



Photo by Teresa S. Tabor

Area churches are finding creative ways to get their congregations back together. Discover Church met at Parker Meadows for their Sunday service last week. Discover will meet at Parker Meadows for two more weeks, then will resume regular services at their facility at 47 Macon Center Drive on Aug. 2, after extensive training for staff and volunteers to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Cooper: Schools to open August 17 under 'Plan B'

State in Phase 2 for three more weeks

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said Tuesday the state's public schools will be open for both in-person and online instruction in August.

"Let me be clear. We want our schools open for in-person instruction in August," Cooper said. "The classroom is the best place for children to learn."

Under "Plan B," in-person instruction will restrict schools to 50 percent capacity when classes start August 17.

What exactly Plan B will look like will be up to individual districts, however, state mandated requirements will have to be followed.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said that the Board of Education will make a decision regarding what Plan B will look like for Macon County next Monday night during the July meeting.

"Principals are working together to determine how to implement these requirements at the K-4, 5-8 and 9-12 levels in Macon County," said Dr. Baldwin. "PowerSchool data released this week will allow us to plan for siblings at different grade levels and/or schools are attending schools on the

See PLAN B page 9

Town approves new pay scale for FPD

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Franklin Town Council voted to adjust the town's pay scale to include "step" raises for the Franklin Police Department.

Town Manager Summer Woodard asked the town council to consider the pay scale adjustments because the original scale would have beginning patrol officers being hired at the same pay scale as veteran officers.

"We have in some cases, a new officer being hired on at the same rate as an officer who has worked for the department for 17 years," said Woodard.

The adjustment, which was unanimously approved by the town council, implements step positions for patrol officers based on years of service. The newly approved positions include Master Police Officer I, Master Police Officer II, Master Police Officer III, First Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Police Commander.

Prior to the last week's adjustment, Franklin Police Officers, regardless of years with the department, would be in the same pay range (\$33,521-\$49,482) unless promoted to a supervisory position. The adjustments "give officers something to work toward," said Woodard.

Town Councilman Mike Lewis said that with the amount

of turnover happening in law enforcement, he supported extra incentives for officers. The Franklin Police Department currently has two vacancies.

The new pay scale defines requirements officers must meet to move up in the pay scale. To be promoted to Master Police Officer I, officers must have a minimum of two continuous years of service as a police officer (non-probationary) with the Franklin Police Department and training in either interviews and interrogations or community-oriented policing. The next step is Master Police Officer II which requires one continuous year of service as a Master Police Officer I with the Franklin Police Department with training in First Line Supervisor and Field Training Officer. The next step is Master Police Officer III and requires a minimum of one continuous year of service as a Master Police Officer II and graduate from a two or four-year college or university.

The new pay scale for the Franklin Police Department also includes additional supervisory positions within the department. The First Sergeant position requires a minimum of 10 years of continuous service to the Franklin Police Department, two or four-year college as well as completion of training. The change also adds a Lieutenant classification that

See PAY SCALE page 2

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Artist features local themes in downtown mural

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PAY SCALE

Continued from page 1

requires 12 years continuous service, a degree, and training.

The step raises implemented by the town of Franklin mirrors the same pay structure as the town of Highlands. The Macon County Sheriff's Department does not currently have step raises for patrol officers, however, it is something that Sheriff Robert Holland said he is working toward.

"For us, it shouldn't be just for patrol. We are a larger department and have various units with our agency. I have tried for years to have step raises for deputies and detention officers (Deputy 1 and Deputy 2 and Detention 1 and Detention 2), as well as incentives, but we have been unsuccessful," said Sheriff Holland. "Over the last year, I and other department heads have worked with the county manager at the direction of Chairman Tate to look at comparisons regarding pay and I was confident that we were going to be able to implement the appropriate steps this year during our budget talks, but then COVID19 struck and we saw a decrease in the funds coming into the county. In our county, the sheriff has no control over the designated pay scale for employees of his agency. The county has a set range for all positions in all departments. We know after all the work we have done in our review of other counties that our pay scale is inadequate and needs to be addressed."

Woodard said that the implementation of the new pay scale for the Franklin Police Department wouldn't immediately require additional funding from the town at this point, however, current employees will be reviewed based on the new pay scale.

"Current officers' certifications and qualifications would be reviewed and then they would be classified accordingly," said Woodard. "Also, the pay grades largely overlap as is, so even if an employee moves into a higher pay grade, it may not necessarily mean that they will receive an increase."

Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell said that his department currently has two open positions. Sheriff Robert Holland spoke to commissioners Tuesday night and said with Franklin's new pay scale, and Highlands already having a similar pay scale, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Sheriff's Department to fill vacant positions.

"As of today, we have 11 vacancies," Sheriff Holland. "We have two strong applicants for those positions, but that will still leave us with nine open spots, which is something I don't recall ever happening in my 28 years in law en-

forcement for this county."

Holland said that morale for the department, for law enforcement across the board, is at an all time low, resulting in fewer and fewer people entering the profession, especially considering the pay.

