

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free  
independent  
weekly



**HOMETOWN  
HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL**  
A Celebration of our  
Traditional Mountain Life  
**Saturday, July 17**  
**9AM - 4PM**  
DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN

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July 15, 2021 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 9

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



Drivers on the Georgia Road were surprised with a new water feature Tuesday morning when crews working on the road construction along 441 South struck one of the town water lines. The water surged into the air, resulting in the loss of water and other utilities to several businesses while the issue was resolved. According to Interim Town Manager Justin Setser, water was restored to all customers by 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

Photo submitted

## County approves grant for broadband access

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Broadband in Macon County may soon be getting an additional boost after the board of commissioners gave Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins approval to apply for a new grant through the National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), located within the Department of Commerce, is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible by law for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA's programs and policymaking focus largely on expanding broadband In-

ternet access and adoption in America, expanding the use of spectrum by all users, and ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth. These goals are critical to America's competitiveness in the 21st century global economy and to addressing many of the nation's most pressing needs, such as improving education, health care, and public safety.

With \$288 million available for grants, Jenkins said the application process is expected to have a quick turn around, if Macon County is awarded the grant. The grant would require a public/private partnership, which is why Jenkins

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Overlook Theatre Company's 'Into the Woods'

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## New high school subject of information session

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

With significant changes in the works for the Macon County School System, the Clarks Chapel Community Club hosted school Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin and Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove on Monday night for an information session.

Breedlove addressed the group of Clarks Chapel residents to update them on the future of Franklin High School and the process of building a new school.

“The main building at the high school was built in the early 1950s, making that building over 70 years old this year,” said Breedlove. “That means 70-year-old electric wiring and 70-year-old piping systems. With the age of that building it is understandable that we are looking at serious issues.”

Breedlove noted that the Macon County Board of County Commissioners approved moving forward with the RFQ (request for qualifications) bidding process to solicit bids from architectural firms to build a new high school. The RFQ is looking for architectural designs to build a new high school facility on the same property upon which the current school is located.

“Right now, one of the proposed plans for the building would be to level the practice football field to the same level as the vocational building and then construct a multi-story building to house the majority of academic classes in one building,” said Breedlove. “Right now, we have 11 different buildings on the campus, which you can imagine is not only costly to maintain, but also poses a security risk.”

Dr. Baldwin explained that a couple of years ago the school system constructed a safety fence around the high school campus which reduced the more than 100 entry and exit points to just a handful, but monitoring multiple buildings is still not as safe and secure as county leaders would like. The new high school proposal would consolidate the buildings to have a more centralized entrance and exit point.

The process of constructing a new high school will not be a quick one, and according to Dr. Baldwin, even best case scenario would have a new facility completed in 2025, meaning incoming freshmen would graduate before a new facility is finished.

Many members of the Clarks Chapel Community noted that they attended Franklin High School in the building still in operation today and offered their support for building a new, modern high school.



Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove addresses members of the Clarks Chapel Community regarding the proposed construction of a new high school. Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin (seated) also spoke.

Breedlove cautioned that with the continuing rise in construction costs, a new high school will likely need a tax increase on the county level for completion, with estimates ranging from \$70-\$90 million. Potential ways to save the county funding in annual operational costs are being considered by the board such as the possibility of combining schools such as Union Academy and Macon Early College on the same campus, even while operating as separate schools. However, those ideas are still being reviewed.

Dr. Baldwin said that while many schools in Western North Carolina have seen a decrease in student enrollment — Macon County remains one of the few districts to see an increase over the last 5 to 10 years, which has resulted in several expansion projects, such as a six-classroom addition at South Macon Elementary School.

“We are also currently looking at a six-classroom expansion at East Franklin Elementary School to accommodate our growing enrollment numbers,” said Dr. Baldwin. “The high school has seen that same growth and a new modern facility will be better designed for today’s class sizes, which as you can imagine are much different than when it was built for classes in the 1950s.”

According to Dr. Baldwin, many schools in the district have been renovated or expanded over the last decade, leaving Franklin High School as the last facility to undergo any significant changes. The last addition to the high school was completed in 2000, making the newest building on the campus now more than 20 years old.

The Macon County  
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Outdoor 76  
Revitalize Franklin  
Rockin Rollie Pollies—Restaurant  
Root & Barrel Restaurant  
Ruby City Gem's— Mining\*  
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Scottish Tartan Museum  
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Silver Threads & Golden Needles\*  
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Taylored For You Studios\*  
Tony Angel Media  
The Attic— Stewart Street  
The Dusty Pallet\*  
The Franklin Press\*  
The Rathskeller-Coffee-Drinks- Stewart Street  
Uptown Gallery\*

### NON-PROFITS

First Presbyterian Church  
Frogs—Friends of The Greenway  
Junaluska Masonic Lodge  
Mark Dove—Rock Painting Music with  
DJ Sterling Passmore

### PHILLIPS STREET

Fire Department Water Bell Misting

### Music & Entertainment - Main Stage In Front of Wells Fargo Bank

9:00 am – Announcements & General Information  
9:30 am – Kornbread Kreek  
11:00 am – BlueJazz  
12:30 pm – Special Guest  
1:00 pm – Contests & Storytelling  
1:15 pm – Chelsi Reynolds  
2:00 pm – Brent Ledford  
3:00 pm – Community Hymn Sing featuring the Church "Redback" Hymnal  
3:45 pm – Closing Remarks

*Special Thanks to Town of Franklin Fire Department for the Water Bell and Franklin Police Department for setting up cones. Also to our local media and Donald Holland for the use of his trailer for the stage in front of Wells Fargo. A Thank You to the Town of Franklin Employees and Town Council for their support.*

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# BROADBAND

Continued from page 1

needed permission from the county to move forward. "If you don't apply, you don't get it, so we think it is important to apply," said Jenkins. "Basically it covers underserved areas ... they also look at the most cost effective way to provide broadband."

According to Jenkins, the grant will be applied for under the existing partnership the county has with BalsamWest, which is currently working on other broadband expansion projects within Macon County.

Available grants range in amount from \$5 million to \$30 million and applications are due by Aug. 17.

NTIA is engaged in a range of efforts to increase broadband Internet access and adoption in America, which supports economic growth, job creation, and improved education, health care, and public safety. NTIA's BroadbandUSA program serves communities, industry and nonprofits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion. BroadbandUSA's services are driven by the needs and interests of state and local broadband leaders, and focus on encouraging private partnerships, supporting planning efforts, helping to identify funding, and implementing public-private broadband partnerships. NTIA also conducts research and analysis into broadband usage and adoption through our Digital Nation initiative.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to move forward with the NTIA grant application.

# Search warrant yields stolen firearms, drugs

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

In the early morning hours of Thursday, July 1, the Macon County Narcotics Task Force executed a narcotics search warrant on a residence on York Lane in the Skeenah community.

After a lengthy investigation conducted by the Macon County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force and with the assistance of the Macon County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, covert operations uncovered significant criminal activity in and around the York Lane residence. With the help of community observations and tips, undercover officers were able to complete several street-level drug seizures that led investigators to be able to gain a search warrant for the property.

Upon execution of the search warrant, Efrain Gallardo Guzman, 41, was arrested and charged with the following:

Three counts of felony sell/deliver controlled substance; one count felony possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine; one count felony maintain dwelling for controlled substance; two



Efrain Gallardo Guzman



counts of felony possession of stolen firearm; two counts felony possession of firearm by felon; misdemeanor simple possession of Schedule 2 controlled substance. (M)

Guzman was also wanted for failing to appear in court on prior felony drug charges from 2019 and 2020.

