



People from all walks of life paraded down Main Street and around Franklin in a show of solidarity with the national movement Black Lives Matter. Demonstrators of all shapes and sizes, male and female, black and white marched peacefully around town, ending up at the town square gazebo where members of the community spoke about meaningful change for the black community. While some advocated for defunding the police, others called for reforms and the need for communities to work together in unity. For more photos, see page 12.  
 Photo by Betsy Gooder

## Growing up black in Western North Carolina

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
 Contributing Writer

Faustine (Tina) McDonald was the only black student at Smoky Mountain Elementary School in the '90s. Not only was she the only black student, her mother was a prominent educator in Jackson County, which often led to even more eyes and expectations on her. Growing up, McDonald experienced racism, that at the time she didn't fully understand, but that didn't make it any less real. Today, as a successful business owner and public speaker, McDonald is using her voice and her platform to be a part of systemic change in Western North Carolina.

"I can remember perfectly a boy in my class telling me he liked me but his parents would kill him if he dated me, a black girl," McDonald remembered. According to McDonald, little jabs about her skin tone were common in her small elementary school on the outskirts of



Faustine (Tina) McDonald

Jackson County. "Of course I was just in middle school when little boys and little girls are turning that corner into young ladies and men. I knew that was my reality. That doesn't matter how about my personality and who I am as a person but my skin tone for some people."

As she grew older, McDonald recalls history lessons being uncomfortable, with teachers and classmates tip-toeing around race issues or lessons.

"Social studies class in high school was always interesting because we would get to slavery everyone looks at me to see the response," she said. "When covering different eras of which black people were involved being called the 'N' word always came up. Civil rights movement was just skimmed over with a brief overview."

In terms of "fitting in," McDonald said that she always felt like an outsider, like she wasn't ever fully accepted.

"In middle school I felt that I didn't

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# Reopening Macon Fund loan program now taking applications

At last week's meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, the board voted to approve the establishment of a small business loan program for Macon County businesses and appropriated \$257,500 to be drawn from the Economic Development Commission fund.

The program will provide low-interest loans to severely impacted small businesses in Macon County, helping them to remain open.

Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and are available to businesses located, or based, in Macon County, have between 1 and 49 employees, been in business at least 12 months and have suffered a loss of revenue of 25% or more due to COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has greatly impacted Macon County's economy and the recovery will take time," said Jim Tate, Chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners. "Providing financial resources for local businesses will play an essential part in reopening our economy."

Additional partners supporting the fund include the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, SCC's Small Business Center and Western Carolina University's Small Business and Technology Development Cen-

ter.

According to Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner Vice-Chair, "The Reopening Macon Fund will provide much needed assistance to our small business community. Many do not have the resources to weather a long-term recovery. A loan of \$2500 or \$5000 could make the difference in surviving or being forced to close."

Mountain BizWorks, a non-profit community financial institution based out of Asheville, will be the administrator of the Reopening Fund, providing loan processing and underwriting services.

## This is not a grant program

Reopening Macon Fund small business loans are designed to be flexible and rapid sources of low-interest loan capital to help local Macon County businesses meet pressing needs and navigate the COVID-19 crisis. Repayment is expected either from more permanent funding sources (like SBA Disaster Loans) or from the future cash flow of the business.

## Loan details

Loans are available for up to \$10,000, based on the business's pre-COVID-19 revenue. Loan agreements are structured as follows:

- Six months of no payments required at 4% (interest accruing), followed by 36 months of principal and interest payments at 5.5% interest.

- There are no prepayment penalties.
- Defaulted loans are subject to collections.

## Who is eligible?

- For-profit businesses
- Have a physical location and be principally based in Macon County (see our COVID loans page for options for those not in the county)
- Have between 1 and 50 employees
- Have been in business for at least 12 months
- Demonstrated loss of revenue of 25% or more due to COVID-19

## Requirements

- Any individual with greater than 20% ownership in the applying business must personally guarantee the loan.
- Proceeds from the loan may only be used for maintaining or restarting a business. Eligible uses include payroll, accounts payable, fixed debts, or other bills the business is unable to pay due to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Agree to provide impact data

- Borrowers are required to assign the proceeds of future SBA EIDL loans or other federal assistance programs to the repayment of their Reopening Macon Loan. (PPP funds and the EIDL grants are excluded from this)

## Logistics & timeline

- The Reopening Macon Fund was launched and applications opened June 12.
- Applications will be accepted as long as funds are available.
- Businesses interested in applying should be prepared to complete an online application and provide tax returns, profit and loss statements, and bank statements.
- The partners in this program are committed to moving as fast as possible to assist businesses. We are aiming to fund requests on a weekly basis as long as funds are available.
- Loans are subject to the availability of funds. The partners know that the need is greater than the current fund size. We're working to expand the available pool so that we can assist as many in our community as possible.

Locals businesses can apply online at [www.mountainbizworks.org/reopeningmaconfund](http://www.mountainbizworks.org/reopeningmaconfund) or contact the Macon County Economic Development Commission at 828.369.2306.



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

<sup>1</sup> Must be a current Firefighter, Police, EMT/Paramedic, or 911 Dispatcher or Healthcare Professional (as defined by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). First Responders employed by federal, state or municipal governments may be subject to restrictions that limit their ability to accept this offer. Accordingly, this offer is void unless permitted by applicable federal, state and municipal laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, policies, codes of conduct, and other directives or standards regarding ethics and gift acceptance by the applicable federal, state or municipal employees. By accepting this offer, you verify that doing so complies with all laws, regulations, policies or other restrictions regarding ethics or gift acceptance that apply to you. Not available on select base trims or with some other offers. At participating dealers. Take new retail delivery by 6/30/20. <sup>2</sup> 2020 Silverado Crew Cab LT All Star Z71 based on \$52,160 MSRP. 2020 Traverse High Country based on \$52,295 MSRP. 2020 Blazer RS based on \$49,465 MSRP. 2020 Equinox Premier based on \$35,335 MSRP. 2020 Trax Premier based on \$28,635 MSRP. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 6/30/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

# BLACK

Continued  
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belong unless it had anything to do with sports," she said. "I was always the first to be chosen during anything athletic, but not for social events. Not to say I wasn't liked because of my skin color, because that wasn't the case. I had an awesome circle of friends. But beyond that circle, I wasn't much more than the sports I played."

McDonald credits much of her strength and confidence to her mother, Victoria Casey McDonald. Victoria is well known in Jackson County as being one of the greatest educators to call WNC home.

One of her students remembered: "To know Victoria was to love her. She commanded a respect in her classroom that didn't ignore race or privilege. She didn't pretend that everyone was equal. She was upfront and honest that there were advantages and disadvantages in everyone's life, including the color of their skin – but despite the societal stereotypes associated with your skin color, or your social economic status, Victoria made sure that her students understood that it was the content of your character that determined success in life. For decades serving as the only black educator and coach in Jackson County, Victoria instilled a value of self worth in her students that implored an understanding that differences didn't define you, they elevated you."

"There is no debating with myself on [who her biggest influence is] because my mother was and is not only my local influence and inspirational black woman in my life but my hero," said McDonald. "Victoria Casey McDonald is that because she is my mother. This woman influenced thousands of kids in the course of her coaching and educator's career. While being a single mother with not one but two sickle cell chil-

dren."

While her white classmates idolized the biggest pop stars or celebrities because they were who were depicted in the media, McDonald found inspiration in the women within her own community.

"Aunt Minnie Casey was most Godly woman I knew," she said. "And every elder in the African American community in Sylva gave me some influence because they were amazing women."

Although her mother passed away, McDonald remembers the lessons in racial equality and justice she was taught at a very early age.

"Marching with my mother in Selma, Ala., on the 49th anniversary of Bloody Sunday is one of my greatest memories and moments," said McDonald. "Even though Bloody Sunday happened 49 years ago at the time, you could feel the spirit of those people. As we marched singing old gospel songs across the bridge, I felt every bit of what those African Americans went through that day. Why we marched that day is bigger than one person. It's about equality for not just African Americans but for all people."

Now, 55 years after Bloody Sunday – McDonald said the Black Lives Matters Movement is still having to fight for the same equality.

"Black Lives Matter movement is an amaz-



(Left) Faustine McDonald as a young child with her mother Victoria Casey McDonald, a much loved educator in Jackson County School system (right).



ing moment that is meant to be about how black people in American are in danger in several different ways," she said. "It's not saying white lives don't matter or any other lives. It's bringing awareness to the injustice happening in America every day to the black community and wanting equality for African Americans."

The challenges McDonald has faced throughout her lifetime extends beyond the stereotypical struggles. According to McDonald, being a successful business owner was twice as hard. Not only is success difficult in a small rural town, but success for a black woman was even more difficult, but still something she was able to accomplish.

