to a Highlands senior

The Zonta Club of the Franklin Area has selected Anne Marie Moore of Highlands, N.C., to be the recipient of their Young Women in Public Affairs \$500 scholarship. This statewide award is given annually to a high school senior girl who demonstrates leadership skills and a commitment to public service and civic activities.

Moore is president of the student body at Highlands High School. She is graduating this summer and plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill in the fall where she hopes to pursue a business administration degree with a minor in Spanish.

Her experiences during high school included playing music with other young people for nursing home residents, fostering dogs for the humane society and participating in Interact Club (junior Rotary), taking a special interest in Bolivia. She helped raise funds for the orphanage in Bolivia where her sister was working. She has recently donated to Vecinos, a local organization helping our immigrant farm workers, and she plans to continue her service work focusing on immigrant issues.

Moore's application is now eligible for consideration for Zonta International awards at the district level. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals,



Dr. Deborah Williams, Vice-President of Zonta Franklin Area (right) presented Anne Marie Moore of Highlands with her scholarship certificate at Dry Falls.

empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. The YWPA scholarship program's goal is to encourage young women to engage in public affairs by recognizing leadership abilities and a commitment to community service.

Thursday painters at Uptown Gallery



For more than 30 years a group of artists have come together every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., for fellowship and to paint. They call themselves the Thursday Painters. This happy pastime is free and open to the public. All skill levels and mediums are welcome. Participants are responsible for their own project and a bag lunch. For more information, call The Uptown Gallery at (828)349-4607 or contact Pat Mennenger at pm14034@yahoo.com. See more about Macon County Art Association at franklinuptowngallery.com and like, follow and share the Uptown Gallery on Facebook.



Deaths & Funerals

Erskine Venorris Monteith

Erskine Venorris Monteith, 77, of Otto, N.C., went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

Born in Graham County on Aug. 14, 1943, he was the son of the late Rev. Clyde and Hazel Monteith. He was a faithful man of God, a member and deacon of Newman Chapel Baptist Church. There he served as Choir Director for 25 years and he also took great pride in maintaining the grounds of the church. He would deliver fruit baskets for the church at Christmas time. He was a past master of the Junaluskee Masonic Lodge, and a 32nd degree mason, sang in the Layman Quartet and the Witness Quartet. He was also a Boy Scout leader and coached little league and women's softball.

Surviving is his wife, Dorothy Seagle Monteith; son and daughter-in-law, Scott Erskine and Barbara Monteith; grandchildren, Brett Erskine Monteith and Christopher Scott Monteith; step-grandchildren, Ryan Key and Bobby Melzer; sister and brother-in-law, Mib and Bruce Moore; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by sisters and brothers-in-law; Thelma and Carroll Hyde and Lillian and Roy Tipsett.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, June 18, at 2 p.m., at Newman Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Ledford, Rev. Danny Cannon and Dr. Eddie Seagle officiating. Interment will follow at Newman Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be members of the Junaluskee Masonic Lodge and Honorary Pallbearers will be Deacons of Newman Chapel Baptist Church.

An online guest register is available and may be viewed at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Erskine Monteith

Freda Moore Jackson

Freda Moore Jackson, left this life behind on June 1, 2021, and went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A dedicated wife of 65 years to Bill, mother to Eric, mother-in-law to Mary, grandmother to Isaac and Caleb (wife Laura), great-grandmother to Maddie, and co-worker and friend to countless, she lived a life of sacrifice and service to others.

Her passion for cooking blessed and sustained a multitude over her lifetime. Her love of gardening, flowers, and yardwork brightened our lives throughout the years.

Highly regarded, loved, and respected by those she nurtured, she will be fondly remembered.

Nikki LaDonna Harden

Nikki LaDonna Harden, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully on Friday, June 11, 2021, surrounded by her family.

Born in Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Donald and Pauline Barker Coombs.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Edward Harden; two daughters, Bonnie Pihlcrantz of Chesapeake, Va., and Laura Lovelace of Franklin; stepson, Tony Harden of Franklin; two brothers, Buddy Coombs of Columbus, Ind., and Chris Coombs of Parrish, Fla.; seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren; and numerous other family and friends.

No services are planned. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Nikki LaDonna Harden

Roberta Louise Hope

Roberta Louise Hope, 80, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Saranac Lake, N.Y., passed away June 6, 2021.

She was born in New York to the late Harold and Helen Louise Wilt. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Joe Hope and a brother, David Wilt.

She was an avid reader, enjoyed word puzzles, watching TV, playing cards, and bowling.