"This investigation and subsequent arrest is another example of the importance of citizens and law enforcement's partnership in fighting drugs in our county," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

Guzman was booked into the Macon County Detention Center and is being held on a \$230,000 secured bond.

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# SCC offering free tuition for 2021-22

Through a one-time program, Southwestern Community College will not charge tuition or fees to students for the 2021-22 academic year.

The "SCC Promise" initiative provides new students as well as those who've already enrolled with free tuition and fees this fall if they fulfill the following criteria:

- Complete the 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours
- Complete the SCC Promise Application.

"Southwestern has been around since 1964, and we've never been able to offer an opportunity like this for our students," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President. "It sounds too good to be true, but I can assure you this is very real. There's never been a better time to enroll at SCC than right now."

Students who've already enrolled for fall just need to go to [www.SouthwesternCC.edu/FREE](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu/FREE) and fill out the "SCC Promise" application.

Free tuition and college fees are for North Carolina residents for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 only. This is a "last-option" financial assistance program that provides tuition after all other federal and state funds have been applied. SCC will utilize various funding sources: The North Carolina Longleaf Com-

mitment, the American Rescue Plan, Pell Grants (Title IV funds), Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund and scholarships as well as support from the SCC Foundation.

Anyone interested in more short-term training through SCC's Career Academies can also get free tuition this fall through the GEER fund. More info at [www.SouthwesternCC.edu/GEER](http://www.SouthwesternCC.edu/GEER).

### About SCC

For more than 50 years, Southwestern Community College has served Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties, and the Qualla Boundary by offering a wide range of educational options for residents in all stages of life. SCC has been ranked No. 1 by Bestcolleges.com in its listing of "The Best Community Colleges & Trade Schools of 2020," marking the fourth time in the past 15 years Southwestern has ranked among the nation's Top 10 community colleges. SCC provides a supportive learning environment and more than 40 degree programs in Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences/College Transfer and Career Technologies. SCC also offers a variety of community resources, including the Small Business Center, Workforce Continuing Education and Career Services.

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## 54th Annual Gemboree July 23-25

Rock Hounds from all across the United States will be in Franklin, North Carolina for the 54th Annual Macon County Gemboree which opens Friday, July 23, at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building just off U.S. 23/441 South. The gem & mineral show is the second oldest event of its kind in the Southeast.

The event is a joint effort of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin. "We've had a great partnership over the years and that has led to the success of this show," said Linda Harbuck, executive director of the Franklin Chamber. "Our dealers are excited to be back in Franklin this year after missing the 2020 season. Many of our long standing vendors and some new vendors are joining us this year. We'll be utilizing every available space at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building for the Gemboree." This year the Faceter's Frolic will be held at the Factory.

Those attending this year's Gemboree will find an unmatched selection of rough and cut gems and minerals, fine jewelry, lapidary equipment, fossils and will even be able to observe the fine art of faceting stones and more through demonstrations by the Gem & Mineral Society. Hourly door prizes will be given away throughout the event.

The 54th Annual Macon County Gemboree will run from Friday, July 23 through Sunday, July 25. Hours for the event are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission is \$3 for adults with those ages 12 & under admitted free. Cards good for \$1 off admission are available at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

For more information on the 54th Annual Macon County Gemboree, contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 828-524-3161.

## MPP seeking sponsors, donations for Back to School Angels program

In August, Macon Program for Progress will transition 64 Head Start children into area kindergarten classrooms. The MPP Back to School Angels program will provide these children with a new backpack filled with school supplies. This year their siblings will also receive assistance, as sponsorships and donations allow.

If you are an individual, a business, or a community group looking for a summer venture, the Back to School Angels committee wants to hear from you. You can make a tax-deductible donation, set up a Back to School Angels campaign at your business and collect school supplies or do-

nate a filled backpack appropriate for a child age kindergarten up to fifth grade.

Back to School Angels provides each Head Start child a free backpack, pencils and erasers, safety scissors, 24-pack crayons, glue sticks, colored markers, two-pocket folder, pencil box, beginning writing pad, and large bath/beach (nap) towel, hand-sanitizer, etc. Sibling will receive a backpack and assorted age-appropriate supplies.

Deadline for all donations is Monday, July 19, at 5 p.m. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Tabitha Rhinehart at (828)524-4471.

## Ballew presents history of American Folk Music

The Macon County Public Library will host the Annual History of American Folk Music with Marshall Ballew Wednesday, July 21, at 6 p.m. Ballew's concert will be a musical and historical journey through the many years and forms of American Folk Music, with its roots in both the Scotch-Irish ballads and tunes of the British Isles which gave rise to old-time, folk and bluegrass; and the Mother Church of African-American Gospel which birthed jazz, swing, ragtime, and the blues. He will trace the roots and hybrids of all these forms like rockabilly, hokum, rock and roll, and rhythm and blues on a variety of stringed instruments. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road. For more information, call (828)534-3600.



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## Tips to protect your personal data

With more financial transactions taking place online, it's important for consumers to protect their personal data, especially as cybercrimes like ransomware, phishing attempts and identity theft continue to increase.

"These risks are nothing new in our digital-first world, but far too many people still fail to properly protect themselves," said Michael Sullivan, a personal financial consultant with Take Charge America, a non-profit credit counseling and debt management agency.

Sullivan shares six tips for consumers to protect their financial data:

- Keep personal details personal. Never provide details such as your Social Security number or other personal information to anyone you don't trust — especially if they call or email you to do so. Financial institutions will never ask you to verify these details in an unsecured way.
- Safeguard your devices. Ensure software on your devices is up to date with the latest security fixes. You also want to sign up for a subscription to security software with a provider like Norton or McAfee that will give you protection from things like viruses and malware.
- Punch up your passwords. Protect your

personal devices and data by using long, unique passwords, phrases or codes that are harder to guess or decipher. And set up unique passwords for each of your accounts. A secure password manager can help you keep your different passwords straight.

- Set up two-factor authentication. In addition to stronger passwords, set up two-factor authentication (TFA), which requires you to input not only a password but an additional code that's sent via email, text or through an authenticator app. TFA adds an extra layer of security to your accounts.

- Be wary of public Wi-Fi. Although convenient, public Wi-Fi connections can easily be compromised or spoofed. Never perform transactions or log into financial accounts when using unsecured Wi-Fi.

- Regularly monitor your credit. Review your report at least twice a year to check for suspicious or inaccurate information. You can get a free copy of your report each year at [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com). Another good option is setting up credit monitoring services through providers like Credit Karma or Credit Sesame.

To learn more, visit [takechargeamerica.org](https://takechargeamerica.org) or call (888) 822-9193.

## 16th Annual *Franklin Area* FOLK FESTIVAL

*A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage*

**Saturday · August 21 · 10am to 4pm**

*Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center*  
51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, NC

### FREE EVENT !

Information:  
**(828) 524-6564**  
[FranklinFolkFestival.com](https://FranklinFolkFestival.com)

#### Franklin Area Folk Festival SPONSORS:

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and Franklin TDA

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Restrictions





# Franklin RV Park under new ownership

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce welcomes the new owners of Franklin RV Park Jesus and Victoria Valencia along with children, Isabella, 10, and Emilia, age 7, in partnership with Victoria's parents, Robert and Tracey Moehling to the Franklin business community.