"Being a business owner in small town can be

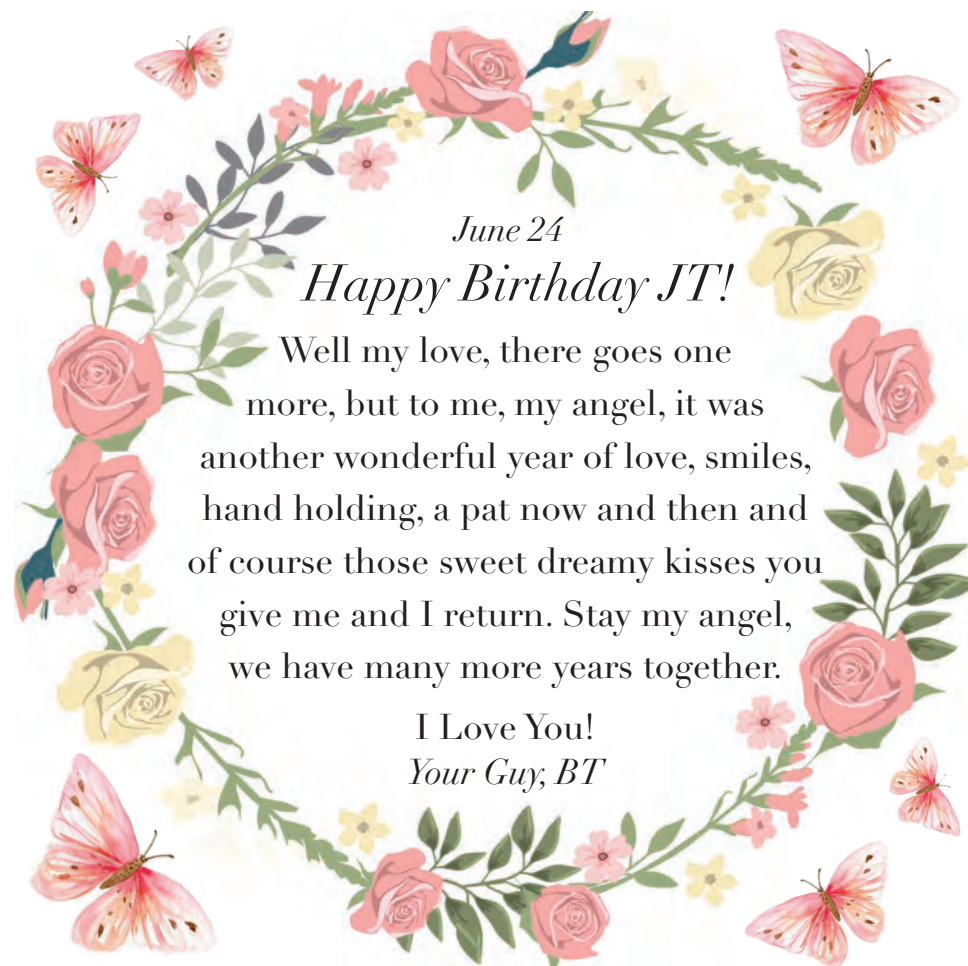
difficult but very rewarding in general," said McDonald. "Success is very rare in our communities for one reason is location, location, location. In the small town of Sylva, you want to be in certain areas and for me it was downtown Sylva. You want to position your business location in Main Street downtown because backstreet doesn't get the attention and care from the town that front street gets. We had to fight for diagonal parking for years before the town approved, just to give customers more places to park. Being the first and only African-American business in downtown Sylva was an amazing experience and I loved every second of it. From the kids getting out of school and wanting to come straight down to my store to see what was new this week. Tourists saying I wasn't expecting to find a store with such an awesome brand and cultured store to shop downtown. I built so many amazing relationships with the community and everyone that came to the store. Closing the store for evolution to mobile store for Survivors Journey Clothing was hard because I was this unspoken staple for the black community. Everyone was sad to see me leave downtown Sylva, but happy for the evolution of the brand. Thankful for my awesome business owner neighbors that we always rallied together and lifted each other up."

Her personal life was also an area of



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contention as her interracial relationships were not always well received.

“Unfortunately, as much as the world would like to believe marrying outside your race isn’t an issue, it is,” said McDonald. “My ex-husband and I saw different looks from the older generation when out in public. You always saw a little shock and pause when people realized we were married. Getting married in Sylva brought an unforeseen challenge because of a church but it didn’t stop us. I knew there would be bumps in the road. Either from white people or from black people. I can only speak for myself as a black woman talking to black people. They didn’t care as long as I was treated right. My family welcomed him at the annual Casey family reunion with open arms and let him into the family.”

McDonald also struggled with proper health care at a young age due to being diagnosed with sickle cell anemia, a rare disease that affects African Americans.

“Everything was new for the doctors treating the only pediatric sickle cell anemia patient within five counties when I was growing up,” said McDonald. “My brother Creighton was the only other sickle cell patient seen and he was 14 years older than me. My life expectancy was very unsure. Doctors were praying that I made it to my 11th birthday. Treatment was very difficult with blood transfusions, fluids, pain meds, endless tests and so on. Sickle cell research funding wasn’t there either in the 1990s. My mother had to direct the emergency room doctors on what to do for treatment because I was either the first sickle cell patient they had treated or they just didn’t know exactly how to treat me.”

McDonald said that the challenge in health care is something she still faces today, with few advancements in the science and research surrounding the disease.

McDonald said that her interaction with law enforcement has been uneasy, but not something that would lead to her to support abolishing police.

“I got pulled over for speeding over Balsam like everyone does... passing that slow vehicle that doesn’t know how to drive on the mountains,” remembered McDonald. “As the state trooper pulled me over, I immediately placed my handgun on the front dash, so that it’s in sight and away from me and so the officer would be able to see that as well. I put both my hands on the steering wheel. He came up to the window and I told him my name that my firearm was on the dash in plain sight for him. He said, ‘yes ma’am, I see that.’”

Despite her immediate compliance, McDonald said she remembers the trooper flipping the strip off his gun like he was about to pull it on her. “Then he told for both our safeties he was going to take my handgun and put all the bullets out – like I was a threat. He proceeded to take the magazine out of my gun and push out every single bullet in the magazine out into the floorboard of my vehicle. I was just in shock and disoriented on what exactly just happened. Little me was just seen as a threat to the police after even telling him about the firearm in the vehicle. I didn’t understand at the time. But now, when I think back on it, tensions were high because of a recent fallen trooper in the line of duty. I have gotten to know that officer after the interaction and he is a good person and state trooper in our community.”

Even with such experiences, McDonald said that the call to “defund the police” isn’t the answer.

“We need law enforcement but think there is reform that needs to happen across the board in law enforcement,” McDonald said. “They are in high stress situations that impact their lives on a daily basis. One experience can affect their view of a situation. I think officers need more training on interacting with the community they are sworn to protect. They need to work together with community leaders to make our communities safer. We need programs in the communities where officers aren’t just exposed to bad, but to the good in the community. Let communities see that law enforcement isn’t in the community to harm them but protect them and uplift them. I have never seen law enforcement as anything but men and women here to protect the community. I have family members that are retired state troopers and law enforcement, both amazing examples of how an officer of the law should be seen as. I know when I’m driving in my hometown of Sylva that I’m safe and the law enforcement are good people with good hearts.”

McDonald said that she believes that before a society sees meaningful change, we need to be willing and open to having the uncomfortable conversations.

“Before we can make changes in our communities we have to be able to sit and have these hard discussions about racism and systemic racism with black people and white people,” said McDonald. “It’s not about slavery, it’s about the injustice and how America has been built over the years to suppress the black community and the changes that need to be made for equality for all.”

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# Franklin businesses slowly reopening with a 'new normal'

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

As the Town of Franklin and surrounding areas slowly reopen businesses, some new rules have been established as the "New Normal."

Signs on doors of many retail shops ask residents to please wear a mask before entering the store. Hand sanitizer is usually available for customers to use and store owners are now adhering to social distancing guidelines and sanitizing ink pens and credit card terminals.

Both retail shops and restaurants have been affected one way or the other by the pandemic.

## Restaurants open for dine in

The Normandie Restaurant has been open throughout the mandated closing of many stores but only through providing take out services. Now that the governor has eased restrictions the Normandie is still offering take out only. Owner Steve Tallent explains why he is only offering take out when restaurants are now allowed to offer dine in services.

"We have 11 booths and can only use five due to the social distancing guidelines still in place. Many of my customers are from church groups and other clubs and tend to come in as groups to eat, relax and hold conversations with each other," he said. "Since there is still the social distancing restriction I felt it best to continue to offer take out only, rather than to have to ask folks to leave. We have been in business for 51 years and my customers mean a lot to me. When the time is right I will resume offering dine in services."

Steve's parents Bull and Etta Tallent

opened the restaurant in 1969 and now Steve runs that same operation today. He says his business is doing well with just take out orders, and he has been able to maintain his staff during this time.

Rockin Rollie Pollies Restaurant has also been offering curbside service since March, but has recently opened its dining room now



The Normandie Restaurant at 64 West Palmer St., is serving food out the back door where patrons can pick up their phoned-in orders. The dining room remains closed.

that restrictions have been eased. Owner Roland Mock said that everything is almost back to normal. He has done well offering take out only and now that his restaurant is offering dine in there are a few restrictions that he is adhering to. Every other table is skipped and he must cut back on the amount of people allowed in the restaurant at one time. Sanitizing each table and all the accompanying items that go with serving food is a never-ending task but business is good, he said.

## Retail shops are open with limited capacity

Retail businesses such as The Kitchen Sink have fared well during the restrictions. Owners Brooke and Rob Reale explain.

"We were not closed at all during the pandemic. We met three criteria in the governor's order to stay open. Most businesses on Main Street could have remained open and been classified as essential; the first criteria point, was to be able to maintain a six-foot distance between customers and staff except for the point of checkout.

"We had a steady increase in sales by 25% in January, February and the beginning of March. Mid March and April dipped drastically and April was the worst sales month to date. If we had been forced to close, it would have been very bad... Each day that passed during the stay at home order, by the grace of God, we made enough for 'that day', He remained faithful.

"We are so grateful to those that came and supported us. Customers would intentionally come here instead of a big box store or chain to shop for what they needed, it was so humbling... It would be difficult, if not impossible to articulate what that means to us... We'll just say a heartfelt thank you and reveal that after many completed transactions throughout this time, we'd just go in the back and hug each other with a tear or two escaping - I'm not

gonna lie!

"In May, however, we had a comeback and resumed our 25% sales increase. We always want our customers to feel safe and know we care about their health and wellbeing when entering our store. We sanitize common surfaces, like the checkout space including pens and surrounding areas, after each customer. I offer to write 'C-19' (for COVID-19) in place of a signature on their slip if desired, so they don't even have to touch a pen if they don't want to. We've been a drop off and pick up site for homemade masks during the pandemic. We have two UVG/ Ozone gas lights we use regularly to sanitize the surfaces that are difficult or impossible to clean. We have proper signage and markings to alert and remind customers to keep at a distance. We just received our first shipment of over 100 personal spray sanitizers from a distillery in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. - for sale now in the store.

"We've (as a nation) never been through something like this before-ever. We feel it's important to respect the choices others make; businesses and customers alike. The commonality is we're all doing what we

feel is best and have good intentions at heart. Our humanity is what unites us; having grace for one another is what keeps us civil, our love for each other is what matters the most.

"As for another round of COVID, the president has declared the country will not close again for this. I think we've learned a lot these past few months. The elderly and immunocompromised are most at risk; we need to make sure they're protected and healthy with a plan in place before we move on to the rest of the lower risk community.

"We personally feel it does no good to live in fear. We all do the best we can with the information we are given and apply a hefty dose of common sense. We'll continue taking the necessary precautions and implemented procedures we've adapted to keep our customers well, while offering the vast variety of kitchenware and friendly service they're accustomed to," she concluded.