She is survived by sons, John Hope and Michael Hope; brothers, Donald and Kenny; sisters Nancy and Marjorie; eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

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



Roberta Louise Hope

Ronald Kevin McCabe

Ronald Kevin McCabe, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away June 13, 2021.

He was born in Detroit, Mich., to the late Jay Inscho and Estelle McCabe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Frances "Louise" Hughes McCabe; stepsister, Marge Inscho; and brother-in-law, Jake Jacobson.

He attended Oak Grove Baptist Church. He enjoyed tending to his animals and garden, Nascar, and flying.

He is survived by nieces, Barbara Drass, and Loretta Swan, both of Waterfront, Mich.; and nephews, Leroy Grider of Summerville, S.C.; and John Clark, of Franklin.

A service will be held Thursday, June 17, at 11 a.m., at Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Ronald Kevin McCabe

Donna Marie Witte Reyn

Donna Marie Witte Reyns, 53, of Franklin, N.C., passed away, Tuesday, June 15, 2021. She was born Oct. 13, 1968, in Philadelphia, Pa., to the late Robert Joseph Witte and Alice Marie Whelan Witte.

She was a CNA and worked in a nursing home. She attended Watauga Baptist Church and Patton United Methodist Church. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister.

She is survived by her husband, Courtney Reyns; son, Kory Everett Vance; daughters, Julia Teresa Angel Vance and Melanie Edwards; sister, Judi Southworth; and granddaughter, Fallon McHale.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Reyns family. Online condolence at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Elizabeth Newton Flanagan

Elizabeth Newton Flanagan, 88, of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away at her home, Thursday, June 3, 2021. Born January 12, 1933, in Old Fort, N.C., she was the daughter of the late William C. Newton and Mary Will Newton. She was also preceded in death by her husband, John Arthur Flanagan; a son, James Arthur Flanagan; and a brother, James Newton.


After briefly residing in Franklin, her family moved up the mountain to Highlands, N.C. She graduated from Highlands High School in 1951 and attended the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She returned in 1981 to complete her B.S. in Chemistry. She met her late husband while working at her father's soda shop and they were married at the first Presbyterian church in Highlands on June 5, 1955. His career took them to Detroit, Birmingham, Atlanta, Dyersburg, Belleville, and, finally, Hendersonville in 1978. After 30 years, she retired from the State of Tennessee where she had worked in the Division of Radiological Health. She was an avid tennis player, an aficionado of old movies, and an amateur astrologist. She played piano and sang soprano in several choirs.

She is survived by her children, John W. Flanagan, and Katherine E. Flanagan both of Hendersonville; a sister, Mary Jo Patton; a brother, William Newton; grandsons, James Nicholas Flanagan, and John Ryan Flanagan; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

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



Elizabeth Flanagan



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Kyle Larson continues hot streak with All-Star win

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

FORT WORTH, Texas - Kyle Larson earned a \$1 million paycheck and his second NASCAR All-Star Race victory in three seasons – putting on a racing master class Sunday evening at Texas Motor Speedway.

Larson was part of a frenetic three-wide move for the race lead with eight laps remaining – himself and runner-up Brad Keselowski splitting the car driven by Larson's Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott to make the move forward.

Larson pulled his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet in front of the field and while Keselowski was able to get to his bumper a couple times thereafter, the Penske driver was unable to make a pass in the closing laps of the race.

It was a thrilling finish to a new six-segment 100-lap race format – with no NASCAR Cup Series championship points on the line, but plenty of bragging rights to claim. Larson's other All Star Race win came in 2019 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. He is one of only eight drivers in NASCAR history to win multiple All Star races.

This is Larson's third consecutive victory on the schedule - counting wins at the previous two regular season races - at Charlotte and Sonoma. He has three points-paying wins and sits second in the NASCAR Cup Series championship.

"It was wild," a smiling Larson said from Texas's victory lane. "This format set up for an exciting finish and there was a lot of grip on this race track for us to be passing. It was a helluva race from my seat."

Fans in the packed grandstands apparently agreed – standing on their feet for much of the night and definitely during the final frenetic laps.

"That last restart worked out exactly how I needed it to," Larson elaborated later. "I wanted Chase [Elliott] to not get a good run down the back. Thankfully, I think the 12 [Blaney] got to his inside and I just shoved him down the back and he probably thought I was going to just follow him and I was like, 'there's got to be enough grip where we'd be running for one corner!'"

"It was a little slick up there, but I was able to get it and then hold him off from there," the 28-year old Californian continued with a smile. "I can't believe it."