Franklin RV Park and Campground is located at 230 Old Addington Bridge Rd, Franklin. Franklin RV Park is a relaxed, friendly campground that offers full hookups – water, sewer, 20, 30, and 50 amp service – as well as a fire ring and picnic table at each of the 27 sites. The park can accommodate both small and large rigs up to 70 feet and offer shaded back-in and pull-through sites. Cable and high speed wifi internet are also included throughout the campground at no additional cost. A charming little bath house with separate men's and women's facilities sits right at the center of the grounds, as well as a stunning pavilion equipped with a large stone fireplace and ample seating for camper gatherings, family style potluck meals, and live music.

What sets Franklin RV Park and Campground apart from all other campgrounds is its family feel. You feel like part of the family the moment you drive up to the property and are greeted by Rick, the Campground Host. He's happy to help you get into your site and eager to recommend places to go and things to do in and around the area. The serene grounds are impeccably maintained and Rick's wife, Marylu, with her green thumb, keeps the flower beds and potted plants



Franklin RV Park and Campground is located at 230 Old Addington Bridge Road. Contact them at (828)349-6200 or email info@franklinrvpark.com

beautiful in each season. The park is open from April 15 through Nov. 15 each year. Sites can be booked by phone at (828)349-6200 or through email at info@franklinrvpark.com. For more information, visit www.FranklinRVPark.com. A 10% discount may apply for members of several groups, such as Good Sam's, AAA, FMCA and more.

# Community grants available from the Macon County Community Foundation

The board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation is accepting grant applications from nonprofits serving needs in the local community.

Funds are available for nonprofit organizations serving the local community in Macon County and will be awarded from the community grantmaking fund. Grants typically range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Applications are now available. Visit ncommunityfoundation.org for information about applying. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, Aug. 10 at noon.

Grants are not available for regranteeing purposes, capital campaigns, capital improvements, out-of-state travel or for individuals. Funds are awarded by the board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation.

For further information, contact Tyran Hill, NCCF program officer, at thill@ncommunityfoundation.org or (828) 772-1886 or visit the NCCF website at ncommunityfoundation.org.

## About the Macon County Community Foundation

The Macon County Community Foundation is a growing family of philanthropic funds, source of grants for local causes and partner for donors. The MCCF was founded in 1991 and is led by a local volunteer advisory board that helps build community assets through the creation of permanent endowments, makes grants and leverages leadership for the benefit of Macon County.

Board members include: Lisa Leatherman, board president, Claire Suminski, secretary, Louise Henry, Regina Lupoli, Randy Phillips, Emily Ritter, and Karen Stiwinter.

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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The agenda for tonight's [Thursday] July meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners is full. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. The first item on the agenda will be the public comment period.

There will also be an introduction of the physicians of the newly opened Blue Ridge Health Clinic. Robin Tindall, the director of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, will make the introductions. The health foundation has invested several million dollars to set up the clinic and staff it with these primary care doctors.

On the agenda is a public hearing to change the zoning of a property on 4th Street from B-3 to R-1. Following the public hearing the board will take action on this zoning request.

Another item on the agenda will be an update on the 3rd Street sidewalk proposal that was made at a previous meeting. The proposal requests the demolition and removal of the sidewalk which is connected to the corner building on 3rd and Main Street. The space would then be converted to additional B-1 parking spaces. At the initial meeting, questions emerged as to whether the sidewalk was owned by the building owner or by the town. A surveyor has been retained to establish the property line where the sidewalk is located. The original agreement from Jan. 8, 1986, will be available for this meeting. The surveyor report will be reviewed by the board. I anticipate a decision thereafter.

A subdivision preliminary and final plat approval request will also be on the agenda. The proposed 10.39 acre tract is located on Holt Circle. The request is to subdivide it into two lots.

The board will also review the Clay/Macon County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This intergovernmental, cooperative plan is required in order to receive federal emergency disaster funds. For instance, Macon County could receive federal support in the event of a major mudslide, winter storm, wildfire or hurricane. Local government entities in the participating counties have to periodically review, update and approve their plan.

Jake Petrosky of Stewart Consultants will update and share with the board the most current draft of the Highlands Community Plan. The board will then begin to

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Demand end of filibuster, passage of Senate Bill 1

On Wednesday, June 23, The Bishop Dr. William J. Barber II and the Reverend Jesse Jackson were among more than 20 people who participated in non-violent civil disobedience and were arrested near the Capitol Building in Washington DC.

Although the arrests received scant coverage in the local news media in Western North Carolina, this action by the most prominent leaders of today's Civil Rights Movement deserves widespread attention for its historical context and for the issues behind it that are so important to the lives of millions of people, including and especially for poor and low income people of all races, the elderly, the disabled, students and young people.

This dramatic, non-violent but personally risk-filled demonstration at the Capitol was held for the purpose of demanding the end of the filibuster and the passage in the U.S. Senate of the "For the People Act," Senate Bill 1.

Senate Bill 1 overrides state-level voter suppression laws, bans massive inappropriate voter-role purges, mandates independent commissions to draw redistricting lines to end political gerrymandering, and outlines more stringent campaign finance laws to limit the influence of corporate money in politics.

The measure has already passed in the U.S. House. But, in the Senate, the filibuster has prevented debate on the bill.

Because of the actions of these brave, determined Civil Rights leaders and a tremendous and growing grassroots coalition of people and organizations throughout the nation, political pressure is building to change or end the filibuster rule in the Senate so S1 and other vital legislation can move forward, overcoming the self-declared obstructionism of a minority party that incredulously denies the legitimacy of the last presidential election and is still attempting to overturn it.

The obstruction of filibustering that prevents the passage of the "For the People Act" is having a deep impact on the lives of people who live in Western North Carolina and elsewhere in our state and nation.

Gerrymandering has caused the under-representation of poor, low income and all disadvantaged people. For example, in the 2020 election in North Carolina, while 50.3% of voters statewide voted for Democratic Congressional candidates, Democrats, who are generally favored by racial minorities and disadvantaged populations, are represented by only 5 out of 13 Congressional seats. There is similar disproportionate representation in the NC General Assembly in both the House and Senate.

Unreasonable Voter-ID laws and other voter suppression measures such as the closing of voting stations, the reduction in early voting days and the strategic shortage of voting machines in urban areas have greatly contributed to under-representation, as well.

This under-representation has resulted in a failure of the state to accept billions of dollars of available federal funds

for the expansion of Medicaid that could be covering more than 500,000 additional low-income people statewide, thousands of whom are in Western North Carolina.

This undemocratic distortion of our political system has prevented the state government from raising the minimum wage to a living wage for full-time employees.

- It has resulted in the under-funding of our public school system in favor of a "voucher" program that syphons public money into private schools.

- It has prevented the reform of an antiquated criminal justice system that harshly discriminates against people of color.

- It has resulted in the gutting of environmental regulations that have protected public health, our air, our water and our forests.

The Jackson County, NC Branch of the NAACP urges every newspaper, radio and television station in Western North Carolina to inform their readers, listeners and viewers about the importance of S1 to Western North Carolinians and the determined grassroots movement to convince the Senate to end the filibuster, get this legislation passed in Congress and signed by the President.

Thank you.

Dr. Dana Patterson – President of the Jackson County, NC Branch of the NAACP, 54AB

### Take writers' opinions with a 'grain of salt'

Readers of "Letters to the Editor" should keep in mind that this section is self-described by the Editor of this paper as a "public forum open to a wide variety of opinions."

When a letter writer claims, without any data or sources, that his opinion is fact or the truth, take it with a grain of salt.

In a recent letter to the editor, the writer asks, "Why do many Americans choose to ignore the obvious facts of a massive corrupted 2020 election?"

The writer answers his own question, "Our worldview depends on which resources we receive information and not all resources are truthful."