The Art Room has not fared as well as other businesses. Owner Dianne MacLean explained that her business requires groups of people to be together in her art classes, which were not able to be held during the restrictions. Even now that restrictions have eased, the classes are limited to three patrons as opposed to the six or eight that would normally participate in a class. MacLean explained that

her worst month was April when her business was curbside and mail only. That is when she saw a decrease of revenue down to 20% from her usual sales. MacLean is still offering free Saturday classes but not many patrons have signed up for those classes. She continues to follow the social distancing guidelines and sanitizes thoroughly in the store. She also stated that she feels that 99% of her patrons are complying with the new guidelines when entering her store.

A similar operation, The Dusty Pallet, also relies on classes of people taking part in art projects. At the present, owners Matt and Gwen Taylor state that they are still closed to do paint parties.

"The majority of our revenue is paint parties which has affected us tremendously," said Gwen. "People are not spending money for items that are not a necessity to live. It's hard to invest in art when you have a family to feed and you have been out of work or are still out of work. Although we are not open to paint as it is, we will survive. We have faith and God will sustain us through all of this. We have tremendous support from our community and they are as ready as we are to come back to paint. We love our local folks and that is what we appreciate about our town. It doesn't seem



The Kitchen Sink on Main Street was deemed an essential business and has remained open through the pandemic. Extra precautions are in place to keep their customers safe. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

right, since this is our livelihood, when we would take precautions for our customers, but people can go to the pools, etc., it's ok. We will be doing private parties soon. Just keep watching us on Facebook."

Doodlebugs is a small gift shop run by Rick and Peggy Heinzen. The store features gift items, pottery and linens. Doodlebugs was closed for six weeks due, but were able to reopen on May 8.

"We are optimistic about the future. Revenues in May were better than expected," said Rick.

Doodlebugs is also adhering to guidelines and takes precautions in sanitizing although they do not require patrons to wear masks. Doodlebugs motto is "Find Your Happy Place."

In this time of uncertainty finding a happy place seems like some good advice.



Main Street Coffee and Yogurt has remained open although the yogurt portion of the business has undergone some changes.

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# School lunch room personnel preparing close to 3,000 meals daily

**Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer**

The summer lunch program is in full swing with Macon County School buses delivering close to 3,000 meals daily to students. Four schools in Franklin are offering the free lunch/breakfast program.

Franklin High School (FHS) staff arrive at work between 5:30-6:00 a.m. to begin meal preparation for students from Monday through Friday. Manager Terrie Kendrick and Assistant Manager Analisa Adams bag about 875 lunches along with breakfast items each day. Assisted by their staff members, Lacey Pholetter, Georgia Parker, Debbie Carver, Tammy Shephard, Alice Davis, Deanna Lucky and Cindy McGaha, the process appears seamless. School buses arrive at the high school to collect the lunches to be distributed on their bus routes. By 11:30, nearly a dozen buses roll off campus to start deliveries as they do at each of the schools offering free lunch. Students meet the bus at their regular school bus stop and are greeted with a smile and two meals, by their bus driver, who is now a familiar face. Parents who opt not to have the lunches delivered are able to drive to one of the four schools participating in the lunch program, to pick up their child's food. FHS also delivers to Danny Antoine's Martial Arts and Fitness Academy and New Visions Gymnastics who are both providing child care during the week.

South Macon Elementary School is also a site for free lunch. Manager Teresa Holland said that S. Macon prepares and distributes about 564 lunches daily between buses and parent drive up.

Mountain View Intermediate's Manager Tabatha Sanchez says her count is about 840 bagged lunches between buses and parent pick up.

Totla Valley Elementary School's lunch program is run by Manager Sandra Bennett. She loads close to 400 lunches on her bus routes and also offers parent pick up service at the school.

The county had received word of a CARES Act grant of \$244,194 in May in order to continue to offer free lunch delivery by bus drivers, but the grant runs out at the end of June. No one is



Franklin High School (FHS) lunch room staff arrive at work between 5:30-6:00 a.m. to begin meal preparation for students from Monday through Friday. Manager Terrie Kendrick and Assistant Manager Analisa Adams bag about 875 lunches along with breakfast items each day assisted by their staff members, Lacey Pholetter, Georgia Parker, Debbie Carver, Tammy Shephard, Alice Davis, Deanna Lucky and Cindy McGaha.

sure yet whether another grant will be available for July or August, although lunches will continue to be prepared at the school sites throughout the summer.

## Area food distributions

CareNet offers food to residents on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Every car that drives up to the window at CareNet is provided a box full of food. Volunteers roll the box down a ramp from the window and drivers are able to pick it up and place it in their car. According to CareNet Director Tim Hogsed, the food distribution center has seen a tremendous increase in demand. Normally, between 13- to 20,000 pounds of food is distributed monthly, but since March 15, CareNet has supplied more than 110,000 pounds of food. The normal yearly distribution is ap-

proximately 175,000 pounds.

Deliveries from CareNet also go out to several area fire departments for residents to pick up locally. Nantahala, Scaly Mountain, Clarks Chapel, Burningtown and Highlands are among the fire departments that folks are able to pick up food.

The soup cafe at CareNet is closed as is their resale shop. Hogsed explains that folks who work at the resale shop are seniors and would be at risk of contracting the virus if they were to open up now. And even though the cafe is closed, CareNet does offer bagged lunches for those who need it with clients being able to take two lunches for the days CareNet is closed.

Hogsed wants to make sure folks know how much help he has gotten from the community.

"The community has gotten behind us and the support has been overwhelming, from volunteers packing backpacks to donations both monetary and in kind," he said.

He does not know when he will be able to reopen the resale store or the soup cafe, but he does want to be sure it is safe to do so when that time comes.



The MANNA food bank held its monthly free food giveaway at Mountain View Intermediate School last Monday. This month MANNA assisted 933 individuals and 276 households with a total of 20,000 pounds of food distributed.

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## COVID cases rise to 231; Angel reports no hospitalizations

Macon County Public Health has identified a third COVID-19 cluster in an area business.

Six employees of Wind River Construction have tested positive. All positive individuals have been issued isolation orders. Additional employees are aware of their exposure, and are currently being contacted for testing. All employees who are awaiting test results have also been given instructions to quarantine until they receive a negative test result; those who test positive will be given isolation orders for 14 days or until they receive two negative COVID-19 tests within a 24-48-hour period. In addition, management has been provided disinfection guidance. Public health has determined that this cluster was acquired through community spread and not from associations with other identified clusters.

MCPH is working to identify additional close contacts of these individuals. The CDC defines close contact as being within approximately 6 feet of a person with an infection with COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer. County health officials will assess risks of exposure, determine which if any additional measures are needed such as temperature and symptom checks, quarantine and/or testing.

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

- A minimum of 5 cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and
- Plausible linkage between cases; where cases were present in the same setting during the same time-period.

As of Tuesday, June 16, Macon County has a total of 231 positive cases: 211 active, 19 recovered, and 1 death. Tests reported in Macon County have reached 2,654, with 157 pending. MCPH is currently testing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with results generally expected in 24 to 48 hours but may extend to as long as four days. Area hospitals report 15 lab-confirmed positive inpatients at Mission Hospital, one at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, and none at any of the other hospitals including Angel Medical Center (AMC).

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



## Couple to celebrate golden anniversary

Mary and Greg Simon of Franklin are celebrating 50 years of marriage. The couple were married on June 20, 1970 in Davie, Fla. They plan to celebrate their anniversary with a cruise through the Panama Canal sometime next year.

## Flexible funds available to help fill needs of low income families

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has announced that the state's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have begun to receive flexible funds that can be used to help low-income individuals and families meet a variety of needs caused by the economic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are part of the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and can, among other allowable uses, help eligible residents facing eviction with unmet rent and utility expenses.

"With the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor's moratorium on evictions and utility shutoffs is the only thing keeping many families in safe and stable housing," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. "This flexible funding will allow our Community Action Agencies to continue to meet a wide array of needs in our communities, including helping families remain in their homes when the moratorium is lifted."

Community Action Agencies are nonprofit organizations created by President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. To be eligible for CSBG-funded services, individuals and families must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

"Community Action Agencies have helped bridge gaps for low wealth residents and communities for 55 years," said Sharon Goodson, Executive Director of the NC Community Action Association. "They provide comprehensive services like case management, transportation, housing, employment, education, child care, eviction and emergency assistance programs to ensure low wealth residents increase and maintain their economic stability."

Macon Program for Progress is the local Community Action Agency. Vanessa Moore is the director of the CSBG program in Macon County. Contact her at [vmoore@mppnhc.org](mailto:vmoore@mppnhc.org) or call (828)524-4471.

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Tonight is the June meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissions. Since we are in Phase 2 of the Governor's State of Emergency, the meeting will again be held by way of ZOOM. Information on how to access the meeting is on the town website.

I hope this is the last meeting where we only ZOOM. If we are in Phase 3 in July, I believe we will have a face to face meeting that will also have a ZOOM option. The when and how the state will move to Phase 3 is still in question. With the increasing cases of Covid 19, the governor may very well delay Phase 3, and/or continue to curtail the number of people allowed at public gatherings.

A major item on tonight's agenda deals with issue of opening up town facilities, namely Founders Park, to larger gatherings in Phase 3. There are a number of requests including, concerts, art shows, the wine and food festival and the 5k road race that are upcoming up. The question for the board will be whether these events should move forward and under what conditions. The issue is compounded by the uncertainty of the spread of the virus and what the governor and state health director decides by June 26. Many elected officials in the state would give anything to have a crystal ball to look ahead, but in this state of emergency they will have to make decisions with very limited, and fluid information.

A public hearing is set concerning the proposed town budget for FYI 2020/21. As with the public comment period, folks can make comments at the budget hearing. I recommend calling into town hall prior to the meeting and requesting to make a public comment. The names and phone numbers will be given to me for recognition at the hearing. Requests to make a public comment can also be texted to me at (828) 506-3138. I will also open the floor for comment, but with this new technology there is always a concern that someone will be overlooked, so prior notification is recommended.

Tonight the board will also review an RFP for a company to operate our board band fiber optic network. This RFP is a 25 year lease/sale agreement. The agreement that we tried to finalize with WideOpen was a limited 10 year lease that followed the requirements of HB 129. This new lease option also complies with state statutes, but permits one company to control the network. I believe there will be several companies making proposals. The network should be ready for operation this fall.