Larson ultimately held off Keselowski by a scant .206-seconds. Elliott was third, followed by Penske teammates Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney. Hendrick Motorsports' other two cars – driven by Alex Bowman and William Byron finished sixth and seventh, respectively. Byron's 30 laps out front were most on the night.

Aric Almirola, Kyle Busch and his older brother Kurt Busch rounded out the Top-10 in the 21-car field.

The new All Star race format included random inverts in three of the early stages and a pit stop contest during the race that earned a \$100,000 prize for Elliott's No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports team.

The final 10-lap run however, was every bit the wild and competitive flair expected for the sport's annual All Star feature. Blaney, who restarted from the second row in that segment made a daring move toward the lead at the at the final green flag dueling with Elliott and Larson.

And Keselowski briefly took the lead while he and Larson negotiated their three-wide move around Elliott, only to have Larson claim the lead right back. He led 17 of the 100 laps on the evening, most importantly the final seven.

"It feels like just to run second to the Hendrick cars right now is kind of an accomplishment," Keselowski said. "They're just stupid fast and I had him off Turn 4 but they just have so much speed. He just motored right on back by me."

Ross Chastain, Tyler Reddick and Almirola advanced to the featured All Star Race by way of The Open – a 50-lap qualifier held earlier in the evening. Chastain and Reddick won stages



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag along with a check for \$1 million to win the NASCAR All-Star Race at Texas Motor Speedway on June 13, 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

did."

Busch, who led a race best 94 of the 171 laps, noted the good pushes from behind he got on the restarts from the current Xfinity Series championship leader Austin Cindric, who finished third. The two driver each won a stage.

At the end of the day, Busch is hopeful the lessons he learned Saturday and the good outcome he enjoyed will be beneficial in Sunday night's NASCAR Cup Series All Star Race at the track.

It's Busch's 10th overall Xfinity Series win on the 1.5-mile Texas high banks, where he also has four NASCAR Cup Series and five NASCAR Camping World Truck Series victories. The trophy on Saturday marks the 300th win for Joe Gibbs Racing in the Xfinity and Cup ranks.

Just behind Allgaier and Cindric at the checkered flag were Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Daniel Hemric and Brandon Jones rounding out the Top-5. A.J. Allmendinger, Noah Gragson, Brett Moffitt, Justin Haley and Michael Annett completed the Top-10.

The Top-10 was especially significant for Gragson, driver of the No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet. His work at Texas from a 30th place start to seventh place finish was a solid rebound from a series of rough outings. He was running as high as fourth when he spun his tires on the next to last race restart. His seventh-place work halts a streak of three consecutive DNFs.

The series next race is the Tennessee Lottery 250 at Nashville (Tenn.) Speedway (Saturday, 3:30 p.m. ET, NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Cindric's third place effort is his 10th Top-5 effort in 14 races gives him a commanding 108-point advantage over Allmendinger in the championship standings.

John Hunter Nemechek wins Camping World Truck Series best fourth time

FORT WORTH, Texas – A day after celebrating his 24th birthday, John Hunter Nemechek celebrated his Camping World Truck Series best fourth win of the season and first of his career at Texas Motor Speedway in Saturday's Speedycash.com

and Almirola winning the last stage for the victory. Wood Brothers Racing driver Matt DiBenedetto advanced to The All Star race by virtue of fan vote and finished 17th.

Kyle Busch wins for 99th time in NASCAR Xfinity Series

FORT WORTH, Texas – Kyle Busch boosted his NASCAR record Xfinity Series win total with a 99th career victory in Saturday afternoon's AlSCO Uniform 250 at Texas Motor Speedway.

The two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion held off veteran series regular Justin Allgaier by a mere .433-seconds in overtime to earn his second series win in as many races this year.

Busch led the last 32 laps but had to negotiate three late restarts including the last in overtime. It technically marked his second victory of the day as John Hunter Nemechek won the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race in a truck owned by Busch.

"Just being with a great group of guys and Joe Gibbs Racing is pretty awesome to drive to drive these Toyota Supras here in the Xfinity Series," Busch said after an extended victory burnout the crowd enjoyed from the series all-time winningest driver.

"All in all, such a good car," Busch added, noting he thought Allgaier's No. 7 JR Motorsport Chevrolet was just as good as his Toyota on Saturday.

"I was just able to think through a few things there on a couple restarts that may or may not work but there at the end they

220 – easily earning the win by a full 3.361-seconds over hard-charging NASCAR Cup Series regular Chase Elliott.

Moments after taking the checkered flag, an elated Nemechek was told to offer his sponsor audience at-track some love with a high-velocity celebration in his No. 4 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota.