This letter writer fails to see the irony in this opinion.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

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

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**Library should be kept wholesome for children**

I vehemently disagree with the people who believe that we should have LBGQTQ+ / pride literature for young children in our public library.

I want to make crystal clear that I personally have no opinion how another person decides to live their life. Most of us have family members or friends that lead some type of alternative lifestyle. This is not what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about shoving a perverted agenda down our children's throats.

They get it from every direction: TV, phone, iPad, commercials, you name it – it's in their face. Every time they turn it on, from commercials, to pop up ads, to perverted and/or sexual ads geared specifically for that child using that device.

This past week, a London library hired a self-described anti-racist carnival troupe with a performer dressed up as a monkey with a large dildo hanging between his legs for a children's reading event. You may be thinking that would never happen in our town.

You'd be right.

As long as I'm alive, I'll fight this type of agendized literature and behavior against our children; I hope I won't be alone in doing it.

Families have been escaping big liberal cities in droves to make a new home for themselves in our quiet, conservative, family-friendly, God-fearing mountain community.

I believe most of them, as well as the majority of us, don't want that LBGQTQ+, BLM, CRT, communist, satanic agenda anywhere near our families.

Please keep the library a wholesome place for our children to come and check out age appropriate books.

Brooke Reale – Franklin, N.C.

**Random thoughts**

Corporations do not pay income taxes. Every company that sells a product or service hopes to make a profit on each sale. The government collects an income tax on profit. If the corporate income tax rate goes up, taxes and prices will also go up in most cases. The customer will end up paying the increase in corporate income taxes, even if their personal income taxes don't increase.

Why have we forgotten to judge a person by their character, not by the color of their skin?

If a person is caught committing a crime and is not punished, why do we think that person will not commit another crime?

The U.S. government closed our border with Mexico 15 months ago except for "essential" travel and it is to remain closed until at least late July. Wonder how many tens of thousands (family units, migrant children and others who crossed illegally) have come across that border just in the last six months and are still here?

History is what actually happened and taking down reminders of it doesn't not change anything. Actions and ideas

from years ago need to be judged in the context of those times. People need to know what happened in the past so the same mistakes are not made in the future.

Some are ashamed of the Untied States because we "stole" the land. People have stolen land and other property from others since the beginning of time. When the first person came to the U.S., they "stole" the space they occupied. If the first settlers to America had come from another area of the world, would the world be a better place today?

There is a law of unintended consequences. Too often, government sees a problem, tries to fix it, gets its remedies wrong, overcorrects or doesn't fix the problem. For example, instead of having a serious discussion on racism, we start accusing all whites of being privileged oppressors.

There is so much emphasis on "politically correct" speech that almost anything said or written these days will probably offend someone unintentionally. As a result, many are afraid to speak their minds.

Some, even members of Congress, complain about this country. The USA is not perfect but I can't think of a better place. Citizens have the right and ability to try to make changes and speak against the way things are without being jailed as is the case in many countries.

If politicians and all citizens don't learn how to talk, listen and compromise to make the country better, I am truly concerned about the future. We are supposed to one country indivisible but are becoming more divided daily.

Ken Stonebraker – Franklin, N.C.

**It's time government returned to doing its duty**

The mega-tech giants, are fabulously wealthy by virtue of their creativity and the federal government giving carte blanche to their operations. Users flocked to express to this new communication, enriching the owners beyond the dreams of Midas. However, the giants confused their reason for being in business. The business of business is business.

Today, the lines between government and private businesses are blurred. Tech is limiting freedom of speech on their platforms which is contrary to our constitutional rights. Government has yet to halt their tyranny.

One can only surmise that the government has not stopped the power grab and limitation of American freedom of speech while permitting the Ayatollah of Iran to chant "Death to America" on their platforms. How much tech money has gone into pockets of our government representatives, from the very top to the very bottom? What other reason would halt government intervention?

Government officials took an oath to protect and defend this country and the citizens thereof. It's time government returned to doing its duty. A major step in the right direction would be treating big tech as publishers, publishers who are in business, not governing.

Kathryn van Heyningen – Franklin, N.C.

**TAYLOR**

From previous page

review the draft and make a final decision at later meetings. Even with this update, revisions to the draft may be made as the planning board and others continue to process information and complete their final reviews.

Josh Ward and Matt Shuler will give the board an update on the completion of the fiber optic network. Construction has come to an end, and testing of the fiber has been going on for a number of weeks. Third party testers are verifying that each fiber in the network is operative. Also, an inspection of the construction of the network is in process. Before Hot Wire takes over the network, third party inspectors will confirm that the network ready to operate. Josh and Matt will go over the process and procedures with the board.

**Alert: Watch out for vaccine lottery scams**

The North Carolina's Attorney General's office has seen reports of North Carolinians being contacted and told they've won one of the \$1 million dollar prizes in North Carolina's "Your Shot at \$1 Million" vaccine cash drawings. While the vaccine lottery is real, scammers are trying to take advantage of this lottery to steal the hard-earned dollars of North Carolinians.

How do I know it's a scam? The scammer may pretend to be from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) or the NC Lottery and will either call, text, or email to say that you've won \$1 million. They'll ask you to send money, gift cards, pay a fee, or make a donation to receive your prize. These are all scams – you never have to pay fees to win a prize.

NCDHHS will never ask you to send in money in exchange for your prize. NCDHHS will also not ask for, and you should not share, any of the following information:

- Credit card number
- Social Security number
- Driver's license number
- Passport number
- Bank account numbers

If the scammer contacts you over text or email, they may ask you to click on a link to claim your prize. Do not click on links or download attachments from senders you don't recognize – these are often phishing attempts to access your data.

Call 877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at <https://ncdoj.gov/complaint> if you think you have been the victim of a scam.

How do I register for the real vaccine lottery? There are still three more chances to win \$1 million. If you've got your dose, you're automatically entered to win.

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The Overlook Theatre Company presents "Into the Woods" with final performances July 16-17 at 7:30 p.m. nightly at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. "Into the Woods" is a story of wishes coming true that don't always mean happily ever after. For ticket information, visit [smokymountainarts.com](http://smokymountainarts.com) or call (866)273-4615. Photos by Betsy Gooder





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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests June 28 - July 11. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

July 7

Paul Steven Bradley, was charged with child support contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

July 8

Micala Cheyenne Taylor, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Timothy Allen Dyer, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Jay Wright made the arrest.

April Renee Burd, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Heath Allen Leggett, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

June 28

Ubaldo Estrada Camacoho, 36, of Jurassic Dr., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Baron Houston Sutton, 35, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

June 29

Callie Louise-Elizabeth Jones, 27, of Hensley Cemetery Rd., Whittier, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay and simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Dennis Lewis Bumgarner, 42, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Christopher Ian Cotterman, 37, of Sylva, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle-forcible and kidnapping/abduction. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Frank Randyll Hilton, 54, of Lakewood, Wa., was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

June 30

Jeffery Allen Best, 32, of Jasime Lane, was charged with failure to drive/allow a motor vehicle with no registration, fictitious/alterd title/registration/card/tag, operate vehicle with no insurance, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, assault on a female, assault inflicting serious injury, second degree trespass, misdemeanor probation violation for out of county, domestic violation protective order violation, felony possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$97,000 was set.

Virginia Laura Backer, 49, Leann Dr., Athens, Ga., was charged with indictment for trafficking opium, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine and trafficking methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set.

Dylan Samuel Hoyle, 26, of Begonia Lane, was charged with felony larceny. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

July 2

Natalie Blake Fisher, 27, of Gardenia Lane, Was charged with injury to personal property. No bond was set.