Also on the agenda is the approval of a firm to lead the town through the comprehensive planning process. A number of companies have been interviewed by members of the land use committee and several planning board members. A contract will be approved and work should begin in the coming weeks. It will take about a year for the plan to be developed, written and presented to the board.

Hope everyone can ZOOM in tonight.

## Letters to the Editor

### Worry more about what is going on today

Slavery - Increasing income inequality is like blowing up a balloon: It can't go on forever. Slavery is not dead. It is the third most profitable enterprise of organized crime, after drugs and weapons sales. The current minimum wage, in most places, is a form of slavery. Inadequate education and health care is a form of slavery. Underpaying illegal immigrants is a form of slavery. If you are concerned about slavery, worry more about what is going on today than what went on in the past. More detail is at [david autobio.org/TOC/Ch30/Economic System](http://david autobio.org/TOC/Ch30/Economic System). Support leaders who care more about the people they lead, than their own agendas. Read up on how the Icelandic people, the Norwegians, and the Swedish people reformed their economic and political systems. If enough of us join together, we can make our society more equitable for all.

David Stearns - Franklin, N.C.

### America's future: Democracy or Socialism?

The stakes for the upcoming elections have never been higher. No one should underestimate the Democrats' total commitment to destroying and replacing the institutions, values, and principles that made America the greatest nation on the face of the earth with their "Politically Correct" vision of utopia.

Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer were willing to block passage of small business relief funding, sitting on their hands for over two weeks, while tens of millions of Americans suffered - all so they could try to leverage through their unpopular, unneeded, special interest funding demands.

They are ready to implement a total federal takeover of health care and give free health care to illegal immigrants, extend unemployment payments to indefinitely no matter how many jobs there are, give big labor the ability to dictate the way businesses are run [by] passing their Green New Deal of job-killing regulations, and ram through massive new tax increases.

If we fail to retain control of the White House, the Democrats will bring a wrecking ball to all of our accomplishments and put in place a disastrous Socialist agenda of soaring tax rates, job-killing regulations, a weakened military, and a failed foreign policy.

Simply put, they will take our nation backwards, destroy everything you and I believe in, and put America on a path to ruin. And as they work to turn our freedom-loving country into a Socialist nation, their radical actions will negatively impact every aspect of our lives.

There are no moderate Democrats left.

Despite the Democrats' never-ending partisan gamesmanship and knee-jerk opposition to everything Republi-

cans propose, with strong Republican leadership, from President Trump, we have:

- Confirmed not one, but two, terrific conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justices in Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

- Successfully negotiated with Mexico and Canada to replace NAFTA with a new, better deal for America and our workers, while taking a hard line against unfair, dishonest Chinese trade practices.

- Started rebuilding our military and put terrorists on the run.

- Taken unprecedented, comprehensive, and aggressive whole of America approach to slow the spread of the spread of the coronavirus and rescue the economy from the damage it has caused.

And that list doesn't even include the amazing successes our tax cutting, pro-growth policies achieved with record low unemployment, strong economic growth, and stock market record highs.

President Trump and Republicans want our country to stay on our current path: One of prosperity, freedom and opportunity for every citizen to achieve the American Dream.

In November, vote Republican! Keep American great.

Robert Yates - Franklin, N.C.

### Reparations could atone for our sins

Donald Trump talks about making America great again. But, he ignores two sins that haunt America. Those sins must be atoned. They are: (1) Our ancestors took North America from indigenous people, killing thousands in the process. (2) Our ancestors developed/exploited vast resources with African slave labor. Those two groups (victims of greed) were denied the wealth generated from North American resources.

A modest proposal to begin reparations to those groups: Federal and state income tax forms could provide a box for each filer to designate a specified amount to flow to a fund for community projects /job development for Native Americans and descendants of African slaves.

Let me stress that this should be an optional program. Not a requirement.

On his Nebraska album Bruce Stringsteen sings, "... shining across this dark highway where our sins lie un-atoned." America cannot be great until we atone for those sins.

Why should reparations and atonement wait until the majority agrees? Why can't legislators develop this elective program now? Let's atone for our sins!

Dave Waldrop - Webster, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to  
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## This may be the last hill to die on

An often cited quote from Eric Hoffer goes like this: "Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket." In his book, "The Temper of Our Time," published over 50 years ago, it is rendered thus: "What started here as a mass movement ends up as a racket, a cult, or a corporation." This is a perfect description of the fate of the civil rights movement which has become a parody of itself. I remember the early years. I'm old enough to remember White Only signs on rest rooms and water fountains. Anybody fool enough to say that there has been no progress in race relations since that time is either profoundly ignorant or malicious, or both. It appears that our elite universities and our news media, populated by alums of said universities, specialize in producing this type of person, one with shriveled rational resources connected to an overdeveloped limbic system. They are a clear and present danger to our republic.

Black Lives Matter is an example of the movement veering off to become a cult. When they shout "Black lives matter" what are they really doing? They aren't saying that because they think people don't believe it. They're saying it because they know people do believe it, and because of that the activists know they have a lever of moral blackmail against guilty whites. They are banking on the concept of collective guilt, that the whole white race is guilty. It is hard to convey the feeling of revulsion this produces in people who do not feel guilty for what color they were born. Black Lives Matter is a religious cult that has one race as sinners and they are the god to whom sinners must repent, obey, and prostrate themselves before. As one black woman tweeted, "it's Jonestown weird." But it is never enough. There will always be more demands and you can never be black. It is a religion without mercy or hope that will produce blight wherever it is allowed to flourish. Guilt is a real thing; everyone is a sinner before God. Those who reject God and His provision for salvation in Jesus will not be able to get rid of the guilt so they misplace it instead. That's what has happened to a lot of guilty whites. People who do not have a firm grip on this reality will have a hard time standing when the fierce satanic wind is blowing as it is now. I believe churches should be more explicit in their condemnation of this spirit. Churches that have any truck with this nonsense might as well place a banner above their doors: ICHABOD – THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED. It is idolatry.

On the one hand, you have the "religion" of hate, unforgiveness, and no mercy or reconciliation where one group, or who knows what other outgroup may be designated in the future, is viewed with perpetual suspicion. This perfectly sums up the unregenerate state of mankind. Regression follows. Nothing is more regressive than a godless "progressive." Compare that with the true religion of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Progress follows. When everyone stands on a level before God all subject to Him there is a chance for peace and harmony between all races. When one group is elevated above another there will be no justice, no peace. Too many hypocrites in the church I hear someone say. I've said that before myself during a rebellious period but that doesn't alter the fact that those are the qualities that we should strive for regardless of our failures. In our own strength we cannot produce them; they have to be infused by the Spirit. It is a lifelong process of learning how to let the Lord have his way and we often let Him down. Remember how Trump supporters were criticized as being angry haters and the Left waved signs of Love Trumps Hate? You don't hear and see that much, if any, anymore because Leftist hate has become too obvious to be denied.

I'm sure there are sincere people marching with the BLM road show as it has become. They are being used by sinister forces. What do protests in Franklin, Sylva, and Tokyo!

have to do with what happened in Minneapolis? Black Lives Matter as well as Antifa are international Marxist/anarchist organizations bankrolled by the likes of George Soros and others who hate America and want to bring about its destruction. In the process, foreign donations are laundered through BLM to the Democrat party. Nobody is defending racism. Nobody is defending police brutality. It's a lie to say that anyone is other than the anti-white racism of BLM. We can all come together on needed reforms but defund or abolish the police? Not a chance. Topple statues and erase history and change names of military bases? Not a chance. It will never satisfy those who are out of joint with life and who are only happy when they are angry and miserable and looking for someone to blame.

Systemic racism doesn't exist. Here's a thought I found on an online news site. "The left controls every major institution in America, mainstream media, academia, administrative government, Hollywood, big tech. So, if 'institutional racism' exists, whose fault would that be?" It is of note that the city that sparked the latest outrage with the death of George Floyd has been controlled lock, stock, and barrel by the Democrats for a long time.

The Democrat party is hopeless. Are you a Democrat that is sadly pondering what has happened to a once vital counterweight to the Republicans? It is no longer the loyal opposition but has the pursuit of power as its only concern. It will be the sock puppet for anti-American groups and those who would divide us to conquer. I didn't vote for Obama but after he was elected I was hoping that that would be the end of the "America is racist" canard. Sadly, he exacerbated racial tensions for political advantage instead of bringing us together. Those top Democrats that think they can use these malevolent forces to ride into power will soon find that they will become their victims in turn. President Trump is often characterized as divisive but people choose to divide themselves. This was the first time in our history that there was not a peaceful transfer of power to the incoming administration. True, it was not a military coup, but was a coup attempt nevertheless. Today's Democrats believe that they should never lose an election and will do anything to make sure that happens. Elections will be Potemkin elections as all barriers to voter fraud will be removed. Any and all crazy, destructive laws will be passed in their wake with dissenting voices silenced. The only hope for the party is to suffer such a resounding defeat at the polls that, hopefully, the spell will be broken and moderate, reasonable voices will prevail and restructure the party in such a way as to actually contribute to the health of the nation. Let the perpetually aggrieved form their own party.

The voices of insanity are in the minority, but because their ravings are amplified through the media and corporate cowardice in the face of it, one could think that they are the future. If they are, it is a blackened, burnt out and desolate future. We need to stand up and call them out where they are wrong. Cowardly politicians keep beating retreats saying that this is not the hill to die on. Which hill is it then? The end of the United States experiment in self-government is closer than they think. This may be the last hill to die on. Either die on the hill fighting the good fight in which you stand a chance of winning or die in a ditch like a dog, humiliated. The President sets the tone and Donald Trump champions needed reforms but can make the case against violence and destruction of property. Apparently this is something the Democrats have lost the capacity to do. Imagine Joe Biden as President, sinking further into dementia as unknown, unelected people become the de facto President acceding to every lunatic notion that flies through the air. Our civilization and way of life is at stake and your children and grandchildren's future happiness. Donald Trump may offend some sensibilities with his tweets but he loves this country and wants what's good for everyone. The Democrats offer only lies, slogans, threats, chaos and intimidation and a hatred of our country and many of the people in it. Democrats, reform

your party by voting to re-elect Donald Trump. Republicans, put aside your squeamishness, acknowledge that Donald Trump is God's man for the hour despite his faults and vote for the only person that can cause the Republican party to be a viable part of our two party system. For those who appreciate what President Trump has accomplished, I know you will be there to support him.