“You don’t have to tell me twice,” an obviously thrilled Nemechek yelled to his crew.

While the final chase to the trophy came down to Nemechek, the reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion Elliott and another Cup regular, Ross Chastain, the win had really been Nemechek’s to lose. He earned a series best eighth stage victory (Stage 1), led a race high 65 of the 147 laps on the afternoon pulling away from the field in the last 22 laps out front.

“Unfortunately, I felt like I was in the same boat I always put myself in here,” said Elliott, who led 45 laps in the No. 24 GMS Racing Chevrolet.

“John Hunter got the better of me and making time when we pitted so congrats to him and that team.”

Chastain was a full 10-seconds behind Elliott in third place. Grant Enfinger and Austin Hill rounded out the Top-5, followed by Chandler Smith, Zane Smith, Todd Gilliland, Tyler Ankrum and Tanner Gray.

Two-race winner Ben Rhodes, who is second to Nemechek in the championship, had been running seventh with only 14 laps remaining when he had to pit after making contact with the wall. A pit penalty followed, and Rhodes ended up 27th on the afternoon – his worst showing of the season and only the second time he has finished outside the Top-10 on the year.

Another pair of weekly race favorites, reigning series champion Sheldon Creed – who won at Texas last October - and Stewart Friesen, also suffered bad luck Saturday. Creed wrecked twice and finished last in the 36-truck field. Friesen was also in accident and finished 35th.

The continued good results and the career high season win total for Nemechek resonated deeply for the young driver, who moved to the truck series this season after racing fulltime in the NASCAR Cup Series last year. His work in two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch’s Toyotas – a series best four wins and seven Top-5 finishes through 11 races – has given him a firm grip on the championship. His 28 Playoff points are more than twice that of any other driver in the field.

The results haven’t just been good for his title run, but a well-timed confidence boost as well.

“There’s going to be haters, people that doubt your ability, question your ability and as a person, you have to know what you are capable of,” Nemechek said.



Kyle Busch, driver of the #54 Twix Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO Uniforms 250 at Texas Motor Speedway on June 12, 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas. Photos by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

“I took that as a challenge,” he continued. “A lot of media, probably a lot of drivers too questioned my moving from the NASCAR Cup Series to the Camping World Truck Series – but I do feel like the Camping World Truck Series is one of the best series in NASCAR, it’s super competitive every single week and you have to push yourself over the limit and push for more.”

Nemechek now holds a 78-point advantage over Rhodes heading to the series next race at Nashville Speedway (Rockley Roofing 200, Friday, 8 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



John Hunter Nemechek celebrates after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series SpeedyCash.com 220 at Texas Motor Speedway on June 12, 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas.