Justin Cody McCall, 31, of Pine Creek Rd., Glenville, was charged with all other offenses and misuse of 911 system. A

secured bond of \$500 was set.

Allyson Denise Lambert, 38, of Elise Rattler Rd., Cherokee, was issued a true bill of indictment for felony larceny. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

July 3

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 25, of Pyramid Place, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Aidan Mcnamara Balken, 27, of Blue Sky Lane, Hendersonville, was charged with failure to appear for carrying a concealed gun. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

July 4

Travis Wayne Fisher, 35, of Norman Dr., was charged with assault on a female communicating threats. No bond was set.

July 6

Ollie Ray Nichols, of Lucy Long Rd., Whittier, was issued a fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Lacy Alexis Normand, 25, of Oak Hill Rd., was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated, driving while license revoked and speeding. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Leslie Lee Taylor, 24, of Cherokee, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and failure to appear. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

July 7

Michelle Lee Ann Bryson, 29, of Tigerlily Court, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Danny Ray Sheppard, 31, of Ela Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation.

July 8

Shawn Aaron Bradley, 38, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with stalking. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Kristi Danielle Brooks, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$7,500 was set.

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

**Slow Spokes Bicycle Group Franklin** will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 at FROG headquarters for a casual ride along the Greenway paths. They are on Facebook at Slow Spokes, Franklin, NC. For more information call Susan at (828)371-4925.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Drive Thru Food Pantry** will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 10 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 299 Maple St. in Franklin.

**Macon County Art Association Encaustic Painting Classes** will be held on Fridays, July 23, Aug. 3 and 27, Sept. 3 and 17, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery 30 E Main St., Franklin. For more information, call Karen Smith, at [karen@programservices.org](mailto:karen@programservices.org)

**Nantahala Hiking Club** on Friday, July 16, will hike to Smokemont Loop in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park From Smokemont Campground go up Bradley Fork to the junction of the loop. Cross Bradley Fork on a long footbridge to the other side. There is a 1.7 climb to the ridge line. On the down side, see an old cemetery with stones dating from late 1800's to 1925. For reservations and more information, call Leader Laura Lauffer call (919)444-1478.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** on Saturday, July 17, will hike to Long Ridge in the Mulberry community. Hike three steep climbs through sheer cliffs and rock formations to the Rock House. Experienced hikers and well-behaved dogs welcome. For reservations and more information, call leader, David Stearns at (828)349-7361.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** on Sunday, July 18, will hike Warwoman Dell to Martin's Creek Falls on the Bartram Trail in Georgia. Enjoy a leisurely hike passing Becky Branch falls. For more information, call Robin Lurie at (954)632-7270.

**Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Graduation** will be held on Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m., in the auditorium, 336 Living Hope Way (formerly 336 AG Camp Rd) Franklin. There will be refreshments and fellowship after the graduation. For more information call (828)524-2157 Go to [www.livinghopeway.com](http://www.livinghopeway.com) for more information about the 12-month residential addiction recovery program for men.

**V.F.W. Welcome Back Cookout** will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2 to 5 p.m., at the V.F.W., 60 W. Palmer St. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, beans and watermelon. A 50/50 drawing will be held at 2:55, buffet will open at 3 p.m. No take-outs.

**American Legion Macon Post 108 Flag Retirement Ceremony** will be held on Saturday, July 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m. If you have an un-serviceable U.S. flag, place it in the large red, white, and blue mailbox in front of the post and it will be disposed of with proper decorum. The public is invited to attend, to either observe or participate. The Post is located at 614 West Main Street, Franklin. For more information, call Wayne Chandler (860)573-8812.

**Holly Springs Community Development Club** will meet on Monday, July 19, 6 p.m., at the community building located at 2720 Cat Creek Rd. A pot luck supper will be served, so bring your favorite side dish or dessert and a friend.

**Gem Country Republican Women's Club** will meet on Tuesday, July 20, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies BBQ. Guest Speaker is Clay Bryson, candidate for Sheriff. Treasure Table is homemade or handmade. All Republican women are encouraged to attend.

**Green Reunion** will be held on Sunday, July 25, at Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Lunch begins at 12:30. Bring a covered dish. Drinks and paper products will be provided.

**Siler Family Reunion** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Moss Valley Venue, 1145 Patton Road in Franklin. Lunch will be served at 12 noon, but all family members are invited to arrive early to bring their finest foods, visit, and reminisce outside and under cover of the beautiful open barn.

**Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club** meets on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. inside the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested are encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)342-8126.

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

**Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club** Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. While allowing play without masks, county regulations require all players to be fully vaccinated. For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email [LarryRNoyes@gmail.com](mailto:LarryRNoyes@gmail.com)

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

**Thursday Painters** meet on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Environmental Research Center to fellowship and paint. Participants are responsible for their own project and a bag lunch. For more information call The Uptown Gallery at (828)-49-4607 or Pat Mennenger at [pm14034@yahoo.com](mailto:pm14034@yahoo.com). For more, visit [franklinuptowngallery.com](http://franklinuptowngallery.com).

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Grace Baptist Church Vacation Bible School "Mercy General"** will be held on Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 143 Setser Branch Rd. Clases for ages 3 through teens. For more information, call Pastor Frank Rogriquez (828)369-2435.

**First Alliance Church** Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger, will continue his message as part of his series on Genesis. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

**Spiritual Light Center** on Sunday, July 18, 11 a.m., Shantu Harrison will share on "Holding the Planet in the Vibration of Love as We Move Through Extreme Chaos." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

**Central Baptist Church one day only "Farm Fresh Faith" Vacation Bible School** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m. Classes available for all ages. Bible School kickoff cookout and pre-registration, Saturday, July 31. Waterplay starts at 4 p.m., cookout at 6 p.m. The church is located at 392 Belleview Rd.

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

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

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

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

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

Email Church calendar items to [maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

# Malpass Brothers bringing traditional country music to Smoky Center

North Carolina brothers, Chris and Taylor Malpass, are a singing duo otherwise known as the Malpass Brothers. They sing classic country music with sounds similar to those of legends like Hank Williams Sr. and Johnny Cash. Their smooth vocal blend, skillful musicianship, and comical brotherly banter make for an entertaining evening at the The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The Malpass Brothers will appear on Friday, July 23 at 7:30 a.m., and tickets start at \$18 each with priority seating available.

The Malpass Brothers fell in love with classic country music while listening to their grandfather's records. Chris started winning talent shows at age 7, and Taylor was playing mandolin by the time he was 10. They have been performing together for well over half their lives. They have toured with the late Don Helms and have opened for music legend Merle Haggard on multiple tours. They have performed across the country at bluegrass and country music festivals, theaters, churches, and fairs, and are also welcomed guests at Dollywood and the Grand Old Opry. They have shared billing with artists such as Willie Nelson, Doyle Lawson,



The Malpass Brothers will perform traditional country music Friday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, visit [smokymountainarts.com](http://smokymountainarts.com) or call (866)273-4615.

Rhonda Vincent, Marty Stuart, and many others.

A public television documentary about the Malpass Brothers called "Heading Home,"

tells the story of how Chris and Taylor Malpass never wanted to do anything other than play classic country music and how they persevered to share this music with a multitude

of generations by covering songs such as Lefty Frizzell's, "If You've Got the Money Honey, I've Got the Time," and Marty Robbins, "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation." They say classic country just makes sense to them because they can feel the emotion when they sing about real life experiences, which you can hear in their original songs such as, "I'm Leavin' You Today," and "Memory that Bad." The Malpass Brothers believe traditional country music portrays life's joys and happiness, as well as its heartaches and challenges.