All this rage has a very simple origin. The left was confident in its ascendancy because what could not be passed legislatively because of lack of popular support could often be achieved by judicial fiat or administrative regulation. With the election of Donald Trump, there was a threat to the continuance of interpretation of a living and very plastic Constitution by the Supreme Court or unchecked actions of the Deep State. They responded with a coup attempt and a farcical impeachment while covering up their own misdeeds. Finally, upon proper pretext, violence is resorted to. This is who they are. This all they have left. Do not let them get control of the government or it's lights out.

David Parker – Franklin, N.C.

## Capitalists figure prominently in American history

1787-1850 – Politicians in states controlled by capitalists maneuver for control of the general government of the United States. They desire to control the nation's money and to receive tax-support for their factories. Politicians in states controlled by agriculturists oppose these maneuvers. They do not desire to pay taxes for other people's benefit.

1850 – Capitalists have so arranged the general government of the United States of America, that they control both chambers of Congress, with no prospect of ever losing that control.

1850-1860 – Political leaders in states not controlled by capitalists, insist that the general government has limited functions and that most functions of government belong to the state governments. The capitalist-controlled general government proves that not to be the case.

1860 – The party of capitalism elects its candidate to the Presidency of the U.S.

1861 – States of the U.S. not controlled by capitalists, create a general government of their own. The Republican party declares that slaveholders can keep their slaves if only they will submit to rule by capitalists. Refused, the Republicans dispatch armies to establish the hegemony of capitalism in the states that capitalists do not control.

1861-1865 – Republican armies burn, plunder, and rape throughout noncapitalist America. Agriculturalists fight to prevent arson, plunder, rape, and to repel invasion.

1862 – The Republican president declares that all slaves living in areas as yet unconquered by Republican armies, are free. The slaves in those areas do not burn, plunder, and rape.

1865 – The Republicans establish the hegemony of capitalism throughout America, and begin declaring that the war was about slavery.

2020 – Americans "educated" in government schools do not know any better. In reaction to excesses of government (controlled by capitalists), many Americans are taking out their frustrations on statues of dead slaveholders (who opposed the hegemony of capitalism).

George Crockett – Franklin, N.C.

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

# March a show of solidarity with BLM



Photos by Betsey Gooder

# Prayer event offers words of hope

Saturday morning at 10 a.m. local people from Macon County gathered from different backgrounds, denominations, and churches to pray, intercede for the country, sing songs of praise, and encourage the community with words of hope. Signs with messages of faith, love and unity were held by people of all ages and ethnicities. More than 30 people showed up to this almost spontaneous event organized by local lady Rebecca Tipton who reserved the space only a few days prior to the event. Police Sheriff Robert Holland drove by with his son in the passenger seat of his truck. He stopped out and the group of prayer warriors asked to bless him with prayers of protection and grace. The Sheriff told us that his son had asked him, "Daddy are those more of the people who hate us?" to which his Father responded, "no" that these people were trying to spread love and pray for people. Many other people responded with honks, waves and were prayed for and blessed, including Macon County's own Citizen of the Year, Danny Antoine and his wife Mary who work with kids of all ages in town. The event lasted until late afternoon, and was a blessing to all who participated. If you would like to be involved in a similar upcoming event, contact Rebecca Tipton on Facebook.

Photos by Anjelica Childs



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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 June 7 - 14. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 8

Joseph Lee Samarco, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

June 9

Kimberly Marie Cates, was charged with simple assault. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Christopher Adam Jones, was charged with break or enter a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, injury to personal property. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Brandon James Parrish, was charged with possession of a motor vehicle, injury to personal property. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Tyler Garrett Converse, was charged with injury to personal property. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

June 10

Joshua Cataldo Smith, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Miriam Alecia Crow, was charged with offenses committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Amberly Lynn Crawford, was charged with possession of stolen goods, injury to personal property, breaking and en-

tering a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Daniel Thomas Cheatham, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

June 11

Stacey Frank Rogers, was charged with possession of heroin, possessing of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalian. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Brittney Campbell-Turner was charged with possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

June 13

Gray Lebreia Fisk, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

June 14

Nathan Shane Humphries, was charged with larceny. James Barton Smith, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

June 12

Anita Belle Rodriguez, 47, of Crisp St., was charged with intimidation, kidnapping/abduction, all other larceny. A \$15,000 bond was set. Officer Evans made the arrest.

June 14

Ryan Emerson Spears, 30, of Watauga Rd., was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A \$600 bond was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

June 7

Beverly Queen, 63, of Autumn Crest Ridge, was charged with abuse of disable/elder subject. A secured bond of \$1,000

was set.

Joshua Lee Wayne Seagraves, 23, of Bellemeade Dr., Waynesville, was charged with trespass enter/remain, larceny by changing price tag, larceny. No bond was set.

Brittany Anne Pomeroy, 30, of Ford St., Canton, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. No bond was set.

June 8

Marbin Joel Anariba Urbina, 31, Alma St., Durham, was charged with resisting a public officer, interfere with or prevent emergency communication, common law robbery. No bond was set. Jesse L. Aiken made the arrest.

Roman Zepeda Arellando, 42, of Cashiers, was charged with malicious conduct by a prisoner/throws, resisting a public officer, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, assault with a deadly weapon on a government official, no operators license, driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$30,000 was set. Michael T. Smathers made the arrest.

Phillip Olias Huff, 25, of Sunhillo Springs Trail, Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set. Matthew D. Wike made the arrest.

June 10

Gregory Mark Thompson, 60, of Iron Mountain Dr., was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set. Michael T. Smathers made the arrest.

June 12

Phillip Olias Huff, 25, of Sunhillo Springs Trail, Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set. Matthew D. Wike made the arrest.

Carol Dale Mintz, 30, of Saloli Dr., Cherokee, was charged with resisting a public officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set. Michael T. Smathers made the arrest.

June 13

Mark Steven Osborne, 55, of Allens Branch Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Macon Chips, the Franklin Wood Carving Club will meet on Thursday, June 18, 6:30 p.m. in Franklin High School Wood Shop. They will continue to meet on Thursdays. Please comply with social distancing and other endemic protocols. All members and prospective members are cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Contact D Lantson (828)369-2144.

NAACP will meet online Saturday, June 20, at 10 a.m. The program topic is "The Movement for Black Lives in WNC: What Next?" Email jcnacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. The public is welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

First Alliance Church has resumed its Sunday service. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will continue his sermon series from the book of Revelation. Soloist Dennis Henson will sing "What Salvation's Done For Me". Fathers will be recognized. The church is located at 90 Promise Lane (next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

Oak Grove Baptist Church Homecoming scheduled for July 19 has been cancelled. For more information call (828)369-2415.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH LISTINGS (call for current schedules)

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

Mulberry United Methodist Church's Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. The church is located at 155 Mulberry Rd., Otto. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call Rev. Eric Henson at (828)342-0431.

Patton United Methodist Church Services are Sunday worship 9.45 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m., prayer time Wednesday 6 p.m., youth group Wednesday 6 p.m., Bible study Wednesday 6.30 p.m. 119 Patton Church Road, Franklin Pattonmethodistchurch.org

Memorial United Methodist Church regular Sunday services are held at 10:55 a.m. each Sunday, and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd., just off 64 West. For more information, call (828)369-5834 or visit our website at: www.memorialmethodistchurch.org.

Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Men's Bible Study 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.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church Divine Liturgy is held on Sundays, 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. The church is located at 23 Hickory St., in Murphy. For more information, call Fr. James Blomeley (828)361-1464 snocmurphy@gmail.com

First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship Schedule: Contemporary Worship at 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Traditional Worship at 10:55 a.m. (childcare provided) at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave, Franklin. Call (828) 524-3010 / firstumcfranklin.org.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Divine Worship with Holy communion is held on Sunday 10:30 a.m. Rev. Fred Balke is the pastor. The church is located one block north of SR 64 next to BP Station. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (828)369-1006 or web site gslc-franklin.com

Grace Presbyterian Church (EPC) Services with Pastor Toby Popeare are Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m. The church is located at 360 First St. (828)369-6800. Visit www.graceepc-franklin.com or find us on facebook @gracepresbyterianchurch-EPC

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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# Kids' summer opportunities different, cancelled, or virtual this year

Deena B. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Macon County Schools' Summer Edventure Camp, which starts on Monday, June 22, is operating quite differently this year. While the all-day educational and recreational camp at South Macon Elementary School may be one of the only local summer camp/activity experiences that was not completely cancelled, operating during a pandemic will require staff and students to practice social distancing and to wear masks. Plus, daily temperature checks will be conducted as well as regular cleaning and disinfecting of the school during each day.

"The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' requirements are different this year and more restrictive," said Todd Gibbs, director of auxiliary services for Macon County Schools. "We don't have the enrollment that we've had in the past. We have under 50 and usually we have about 150. In the past it's been more recreational focused, but we're not going to take as many field trips this summer because so much is closed down. And we're doing some tutoring this year to try get kids back on track. Also, we usually have a four-week session in June and four weeks in July, but this year we're starting later and just have one six-week camp. It's a struggle with staffing this summer as well because people don't want to work because of COVID or can't work because of COVID."

To inquire about enrollment to Edventure Camp or to become employed at the camp, call Lenora Clifton, (828) 524-3314.

## Macon County Public Library

Macon County Public Library, usually a hot spot of summer activity, has primarily been moved online, according to Tabitha Johnson, acting supervisor of the children's program.

"Barry Mitchell and The Science Tellers were really big programs last year and we originally planned for one of them to kick off the summer and one to wrap up the summer," she said. "But now, because of COVID, through fontanalib.org/summer, we are providing virtual programming accessible until Aug. 31."

Johnson said that there is still a summer reading program, this year titled "Imagine Your Story" with a reading log and themed prompts, and participants can sign up for the program online or interested families can call ahead and request printed materials.

"Participants can bring in their log after July 31 to exchange for prizes," said Johnson. "They can also pick up each week a themed activity bag to do and then turn in."

Johnson offered that some of the family friendly, summer-camp-at-home activity suggestions for the summer children's pro-

gram (available for toddlers through 12 or 13 years old) include, for example, how build an indoor fort. An activity bag might center on a dragon-related theme with DIY instructions, including a suggested video link, on how to make a dragon paper airplane.