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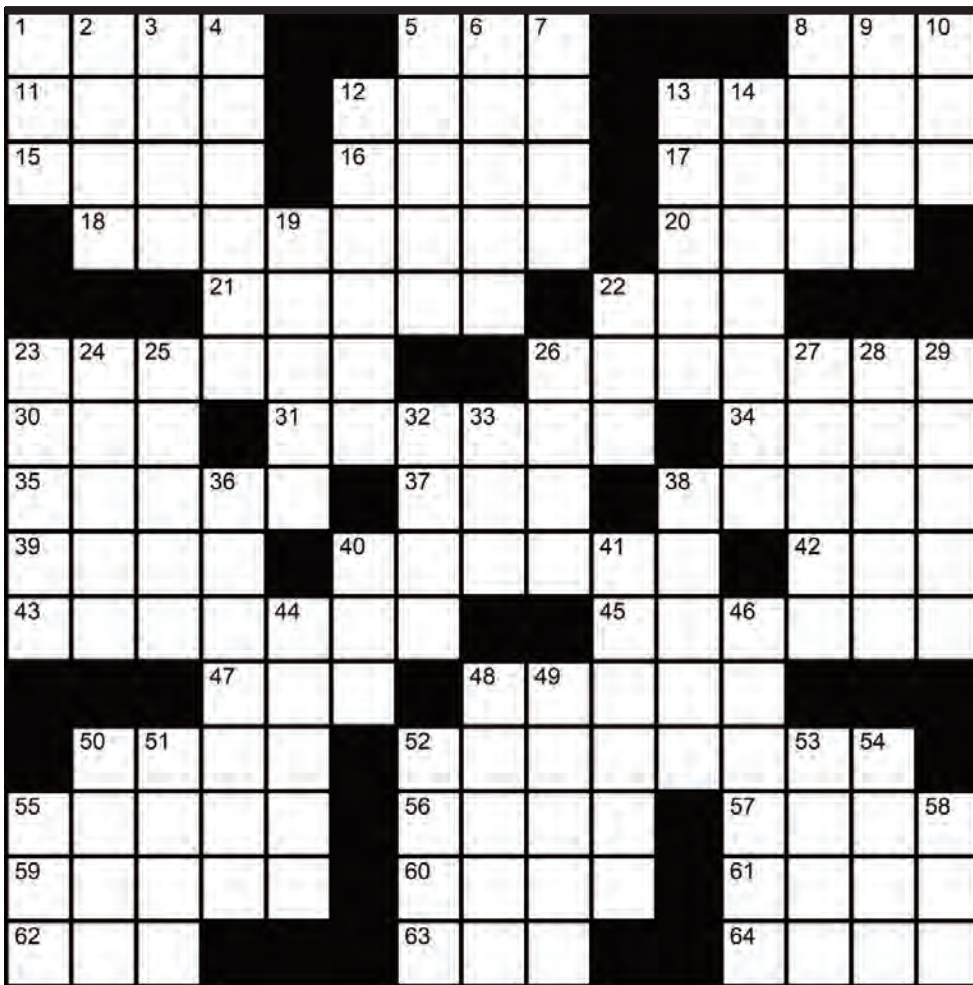
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5. Aviation safety agency
8. Although, for short
11. "Give me your tired, your _____"
12. Homecoming guest
13. PhD in Great Britain
15. Legendary NFL quarterback Graham
16. Like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard
17. Propelled like Argo
18. *Batman's romantic interest
20. Wildebeests
21. Use the other end of a pencil
22. Cherry middle
23. *Thor's weapon
26. Brays like a donkey
30. Another word for Tokyo
31. Makes a sum (2 words)
34. *Like The Joker
35. Without self-control
37. Black gold
38. Buddy
39. Site of Leaning Tower
40. Canvas ceiling fan
42. *____man, one of original X-Men
43. Comes to the fore
45. *____ Woman, first female in the Justice Society of America
47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel
48. Paralysis-causing disease, for short
50. Smoothie berry
52. *a.k.a. the Caped Crusader
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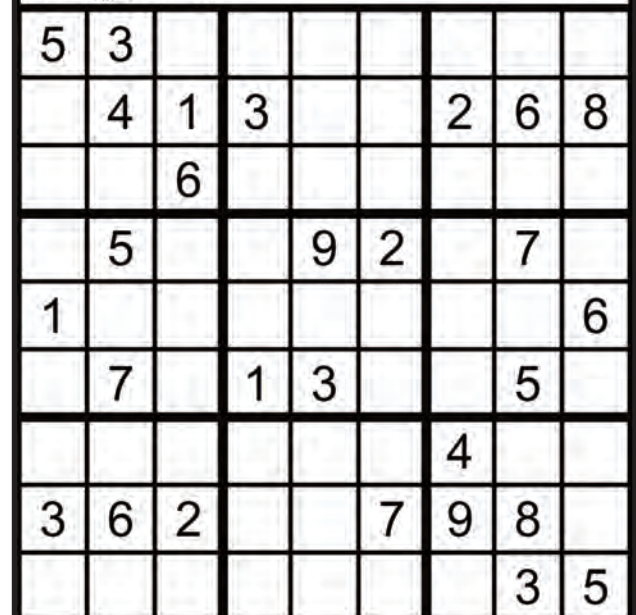
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Notices

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

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EXPERIENCED TRIM CARPENTERS Needed Immediately. Must be experienced, have own tools. Top pay, Franklin area, every Friday is pay day. Call now (727)410-7315.

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Community Fundraisers

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM Together 5K Run 9am, Fun Walk 10am, Saturday, June 19, Mark Watson Park in Sylva. Register, sign up at <http://jacksonncnaacp.org>.

HABITAT RE-STORE 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! (828)524-5273. Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm.

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

Garage & Yard Sales

151 GEMSTONE DRIVE Friday and Saturday, 7am-1pm. Many Items to Choose From Home, Clothes, Tools. (828)371-0675

MEGA SALE June 18-19, 25-26 at Asbury Methodist Church in Otto from 8-4 all days. Includes Books, Home Decor, Clothes, Furniture and Much More!

PORCH SALE New Stuff Added, Friday & Saturday, June 18-19, 8-? 410 Orchard View Apt. Rain or Shine.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 8-? 561 Mack Branch Rd., 1/2 mile up Mack Branch on the Right.

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- Visit NC Works office, 23 Macon Ave. Franklin, NC or www.ncworks.gov

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