When you see the Malpass Brothers in concert, you not only hear the sounds and lyrics of old country, but you see it in their performance. Their clothes, their hair, even their Elvis-like motions take you back to what many believe to be a simpler time.

To purchase tickets to see the Malpass Brothers in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts and see the unforgettable show these best friends and gifted musicians and songwriters have put together as they ignite audiences with blended voices and infectious humor, visit [smokymountainarts.com](http://smokymountainarts.com) or call (866) 273-4615.



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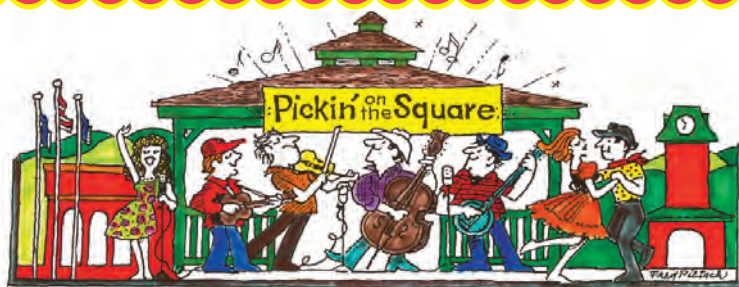
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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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*Deaths & Funerals*

**Linda Boswell Kenaston**

Linda Boswell Kenaston, 75, of the Nantahala Lake community, passed away on Friday, July 9, 2021.

Born in Tarboro, N.C., she was the daughter of the late A.J. and Ila Ruth Davis Boswell. Living in Chattanooga, Tenn., for 43 years, she was the director of Human Resources at Fortwood Center, Inc. for many years. She was the past president of the Chattanooga Pharmacists Auxiliary and the former Miss Chamber of Commerce-Chattanooga in 1987.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Jeffrey P. Kenaston; brother, Alfred J. Boswell Jr. of Grifton, N.C.; and sisters, Alice B. Carpenter of Tarboro, N.C. and Betty B. Cope of New Bern, N.C. Also surviving are special friends, Robbie Bateman, Mitchell Carnes, Saundra White, William Voelker, and Bill Satterfield.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, July 16, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel at 2 p.m. Rev. Arnaldo Lugo will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, July 16, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Nantahala Fire and Rescue.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



**Linda Boswell Kenaston**

**James Edward Perry III**

James Edward Perry III, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away July 13, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late James E Perry Jr. and Byrda Nell Perry Vandiver. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Debra Ann Perry Thomas.

He was a UNC and Western Carolina graduate, a member of the National Honors society and the Scouts. He loved to hunt and fish in his free time.

He is survived by his daughter, Betina Freeman; stepdaughter, Alisha Kimsey; granddaughter, Haley Freeman; step grandchildren, Samantha Brunt and Katie Tiger; and several cousins.

A service will be held Saturday July 17, at 11 a.m., at Macon Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends and loved ones on Saturday, July 17, from 10 to 11 a.m., one hour prior to the service.

Rev. Janet Greene will officiate.

Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Mitchell Owenby, Randy Berry, Conley Shope, Dustin Cabe, Larry Corbin and Vic Perry.

Honorary pallbearers will be Lyman Holland and Mike Ramsey.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to teen challenges at Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, PO Box 2157, Franklin NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



**James Edward Perry III**

**David William Heller**

David William Heller, 30, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his home Friday, July 2, 2021. He was born July 3, 1990, in Point Pleasant, N.J., to Phil Heller and Laura Lehman Nash. He was raised in South Florida before moving to Franklin.

He leaves behind his sister Samantha Heller Richards and his only son, Brayden Heller.

He was such a kind, loving soul. He had a laugh so contagious it gave you no choice but to smile. He loved the beach, skateboarding, he loved playing the drums and being outside. He was a goofball at heart and never took life too serious. He had many special talents, playing the drums, he was a good mechanic and loved to fix and build things. He was so young and will be missed by so many. Please pray for David's family during this difficult time. David is no longer suffering and we hope he has found peace. We love you David.

"Through God, all things are possible."



**David William Heller**



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1 Per Executive Order on Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act signed by President Biden on January 28, 2021.

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Patricia Bryson Thompson

Patricia Bryson Thompson, 74, of Franklin, N.C., went to her Heavenly home on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

Born in Macon County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Vernon and Lydia "Eddie" Clark Bryson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Turner and J.L. Bryson, and sister-in-law, Mariea Bryson.

She was an active member of Sugarfork Baptist Church and was always willing to serve. She enjoyed spending time with her grandsons and her beloved granddog Rusty.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Doug Thompson; daughters, Kimberly Burnette (Brian), and Heather Wallace (Gregg), all of Franklin; grandchildren, Logan and Samuel Wallace, and Wyatt Burnette; sister, Melba Ward (Charlie) of Franklin; brother, Michael Bryson of Franklin; and several nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly.

Funeral services will be held at Thursday, July 15, at 11 a.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves, Rev. Gene Hawkins and Rev. Lewis Smith will officiate.

Burial will be in the Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Logan Wallace, Samuel Wallace, Wyatt Burnette, Josh Ward, Bill Allen, Jack Baird, and Mark McDowell.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the: Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 287 Sugarfork Rd. Franklin NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## D. Genevieve Hodgin Cruse

D. Genevieve Hodgin Cruse, 94, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, July 3, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Charles "Rush" and Alice Drake Hodgin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth T. Cruse Sr.; sister, Ruth DeHart; and brothers, William Hodgin, Joe Hodgin, and C.M. Hodgin.

She is survived by her son, Dalton Johnson Jr. of Mizzoula, Mo.; stepson, Ronald Johnson of Franklin; sisters-in-law, Barbara Hodgin and Belva Edwards of Franklin; a granddaughter, Shannon Burns of Florida; two great grandchildren, Vincent and Brody; special nephew, Lynn Cruse of Franklin; special niece, Sherri Johnson of Franklin, and numerous other nieces, nephews, and family members.

No services planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Gillispie Chapel Cemetery, C/O Sue Deal, 731 Jones Creek Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be left at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



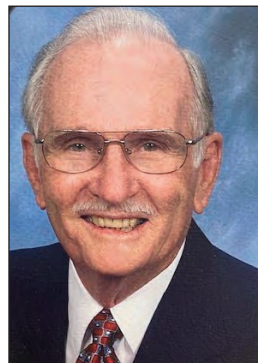
Patricia Thompson



D. Genevieve Cruse

## John Franklin Chandler

John Franklin Chandler, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his home Saturday, July 10, 2021. He was born March 16, 1928, in Knox County, Tennessee, to the late James Franklin Chandler and Geneva Bailey Chandler. He was an Army WWII veteran and a member of the Shriner and Mason organization. He owned many businesses in his lifetime, Bell-A-Tron Phone Service, Seneca Phone Service, Chandler Shell and Mini Mart, and Chandler Contracting. He enjoyed horses, hunting and was an avid flyer. He loved flying his Beech Craft Duke. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Franklin.



John Chandler

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Mary Lou Fishpaw Chandler; a son, Jeffrey DeWayne Chandler Sr. of Hinesville, Ga.; a daughter, Kathryn Yvonne Woodworth Chandler of Houston, Texas; a stepdaughter, Jo Anna Kay Watson of Franklin; and two stepsons, Robert Mark Watson of Lake Toxaway, N.C., and Terrance Andrew Watson of Highlands, N.C.; 13 grandchildren, Leshia Woodworth, Jamie Woodworth, Angie Watson, Ahngyl Chandler, John Chandler II, Jeffrey Chandler Jr., Johnathan Daniel Chandler, Jennifer Owens, Felicia Chandler, Laura Enlow; step-grandchildren, Heather Felder, Andrew Watson and Will Watson; and 20 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a son, John Dolan Chandler II; and two brothers, Melvin Eugene Chandler and James Clay Chandler.