"Anyone who has access to the Internet can look online to see what's happening, and they can ask to be added to our e-newsletter, which has changes, updates, schedules, etc. or they can follow us on Facebook. Through our website, children and adults with a library card can also check out e-books, watch movies, learn languages, listen to books, take classes to learn skills through UniversalClass. And, on an appointment basis, we can now allow people into the library and we still have a few things for kids, like stuffed animals behind glass displays in particular themes, such as It's a Zoo Out There. We still want kids to know the library is a welcoming environment, they just can't play with the toys right now."

Thirteen-year-olds can participate in the children's programs or the teen opportunities, which are available for 14- to 18-year-olds through adult programming at the library. Call Macon County Public Library at (828) 524-3600 for more information or if there is no online access.

## Highlands Nature Center

Nature Center Education Specialist Paige Engelbrektsen of the Highlands Biological Foundation, which is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University, shared, "Unfortunately all of our summer camps are canceled, and the Highlands Nature Center is closed for the foreseeable future. However we do have several opportunities for children to remotely engage with the Highlands Nature Center this summer. One is our new Plateau Pen



Macon County Schools Summer Edventure Camp includes educational elements as well as recreational. This year's camp is set to open June 22 and will run for six weeks.

Pals program."

Engelbrektsen offered the public message about the program: "Have you missed visiting the Highlands Nature Center? Our staff have missed you! In the spirit of staying connected while staying apart, we're starting a "Plateau Pen Pal" program. We invite anyone who is interested to write to the Highlands Nature Center. If you have a favorite memory from visiting, a drawing, or photo you'd like to share with us, or just want to exchange a friendly hello, we'd love to hear from you! Send your letters to: Highlands Nature Center, 265 N. 6th Street, Highlands, NC 28741

"Additionally we have a series of themed crafts and activities to encourage children to connect with

nature in our Nearby Nature program. These are collected and available in our Virtual Learning Center: <https://highlandsbiological.org/nature-center/virtual/>"

Engelbrektsen has committed herself to answering each letter. She explained, "There may even be responses from a few 'guest experts' from the Nature Center – experts of the scaly or salamander variety. I will also be mailing hard copies of our themed Nearby Nature activities, designed for kids and adults of all ages, to any interested pen pals. To learn more, call (828) 526-2623."

## Camp Merrie-wood

Camp Merrie-wood, one of the oldest summer camps in North Carolina and located in Cashiers, along with SOAR in Balsam and Mountain Retreat & Learning Center in Highlands, have had to shutter activities this year.

"It's the first time in 102 years," said Jim Dunn, who co-directs with his wife, Denise, Camp Merrie-Woode at Sapphire Lake. "It was a heavy hit and hard decision."

Annually, Camp Merrie-Woode welcomes at least 600 campers and nearly 100 staffers to three-week, five-week, and 11-day sessions throughout summer months. "But we had to err on the side of safety for the girls and the staff," he said, adding that parents have been "so generous," with some of them going ahead and



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paying the full summer camp fees even though the camp had to close. "We are not able to provide programming this summer, but we are already looking toward next summer."

Even the Camp Merrie-Woode Lake Trail is closed at Sapphire Valley, due to the N.C. Governor's phased reopening directives. "While we are heartbroken about the decision to close camp this season and will miss our time this year, we look forward to reuniting with our community in 2021 to rekindle the spirit of Merrie-Woode that we all love so much," said Denise Dunn. "We know each of our campers, staff, and alumnae hold on to the tiny spark of fire within that represents the Merrie-Woode spirit, and we ask them to share that spark with those around them to keep the Merrie-Woode spirit shining brightly throughout the summer until we gather together again."



## Grants awarded to Fontana Regional Library

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Fontana Regional Library last week was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$46,786 for Mobile Print Access.

"Computer access at the library no longer necessarily means using a library computer as more people bring their own devices to access our Wi-Fi," explained Fontana Regional Library Director Karen Wallace. "The grant is for people who bring their devices to the library and cannot print from them. Offering mobile will create greater equity of access to resources for our patrons who need print services."

Wallace explained that once the equipment is in place, possibly sometime in late summer, visitors to any one of the six libraries in three counties, Macon, Jackson, and Swain, can print from tablets, laptops, and phones to the libraries' printers.

"We will begin to order equipment beginning July 1," said Wallace. "It may take a few months to get all the pieces together and make it available. But we will have brand new equipment in place."

"Many of our patrons are seniors with a low level of digital experience; they know how to use their own device – often just a phone – but do not have the facility to switch to a public computer



in order to print. These patrons face an insurmountable barrier when they can't access emails or accounts on a library computer."

LSTA grants are federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that are awarded by the State Library to eligible North Carolina Libraries.

"Our state library in N.C. administers these competitive grants that we apply for on a regular basis," said Wallace. "We received a \$4,000 grant earlier in the spring to buy supplies and PPE [personal protective equipment] to manage our reopening. And we're looking right now at applying for an additional LSTA grant for digital inclusion, which means more access to the Internet. There is a homework gap, according to a number of surveys, and many families do not have access to the Internet. This really hit home during the pandemic and the spring school semester. It's really challenging if you don't have Internet access at home. We have it outside our buildings, so that was a way for people to have access to the Internet, but this grant could allow us to boost the signal."

Wallace said that Fontana Regional Libraries' Wi-Fi, which is donated by BalsamWest, is available to anyone. However, a library card is required to check out e- or audio-books or be granted access to other online library resources.

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# Nantahala School graduates five in outdoor ceremony



Savannah O'Dell



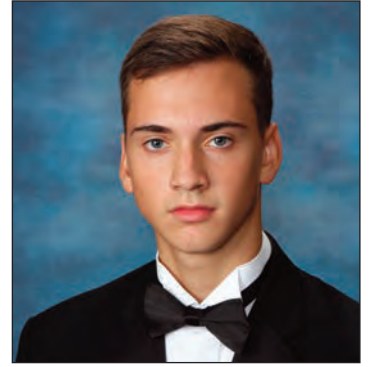
Hunter Owenby



Zach Postell



Brittney Smith



Dylan Stroud



Savannah O'Dell plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in medical sonography.



Hunter Owenby plans to take some time off from school to decide what path he would like to pursue.

In a modified, limited-guests outdoor commencement, Nantahala School celebrated its seniors Friday, June 5. The weather cooperated but the Fireant Grill donated the use of its tents so the ceremony would go on rain or shine.



Zach Postell plans to attend Nascar Technical Institute, complete their automotive technology program and receive ASE Certification.



Brittney Smith plans to attend East Central College in Missouri and major in neonatal nursing, then attend Missouri State to become a registered nurse.



Dylan Stroud plans to attend SCC and then transfer to Western Carolina University to pursue a degree in Athletic Training.



**Mary S. Thompson**

Beloved longtime Highlands resident Mary S. Thompson (fondly known as "Nanny," not only by her own grandchildren but by many other children) passed away Thursday, June 11, at her home after a brief illness.

Mary Grace Smith Cleaveland Thompson was born in Westminster, S.C., on June 28, 1924, to Mary Elizabeth Harbin Smith and John Henry Smith. She was the sixth of eight children. Her father was a sharecropper and she began picking cotton at the age of 5. At the age of 12, she came to Highlands and began working at Hotel Edwards to help support her family in South Carolina.

She remained in Highlands and at age 16 she married Wendall (Buck) Cleaveland. During the war, they moved to Vancouver, Wash., with their young son, John, where Buck led an electrical crew helping construct battleships for the war effort. Mary herself worked in the shipyards pulling wires through the bellies of battleships during their construction.

Near the end of the war, they returned to Highlands, which was in a state of economic despair. Soon after, they moved to Virginia where there was ample work available in the construction industry. Shortly after their arrival in Virginia, Buck was tragically killed in a construction accident. Mary returned to Highlands with her son John and began working at the Tar Heel Restaurant, located in the current Masonic Lodge building on West Main Street.

In 1950, she married Magnus (Bud) Stribling Meriweather Thompson, Buck's half brother. They had three children. In 1954, they moved for a time to Oconee County, South Carolina, to be near her elderly parents. In 1966, she and her son, John Cleaveland, bought the Highlander Restaurant on Main Street Highlands from W.C. Newton. In 1969, the business was expanded with the addition of Big John's Siroloin Room on Oak Street. The business was operated by the family until it was sold in November 1981. Following that venture, Mary, along with her son Mike and his wife Dale, operated a business on the hill known as the Sunny Day Bakery and Deli until the fall of 1986.

Following her retirement in 1986, Mary served as a regular volunteer at Mountain Findings for over 21 years. She also continued serving others and visiting the elderly at the Eckerd Nursing Center until the age of 93. She was a longtime member of the Presbyterian Church in Highlands where she served as an elder for many years. She also served on various town committees. She was awarded the Robert B. Dupree Citizenship Award through the Highlands Rotary Club in the early 2000s. To the delight of many, she continued baking her wonderful breads, chocolate cakes, and caramel cakes, as well as her infamous buttermilk pies, until she hung up her apron at the age of 90.

She is preceded in death by her son, John W. Cleaveland. She is survived by daughter-in-law, Edwina Goode Cleaveland and grandchildren, Mary Kristina (Kristy) Cleaveland, Marty Caye Smith, and John Caye; daughter, Pamela Thompson-Duke and husband Michael Duke of Lilburn, Ga., and grandchildren Matthew Reese and Jennifer Reese; daughter, Mary Lee Billingsley and husband Lamar of Scaly Mountain, N.C., and grandchildren Tracy Roman, and David, John, and Andrew Billingsley; son, Michael (Mike) Stribling Thompson of Highlands, and grandchildren, McKenzie and Sayward Thompson.

She is also survived by 11 great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, and an assortment of loving dogs, cats, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and birds of all kinds, which she fed faithfully.

From her home overlooking Harris Lake, she loved to watch the clouds as they rose from the West.

In addition to all of the family who attended to our mother, thanks to her faithful caregivers Sherry, Delores, and C.J.

In honor of her wishes, a private family service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the John W. Cleaveland Benevolent Fund at Community Bible Church, Four Seasons Hospice, and Highlands Child Care Development Center at First Presbyterian Church.

We will all miss her so!

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



**Mary S. Thompson**

**Clara Dean Singleton Farmer**

Clara Dean Singleton Farmer, 83, formerly of 119 Mellon Street, Slater, S.C., passed away on June 11, 2020, at Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Franklin, N.C.

She was married to the late Billy Landrum Farmer for 54 years and was mother of two, although her loving influence also earned her the title of "Granny Dean" to countless others. She was known for her passion for growing beautiful flowers that she graciously shared, creating crafts of artful displays and seasonal decorations, beanie baby hopping, collecting antiques, and singing her old-time favorite songs where she could still recall every word. She had a deep love for her family and friends. Her most precious attributes were her generous heart and caring ways. She showered kindness on all around her and most recently you would find her on the gray hall snuggling with "Michael" where she loved to visit with friends, sometimes caught up in memories of her loved ones and days gone by.

Born in Dascusville, S.C., near Peter's Creek, she was the youngest daughter of the late Hovey Byard and Edna Foster Singleton. A textile weaver by trade, she was retired from the JP Stevens Slater Plant and was a member of Slater Baptist Church where she was fondly remembered as a children's Sunday School teacher and a woman of strong Christian faith. She adored her long-time neighbors and friends in the mill village and greater Slater community, especially her adopted mother, Granny Daniel.

Surviving is her daughter, Theresa Farmer Ramsey and husband Joseph of Franklin; granddaughter, Kaila Dean Ramsey Garza and husband Matt and son, Levi of Washington, DC; grandson, Matthew Lyle Ramsey and wife Brittany and two daughters, Lilly and Emma of Hoschton, Ga.; grandson, William Michael Ables of Pickens, S.C.; two sisters-in-law, Alice Singleton (David) and Almeda Singleton (HB); and many loving nieces and nephews. Her favorite people called her Nana.

She was predeceased by her son, William Michael Farmer of Greenville, S.C.; and nine siblings, Elizabeth Katherine "Kat" Friddle (J Roy), James Edward "Ed" Singleton (Jessie), Mary Helen Raines (Carl), John Henry Singleton (Sarah/Carrie), Myrtle Lee Singleton, Edna Faye Poole (Carlos), Minnie Eloise Bryant (Edgar), Hovey Byard HB "Buck" Singleton, Jr. and William David Singleton (Linda). The Singleton clan was known for their hospitality, a close-knit group that treasured family reunions and gatherings.

Dean's family wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to her "second family" for their loving care – the staff at Macon Valley – and we appreciate the support from Four Seasons Hospice during her final days. We will be forever grateful to her wonderful friend and caregiver – Louetta Smith. Visit thehowzemortuary.com to view photos and more information.

The family will share details for a "Celebration of Life Service" to be held at a later date.

Donations in her memory may be made to Slater Baptist Church, PO Box 243, Slater, SC 29683 or we invite you to embrace the beauty of flowers around you and think of her.

To share your favorite memory of Dean or send expressions of sympathy, mail to: The Family of Dean Farmer, c/o Theresa Ramsey, 2547 Leatherman Gap Road, Franklin, NC 28734.



**Clara Farmer**

**Adam Ernest Kenyon**

Adam Ernest Kenyon, 47, of Franklin, N.C., previously of Colorado and Tennessee, passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

He enjoyed camping and being outdoors. He is survived by his dad, Ron Kenyon; four children, Kayla Harrington and Katlyn Harrington both of Franklin and Natasha Kenyon and Amber Lambdin both of Grayling, Mich.; two stepchildren, Audrie Fournier and Veronika Fournier both of Grayling, Mich.; two grandchildren, Christopher Harrington and Cason Queen; fiancé, Kerry Harrington and two step children, Bailey Harrington and Ryan Craig.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



**Adam Ernest Kenyon**

**TheMaconCountyNews.com**

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# Denny Hamlin gets 40th career cup at Homestead

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

The race statistics will show that Denny Hamlin led a dominating 138 of the 267-laps in Sunday's Dixie Vodka 400 but the truth is he had to earn every fraction of a second that he paced the field. It was a thrilling chase for the checkered flag, lap-after-lap among the front-running cars.

Hamlin ultimately took the lead for good - passing Chase Elliott with 29 laps remaining after a series of green flag pit stops swapped the two cars' positions in front of the field. Elliott had pit a lap earlier than Hamlin and held a 1.5-second lead in the dozen or so laps after the green flag stops. But Hamlin was able to catch up with Elliott as they tried to get around the race's early leader Joey Logano, who was running two laps down at the time.

With his dramatic .895-second victory over Hendrick Motorsport's Elliott and Team Penske's Ryan Blaney, Hamlin became the NASCAR Cup Series' first three-race winner on the season. It was Hamlin's 40th NASCAR Cup Series career win and third career victory at Homestead-Miami Speedway tying him with Tony Stewart and Greg Biffle for most wins all-time on the 1.5-mile oval.

Rookie Tyler Reddick, who won the 2018 and 2019 NASCAR Xfinity Series races at Homestead, finished in fourth-place. Aric Almirola, a Florida native, was a season-best fifth place. Kyle Busch, Austin Dillon, rookie Christopher Bell, William Byron and Brad Keselowski rounded out the top 10.

The last rookie to earn a top-10 finish at Homestead was David Regan, 13 years ago. On Sunday night there were two rookies in the top 10 and it was a career-best NASCAR Cup Series finish for both - Reddick and Bell.

Hamlin won both the first and second stages - only the fifth time a driver has swept the opening two stages this season. And he is the first driver in 2020 to sweep both stages and win the race.

That last round of green flag pit stops proved to be a challenge for Hamlin. Elliott, who pit one lap sooner than Hamlin returned to the track and held a 1.5-second advantage over Hamlin with 45 laps remaining. Hamlin got around him as they approached Logano who fought hard not to go another lap down.

"Just need to get through lapped traffic better," Elliott said. "I thought our Hooters Camaro really was good enough to win and I thought we executed a really nice race and kept it off the wall almost the whole race, kinda got it there at the end. But I'm proud of the effort and we're bringing fast cars right now."

From 2002-2019 this Homestead stop on the schedule was the November championship finale. And before the COVID-19 break in racing this year, it was originally scheduled for March. Lightning in the area - as is common in South Florida in June parked the cars for nearly three hours under red flag conditions Sunday.

The break ended up being a game-changer for Team Penske driver Logano, who jumped out to the early lead - showing the way in the afternoon between the two red flag periods for lightning but was involved in a pit road collision that changed his race fate and left him playing catch-up.

Kevin Harvick remains atop the NASCAR Cup Series

championship standings by eight points over Elliott as the series moves to Talladega Superspeedway for the Geico 500 Sunday, June 21.

## Harrison Burton steals Xfinity win at Homestead

Harrison Burton prevailed in a three-wide, frantic push to the checkered flag to win Saturday's Hooters 250 on a restart with only two laps remaining in the first event of a NASCAR Xfinity Series doubleheader weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

The 19-year old series rookie Burton edged Austin Cindric and Noah Gragson by .379-seconds - leading only the final two laps on the day - to earn his second career victory of the season and become the track's youngest series race winner.

"What a race, man. This track is so much fun and really puts it in the drivers hand, especially at the end there. I'm just ready to go again tomorrow, to be honest with you. I'm ready to get two," said Burton.

Anthony Alfredo finished fourth, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., who was making his first NASCAR Xfinity Series start since Aug. 31 of last year at Darlington Raceway. Michael Annett finished sixth and Chase Briscoe turned in a valiant seventh place effort after going down six laps at the race start. Burton's JGR teammate Brandon Jones, Ross Chastain and JGR rookie, Riley Herbst rounded out the top 10.

It was an especially rough outcome for Gragson, who led the most laps on the day - 83 of 167- and held a five-second lead on the field before the caution came out with only five laps remaining.

It was certainly an exciting race in the hot Florida afternoon sun with 23 lead changes - often multiple cars involved in a single lap. Gragson, Cindric, Florida native Ross Chastain and fan favorite Earnhardt - who hadn't raced in the Xfinity Series at Homestead since 2008 - led laps at various times in a thrilling highly-competitive day.

Briscoe, who led the championship standings coming into the race, had a mechanical problem before the green flag and sat in the pits for the opening six laps. Disappointing, for sure, but it made for a dramatic and impressive comeback for the Stewart-Haas Racing driver who made up all but one lap by the start of Stage 2.

He stayed out as long as possible during the final stage, running with 20-lap older tires than the race leaders. He was sixth with 20 laps remaining hoping for a caution flag that would have let them pit and stay on the lead lap. But he was ultimately forced to come in for fresh rubber with 17 laps remaining and still raced to a top 10.

He finished sixth and dropped to 18-points behind new leader Gragson in the championship standings.

Ryan Sieg earned his second career stage win, taking the opening stage victory by pitting four fresh tires on a caution period and sprinting by the race leaders who did not pit at that point. Gragson won the second stage.

## Chase Briscoe gets fifth career Xfinity win at Homestead-Miami

Chase Briscoe delivered a clutch restart in double overtime to hold off a hard-charging Brandon Jones at the finish line and earn the victory in Sunday's Contender Boats 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Homestead-Miami



Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Toyota, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on June 14, 2020 in Homestead, Fla.



Harrison Burton, driver of the #20 DEX Imaging Toyota, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Hooters 250 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on June 13, 2020 in Homestead, Fla.



Chase Briscoe, driver of the #98 Ford Performance Racing Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Contender Boats 250 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on June 14, 2020 in Homestead, Fla.



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# PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

## This Week's Cup Series Race: GEICO 500

### Race Details

**Location:** Talladega, Alabama  
**Date:** Sunday, June 21, 3:00 p.m.  
**Last Year's Pole:** Austin Dillon - 192.544 mph  
**Last Year's Winner:** Chase Elliott

### Talladega Superspeedway



**Shape:** Tri-oval  
**Distance:** 2.66 miles  
**Turns / Front / Back:** 33° / 16.5° / 2°

### Race Preview

Talladega Superspeedway is one of the best known motorsports facilities in the world. The track was constructed in 1969 by the International Speedway Corporation. Records for both speed and competition have been established at Talladega. The backstretch is nearly 4,000 feet long with a total frontstretch of 4,300 feet, making it the largest oval track on the NASCAR circuit. In the first race at the track, all the original drivers abandoned the track due to tire problems. This allowed NASCAR CEO Bill France, Sr. to hire substitute drivers with the winner being Richard Brickhouse. The track's true dominator was Dale Earnhardt, who posted 10 Cup Series wins. Current points leader, Kevin Harvick, finished 38th in last year's race.