A funeral service will be held Friday, July 16, at 11:30 a.m., at First Baptist Church, Franklin, with Rev. Dr. Robert Brown and Rev. David Beam officiating. Visitation will be at the church from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. prior to the service. Burial will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jamie Woodworth, Jeffrey Chandler, Jr., Trey Yendry, Charlie Watson, Chandler Watson and Cole Watson.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to Shriners at 844-739-0849 or The Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Chandler family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Larry Fred Estes

Larry Fred Estes, 84, passed away Saturday, July 10, 2021. He was born March 12, 1937, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Robert Lee Estes and Willa Mae Teem Estes. In his early years he worked in the dry-wall business. He later owned and operated Estes Hardwood Floor Finishing and had Sweetwater Christmas Tree Farm.

He was a founding member of the Cullasaja Gorge Fire and Rescue and served as a first responder for many years.

He was an avid rock-hound, gold prospector, and "sang" hunter. He also enjoyed grouse hunting, musket building, and was a member of the Nantahala Musket Club.

He was also a member of Sugar Fork Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Carol Ann Estes of the home; two sons, JT Estes (Teresa) and Chris Estes (Mary Perry) all of Franklin, N.C.; two grandchildren, Andrew Estes and Julie Estes (Josh Chastain); and one great-grandson, Preston Estes.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Bruce Estes and an infant son, Donald Estes.

A graveside service will be held Friday, July 16, at 3 p.m., at Sugar Fork Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will greet friends from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family.



Larry Fred Estes

## James Thomas Vinson

James Thomas "Tom" Vinson passed away at his home on the evening of July 5, 2021. Born in Clayton, Ga., raised in Highlands, N.C., he was the son of Catherine Patterson Taylor and the late Hoyt Vinson, and his stepfather, Walter Taylor. He graduated from Western Carolina and began his career with Belk Department stores. His career with Belk would span 39 years and take him all over the Carolinas. Most notably, his work with Belk would introduce him to his wife, Karen.



James Thomas Vinson

He was an active member at St. John's United Methodist Church, where he was known for his servant's heart. He freely volunteered his time to spread God's word and help with community outreach. He also taught Sunday School for 17 years. His lessons were always heartfelt and genuine—so much so that his early morning coffee crew at the Peach Stand referred to him as their "chaplain."

He was a beloved husband, son, father, brother, uncle, nephew, father-in-law and "Pops" to his grandchildren. After God and his family, his other great loves were the mountains and the North Carolina Tarheels. A Tarheel through and through, he was always willing to share a great story or two about their renowned basketball program. Don't worry, if you pulled for NC State, he still loved you. If you pulled for Duke, he prayed for you.

Surviving is his wife, Karen Vinson; mother, Catherine Taylor; daughter, Elizabeth Baker (Michael) of Rock Hill and his niece, Wendy Hardaway (Billy) of Lebanon, Tenn., whom he helped raise; his sisters, Margaret Bryson of Fort Mill, Sandy Vinson of Highlands, N.C., Dianne Taylor of Asheville, N.C., and Melinda Musumarra (Paul) of Black Mountain, N.C.; and two grandchildren Madeline and Harrison Baker. He is also survived and loved by many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service was held at St. John's United Methodist Church in Fort Mill, S.C., on Friday, July 9, with Rev. Karen H. Radcliffe officiating.

He was a supporter of the St. John's UMC Youth program. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St John's UMC for the Youth Zone, PO Box 1298, Fort Mill, SC 29716.

## Mark Anthony Burrell

Mark Anthony Burrell, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, July 9, 2021.

Born in Ozark, Ala., he was the son of Maxie and Pat Burrell. He worked as a food service manager and he was a huge wrestling fan. He also enjoyed fishing, camping, and spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Leona Burrell of Franklin; son, Cody Perkey (Britney) of Franklin; sister, Becky Woodall (Randy) of Franklin; brother, Adam Burrell (Rita) of Franklin; grandson, Andrew Perkey of Franklin; and several nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held at Saturday, July 17, at 3 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Macon Funeral Home to assist the family with final expenses.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Mark Anthony Burrell

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# Kurt wins in Busch family duel; secures playoffs bid

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Kurt Busch out-dueled his younger brother Kyle Busch in the pair's fourth career 1-2 finish to secure his 2021 NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs position and take his 33rd career victory in Sunday's Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart.

Busch, 42, has been particularly good at the 1.5-mile Atlanta Motor Speedway. Sunday's win was his fourth there, most among the current field, and the last trophy given before the historic NASCAR track is repaved and reconfigured going forward.

More importantly Sunday's work was a big statement for Busch, who started the race with only a 25-point buffer in the championship standings with six races left to set the 16-driver Playoffs field. Now with the win, he's "in," and his emotions climbing out of Chip Ganassi Racing's No. 1 Chevrolet certainly reflected the relief and joy.

He simultaneously earned a Playoffs position and evened the score with his brother – each have won two races in the four times they have finished first and second.

"Hell yeah, we beat Kyle," a smiling Kurt Busch said after climbing out of his car, putting his fists in the air and turning toward the cheering crowd in the grandstands.

"What a battle on an old-school race track," said Busch, who has 33 career NASCAR Cup Series wins.

"It's been one of those years where I knew we were going to have our back against the wall, just above the [Playoffs] cut-off line and needed to race hard and race smart."

Not too surprisingly, Kyle Busch's mood standing by his car on pit lane was markedly different than his brother's. He felt like Kurt's Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Ross Chastain interfered a bit as the two brothers were fighting for the race lead while navigating lapped traffic.

Kurt led a race high 144 of the 267 laps – the most he's led in a single race since 2015 (291 laps at Richmond, Va.) and the two each won a Stage. Kurt came out behind his brother on track when the final round of pit stops cycled out, but ultimately passed Kyle for good with 25 laps remaining and crossed the finish line 1.237 seconds ahead of his brother. Kyle was able to pull alongside Kurt with seven to go, but unable to make the pass in lapped traffic.

"I gave everything I had there early and then just smoked it behind the 42 [Chastain] obviously, shows you what kind of driver he is," Kyle Busch said. "Just trying to fight hard after that when I got passed."

"Great effort, the guys gave me a great piece," Kyle continued. "The 1 (Kurt Busch) was definitely better than us today, I just thought I had him."

Kyle's Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. finished third, rallying from a 37th place starting position. Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman was fourth followed



Kurt Busch, driver of the #1 GEARWRENCH Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Quaker State 400 presented by Walmart at Atlanta Motor Speedway on July 11, 2021 in Hampton, Georgia. Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



by Penske Racing's Ryan Blaney, who won at Atlanta this March.

Tyler Reddick, Georgia native Chase Elliott, Christopher Bell, Matt DiBenedetto and Brad Keselowski rounded out the Top-10.

Noticeably absent from that group is the series' only four-race winner Kyle Larson. He ran among the top five for most of the race, but was penalized for speeding on pit road during his final pit stop. He instead finished 18th.

Championship points leader Denny Hamlin, who is still looking for his first win of 2021, finished 13th. He also was handed a pit road penalty early in the race, which was red-flagged for about 20 minutes just after the completion of Stage 2 so track workers could repair the track surface.