## Top News Stories

### NASCAR allows limited audience for first time since coronavirus, Confederate flag ban

NASCAR opened up its races to spectators in Florida on Sunday, the first time fans were in the stands since restrictions were put in place for the coronavirus and just days after the sport banned Confederate flags. NASCAR, the first major professional U.S. sport to resume during the pandemic, allowed just 1,000 first responders and military families at its race at Homestead-Miami Speedway for the Dixie Vodka 400 NASCAR Cup Series event. The speedway's grandstands can normally handle over 50,000 fans. The limit on the number of attendees was required to observe a number of safety measures, including social distancing, temperature checks and cashless transactions. Everyone was required to wear face coverings. Photos showed spectators socially distancing in the bleachers, sitting far apart in the sparsely filled stadium. On Wednesday, NASCAR announced that it would officially ban Confederate flags at all its events and properties. The only black driver in the league's top series, Bubba Wallace, praised NASCAR for the decision to take a stand after he had called on it to make a change. "It's not a race thing. It's about walking into an event and feeling uncomfortable," Wallace said. "That's it. If you felt uncomfortable, you would want change. So I'm speaking out for the people that show up to the racetrack and feel that type of way."

## Last Weekend's Race: Denny Hamlin won in Miami

Denny Hamlin won the Dixie Vodka 400 after battling with Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney through the final stretch at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Hamlin led for much of the race, but Elliott took the lead on the final green flag pit stop of the night. Hamlin was able to retake the lead for good with 30 laps to go and held off Elliott, who finished in second. Hamlin had the best car all day, winning Stages 1 and 2 ahead of his third win of the season after winning the Daytona 500 and the Toyota 500.

**Denny Hamlin**  
 Born: Nov. 18, 1980  
 Crew Chief: Sam McAulay  
 Car: Toyota

Year	Wins	Top 10s	Avg. Finish
2020	3	7	13.1
2019	6	24	11.0

## 2020 Standings

### Cup Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Kevin Harvick	463	9
2) Chase Elliott	455	8
3) Joey Logano	434	6
4) Brad Keselowski	412	9
5) Ryan Blaney	411	6
6) Martin Truex, Jr.	410	6
7) Denny Hamlin	395	7
8) Alex Bowman	380	3
9) Kyle Busch	359	7
10) Kurt Busch	338	8

### Xfinity Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Noah Gragson	435	8
2) Chase Briscoe	417	8
3) Harrison Burton	390	10
4) Austin Cindric	380	7
5) Ross Chastain	374	8
6) Brandon Jones	345	7
7) Justin Haley	330	6
8) Justin Allgaier	328	4
9) Ryan Sieg	266	4
10) Michael Annett	260	3

## Racing Trivia

Which driver won four consecutive races at Talladega?

- a) Pete Hamilton
- b) Dale Earnhardt Jr.
- c) Dale Earnhardt
- d) Jeff Gordon

Answer: b) Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Speedway.

It was a feel-good ending to a challenging weekend for Briscoe, who had to make up six laps in Saturday's Xfinity race to score a seventh-place finish, and then had to race without his fulltime crew chief and car chief on Sunday as they served a penalty from infractions on Saturday.

"That was a team win for sure," said Briscoe, who earned his fifth career victory and third of the season. "Yesterday we were so good and then today, I don't know if it was the heat or what, we just weren't very good. We were decent on the long run, but the 9 (Noah Gragson) was definitely better. Just a testament to all the

guys at Stewart-Haas Racing."

It was a wild ending to a day that mostly featured a master class by the JR Motorsports driver Gragson, who led the most laps (83 on Saturday, 81 on Sunday) both days and was meters from taking the white flag in regulation - with a nearly 2-second lead on the field - when third place Austin Cindric spun out bringing out a caution.

Ross Chastain finished third, just in front of his Kaulig Racing teammate A.J. Allmendinger who earned the \$100,000 Dash 4 Cash bonus money. Gragson, who has top-five finishes in the last four races, and holds an 18-point edge over Briscoe in the NASCAR Xfinity Series championship standings

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15**

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THEME: FATHER'S DAY

- ACROSS
- Kind of lively dance
  - Greenwich time
  - Pilgrimage to Mecca
  - Belittle
  - A note to follow soh
  - Annie Oakley's show
  - Hipbone-related
  - Chicago to Detroit direction
  - Historical period
  - \*Most gifted Father's Day gift?
  - \*a.k.a. Father of the Constitution
  - Have a cold, e.g.
  - Bog deposit
  - Styling product
  - Not yet final, in law
  - Squirrels away
  - "Metamorphoses" poet
  - Antioxidants-rich berry
  - Text that precedes the main text
  - Car brand, e.g.
  - \*\*"Full House" father
  - Brazilian indigenous people
  - a.k.a. drowsy
  - Precedes shine
  - Paving stone
  - Early TV manufacturer
  - Bayonet wound
  - "Zip it!"
  - Popular form of communication
  - Part of a match
  - \*Christopher Robin's father
  - \*Father known as "one-shot" Finch
  - Largest deer
  - \*Richard Bobbsey's off-

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- spring
- Precedes desist
- Cuckoo
- Friedrich Schiller's "\_\_\_ to Joy"
- Personnel person
- Job for a body shop
- Parent's order
- Wrestling's \_\_\_ the Giant
- Shoshonean people
- Without further \_\_\_\_, pl.
- 1920s art style
- \*John-John's father
- Cow's favorite grass?
- Homer's classic
- Pleasurable interjection
- Adrian Brody in 2002 film
- \*Wednesday's father
- Dodge
- Compare
- \*Antithesis to Mufasa
- Liberal pursuits
- Don Giovanni and such
- Echo sounder output
- \*a.k.a. the father of modern economics
- "Indecent Proposal" star Moore
- Research facil.
- Used for raising
- U.K. Prime Minister, 1945-51
- Lady lobster
- "You \_\_\_!"
- Xe
- Make a connection, two words
- In the thick of
- Steak condiment
- Express complaint
- Antonym of is
- All over again
- \*Popular Father's Day greeting
- Olympic cast-out
- Bone-dry
- Commotion

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**GREENTHUMB LAWN SERVICES** Do you need Spring Cleanup? Lawn Maintenance, Landscaping, Leaf Blowing, Handyman Services. 16 Years Experience. Call (828)421-8847.

**ALL AMERICAN TREE Service**, Full Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Pruning, Storm Cleanup, View Cutting, Excavating, Bush-Hogging, Gravel-hauling, Firewood. Fully Insured. Free Estimate. (828)506-8480.

**STALLSWORTH PAINTING** Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Handyman, 35 Years Experience. (239)860-0117.

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

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**HILLBLAZER PROPERTY Maintenance/Management**: Pressure Washing, Repairs, Painting, Debris Removed, Insured, Property Inspections, Monitoring (828)371-6844 US Navy Veteran Retired.

**PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening** Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

**SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service**, Get your lawn equipment ready for Spring. 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

**NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC**. Spring landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

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**FIREARMS WANTED:** Licensed dealer buying firearm collections, estates, or single guns. Paying fairly according to market prices. Call Josh at 828-371-7919

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**Real Estate**

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**Motor Vehicles**

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

**Community Fundraisers**

**REACH FOR BARGAINS** in Heritage Hollow is open Mon.-Sat. 10am to 4pm. Proceeds benefit Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. For More Information call 369-2040.

**CARENET THRIFT STORE** 45 Macon Center Dr., Franklin, Hours, Monday through Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Mission of CareNet to help bridge the gap during times of crisis for families in Macon County. (828)349-9064.

**HABITAT RE-STORE** 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! Hours 12-4pm Mon.-Sat. (828)524-5273. Hours for the Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. are Mon.-Sat., 10am-4pm, (828)586-1800.

**Animals**

**FREE ROOSTERS** to good homes. Bantams, Cochín/Silkie cross. Young, various ages. (828)200-5101.

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

**Help Wanted**

**OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY** currently has the following positions available: Cosmetologist, Certified Massage Therapist, Spa Attendant, Pool Attendant, Madison's Server, Asst. Pastry Chef, Pastry Cook, Cook, Dishwasher, Four65 Server, Hostess, Cook and Dishwasher, Half Mile Farm Server, Old Edwards Club Cook, Server, Night Auditor, Housekeepers, Part-time Marketing Assistant. Please apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers.

**LOOKING FOR Mason**, With Knowledge of Block and Stone, Must Have Transportation & Phone! cell# (828)200-4478.

**MACON MEDICATION Assistance Program** is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Director. This position will be responsible for planning, organization, and direction of programs to assist low income and underinsured clients in obtaining their medications through various patient assistance programs. The preferred candidate will have experience in nonprofit/human services program operations, coordinating volunteers, and fundraising. Resumes and letters of interest may be sent to: Macon Medication Assistance Program P.O. Box 1722, Franklin, NC 28744. Interested applicants may also call 828-524-5258 for more information.

**LOCAL TREE COMPANY Hiring:** Jesse's Tree Service, LLC local to the Highlands, NC area is seeking applicants for "Tree Climber" positions. Experience is a plus, however company will train. Salary is based on experience and references are a plus. We are looking for reliable, drug free, hardworking and trustworthy individuals. Driver's license and a clean driving records is a plus. If interested please call Owner, Jesse Finley @ (828)342-1974 to set up an interview. Serious inquires only and full time is available as well as part time positions.

**COMPANION HEALTH CARE** Now Hiring: CNA's and Experienced Caregivers Needed for in Home Care. Call (828)524-6444.

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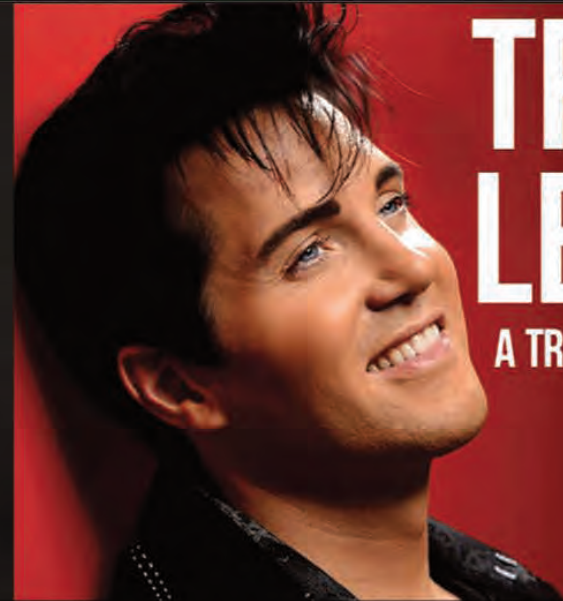
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