The series moves to the New Hampshire Motor Speedway 1-miler next week for the Foxwood Resort Casino 301 (3 p.m. ET, NBCSN, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

With five races remaining to set the 16-driver Playoffs field, 12 drivers have now earned automatic bids with a race victory. Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, who rallied to an 11th place finish Sunday, Austin Dillon and Reddick are the four highest-ranked drivers on points.

## Kyle Busch Earns Historic NASCAR Xfinity Series Victory in Overtime Thriller

Busch earned his record 102nd NASCAR Xfinity Series race victory Saturday afternoon in the Credit Karma Money 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway – taking the checkered flag in overtime to top a perfect 5-for-5 record in Xfinity starts this season.

The winningest driver in series history proclaimed Saturday's work to be his final curtain call, the two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion saying he would no longer compete in the Xfinity Series.

Ironically, in what should have been his biggest bow before the fans – his traditional victory celebration – Busch, 36, opted for a more subdued acknowledgement of the win. He placed the flag inside his Joe Gibbs Racing No. 54 Toyota



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Kyle Busch, driver of the #54 Extra Gum Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Credit Karma Money 250 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on July 10, 2021 in Hampton, Ga. Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

and conceded the win wasn't exactly how he wanted to add to his historic victory tally.

On the previous restart with only six laps remaining, Busch was behind his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Daniel Hemric and gave him a bumper-push forward to help the two get in front of the field. But Hemric's No. 18 JGR Toyota instead wiggled sideways, made contact with another car and hooked into the outside wall; the wreck forcing the overtime finish.

It had looked as if Busch, who led a race best 98 laps, and Hemric were going to settle the trophy between themselves. A victory for the 30-year old Hemric, would have been his first in any of NASCAR's premier series. He now has 105 Xfinity Series starts and nine runner-up finishes. On Saturday, he finished 30th.

"Not quite the win we were hoping for," Busch said, "a little bit of a somber win, I guess, not just for it being the last one, but for the way it kind of happened."

"Really hate it for my teammate Daniel Hemric there on the front stretch. Just trying to get to him, trying to push him, trying to hit him and get him moving forward. We hit that bump there on the track at the same time and it kind of juked his car and he was across traffic, I guess. Ended up wrecked, which was not all how I foresaw that all going."

"But we were able to push our way through and get on to victory lane."

Added Busch, who won both stages and now has led an Xfinity Series record 20,088 laps, "He probably was going to have us beat, you know. Whoever got ahead off of Turn 2 on a restart was probably going to circle back around and take the checkered."

For his part, an obviously disappointed Hemric had very little to say on the team radio when the incident happened on-track, but spoke to reporters on pit road after the race and remained upbeat despite the frustrating situation.

"What could have been, right, that's all you can think about," Hemric told NBCSN on pit road. "On the flipside, you can't change it. Obviously, I know it wasn't intentional by no means. I did spin the tires a little bit, we were on scuffed tires there."

"I thought we got rolling there the best we could, and Kyle just went to push me and help out momentum in the bottom lane. Right when he went to hook on my back bumper, there's a swell there right before you turn into one Turn 1. The way the car loads there, and the bumpers didn't align and it shot me right there."

"I know it wasn't intentional but at the end of the day, I'm

talking to you guys with a torn-up race car. This sucks."

"I don't know if I should have been expecting something different than what happened," Hemric continued. "But as soon as he touched me I never had a chance. That's a product of taking off in a restart zone on older tires and we're all doing all we can."

"Just unfortunate, but congrats to those guys they've been on top of it and our day will come."

Kaulig Racing's Jeb Burton finished second to Busch by .550-seconds, followed by JR Motorsports driver Noah Gragson, who was leading the field to green following a caution period in the middle of the race only to have to drop into the pits to repair a punctured tire just before the restart. He was 31st at the time and rallied all the way to third. It was his best showing since a runner-up finish at Martinsville in early April – 12 races ago.

Burton's Kaulig teammate Justin Haley finished fourth and Ty Dillon earned his best showing of the season with a fifth-place run. Brett Moffitt, Justin Allgaier, Jeremy Clements, rookie Sam Mayer, championship leader Austin Cindric and Austin Dillon rounded out the Top-10.

It was a particularly impressive run for Austin Dillon, who got the call to substitute for Michael Annett in the JR Motorsports No. 1 Chevrolet only minutes before the race started. He was on the team radio asking for the name of his crew chief and his spotter just after the field took the green flag.

With only eight races remaining to set the 12-driver Xfinity Series Playoffs field, Cindric, a four-race winner, continues to lead the championship standings by 74 points over Allmendinger and Hemric is third.

The series races next in the Ambetter Get Vaccinated 200 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Saturday (3 p.m. ET, NBCSN, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15**

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**THEME: MOTTOES AND SLOGANS**

**ACROSS**

- 1965 march site
- Bottle top
- Dried up
- Can't see the forest for this?
- \* \_\_\_\_ You Need is Love
- \_\_\_\_-upper
- End of a poem
- Filmmaker Spike
- Like a good athlete?
- "Tastes So Good, Cats Ask for It by Name"
- "The Quicker Picker Upper"
- Duke of Cambridge to Prince of Wales
- Blood vessel
- The Jackson 5 1970 hit
- Plural of velum
- Havanese or Pekingese
- High school formal
- What the phone did
- Abrupt increase
- \* \_\_\_\_ John's: "Better Ingredients. Better Pizza."
- Working shoelaces
- Island east of Java
- Shockingly graphic
- Hurtful remark
- Design detail
- Canine's coat
- Law school prerequisite, acr.
- a.k.a. Tokyo
- Muscovite or biotite
- Uber alternative
- "Let's Go Places" advertiser
- "Can You Hear Me Now?" advertiser
- On the fritz
- Wharton degree
- Upholstery choice
- Bell-bottoms bottom

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69. Emergency responder, acr.

70. Prenatal test, for short

71. Medieval Northern European

72. Be obliged

73. Reconnaissance, for short

**DOWN**

1. Part of a flute

2. Marine eagle

3. What malevolent and levorotary have in common

4. Jellies' cries

5. Isaac of science fiction fame

6. Burnt metal residue

7. India pale \_\_\_\_

8. Annapolis frosh

9. Leo or Virgo, e.g.

10. Sign above a door

11. Count on

12. Before, poetically

15. Floras' partners

20. Apathetic

22. Crude fuel

24. Flavoring from Madagascar

25. "Think Different" advertiser

26. Former Milwaukee Brewer All Star Ryan

27. Dried coconut meat

29. "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" advertiser

31. Drinking establishments

32. Blind alternative

33. Checked out

34. "So Easy, a Caveman Can Do It" advertiser

36. Disfigure

38. African migrants

42. Actress turned princess of Monaco

45. Lower a rank

49. Ignited

51. Tooth decay agent

54. Tarantino in his own movie, e.g.

56. Biotic community

57. Story "of Two Cities"

58. October stone

59. Nomad's round house

60. Flower holder

61. Dietary mineral

62. Medley

63. Ne

64. "It's Finger Lickin' Good"

66. "The Ultimate Driving Machine"

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**DOG LOT FENCE** (1) Medium/Large \$200. Eclipse Electric Chair \$600. Husky 26 Gallon Air Tank \$100. Coleman Powermate 500 Watt Generator \$250. Call (828)421-1617 John.

**GOT STUFF?** Sell it in a classified ad in The Macon County News for as little as \$8 per week for 20 words or less. Classifieds in print and online at work for you for one low price. For more information call (828)369-6767 or email your ad to [maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

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Sunday and Thursday 11 till 6

(most stores no veggies on Sun)

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Enroll now for fall classes.

**Semester begins Aug. 16**



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