"Every department in this county is extremely important and I know that all department heads want more for their employees, but I can only speak to you about my department and my employees," said Holland. "They are the only ones in this county that are asked to put on a bullet proof vest and go to work, risking their lives, having guns pointed in their faces, being asked to attend an event just to have an entire group of people chant 'All cops are bastards' and do it all for \$15 or \$16 an hour."

Holland noted that based on the county's current pay scale, a beginning officer would make the same as an officer with a two or four year degree.

"I have officers who while working for the department, on their own go out and complete their two year degree. Then they go on and they get their four-year degree," said Holland. "And what do they get for it? Nothing from the

The Franklin Town Council approved additional patrol pay grades this month. Below is a like-salary comparison for law enforcement agencies in Macon County. The new positions on the Franklin Police Department pay scale are denoted with an *.

*. This is not a full representation of staff or positions at the respective departments, just a comparison of similar positions based on the changes made at Franklin Police Department.

| | FRANKLIN POLICE | MACON COUNTY SHERIFF | HIGHLANDS POLICE |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| PATROL | \$33,521-\$49,482 | \$32,268-\$48,401 | \$33,201.60-\$49,857 |
| *PATROL 1 | \$35,196-\$51,956 | N/A | \$35,256-\$50,710.40 |
| *PATROL 2 | \$36,956-\$54,554 | N/A | \$37,003.20-\$55,494 |
| *PATROL 3 | \$38,803-\$57,281 | N/A | N/A |
| SERGEANT | \$40,743-\$60,145 | \$35,575-\$53,363 | \$38,833.60-\$58,260.80 |
| *LIEUTENANT | \$47,165-\$69,626 | \$39,222.04-\$58,832 | \$42,806.40-\$64,272 |

county, but the county gets a better trained, more dedicated officer."

Holland said that with so many vacancies, especially in patrol, when school begins this Fall, he will have to make the tough decision regarding whether School Resource Officers will go into the classrooms or if they will have to fill other positions to account for the vacancies.

"For a long time now we have been a training spot for other departments," said Holland. "They apply here, and we invest in them and send them through BLET and train them, then they take that experience and apply to a department that will pay for the time they have put in, because here, they make the same on day one as they do on year five unless they are promoted to a supervisor."

County Manager Derek Roland said that the budget had already been finalized for this year, and although the county has over \$20 million in fund balance, it is unlikely the county will have funding to address the Sheriff's concerns this year due to revenue shortfalls caused by COVID19.

Despite Sheriff Holland explaining that the number of calls the department is receiving continues to increase, and the vacancies within the department present a safety danger for the public, commissioner's said they could consider Holland's request in December when they complete a mid-year budget review to evaluate the impact COVID19 has on the county budget.

Law enforcement makes appeal to commissioners

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

At Tuesday night's regular meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell said that his department currently has two open positions. Sheriff Robert Holland addressed commissioners at the meeting and said with Franklin's new pay scale, and Highlands already having a similar pay scale, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Sheriff's Department to fill vacant positions.

"As of today, we have 11 vacancies," Sheriff Holland. "We have two strong applicants for those positions, but that will still leave us with nine open spots, which is something I don't recall ever happening in my 28 years in law enforcement for this county."

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"I have officers who, while working for the department, on their own go out and complete their two-year degree. Then they go on and they get their four-year degree," said Holland. "And what do they get for it? Nothing from the county, but the county gets a better trained, more dedicated officer."

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| 1969 | CHEVROLET | CORVETTE | 69,248 |
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| 2017 | Chevrolet | Equinox | 37,384 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 15,105 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 11,654 |
| 2014 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 114,928 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 25,450 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 18,986 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 24,127 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 122,763 |
| 2014 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 | 235,283 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD | 50,327 |
| 2005 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD | 86,524 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD | 119,071 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Spark | 15,271 |
| 2017 | Chevrolet | Tahoe | 75,142 |
| 2016 | Chevrolet | Traverse | 80,732 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Trax | 3,706 |
| 2016 | Chrysler | 200 | 58,513 |
| 2013 | Dodge | Durango | 141,512 |
| 2019 | Dodge | Grand Caravan | 39,053 |
| 2019 | Dodge | Grand Caravan | 37,309 |
| 2017 | Dodge | Journey | 76,764 |
| 2007 | Dodge | Nitro | 106,328 |
| 2018 | Ford | EcoSport | 5,000 |
| 2018 | Ford | Edge | 53,011 |
| 2019 | Ford | Escape | 35,189 |
| 2017 | Ford | Expedition EL | 82,959 |
| 2015 | Ford | F-150 | 74,115 |
| 2013 | Ford | F-150 | 101,579 |
| 2011 | Ford | F-150 | 109,787 |
| 2013 | Ford | Focus | 129,451 |
| 2017 | Ford | Fusion | 43,886 |
| 2016 | Ford | Fusion | 56,659 |
| 1930 | FORD | MODELA | 78,269 |
| 2013 | GMC | Sierra 1500 | 99,394 |
| 2002 | GMC | Sierra 1500 | 221,488 |
| 2015 | GMC | Sierra 1500 | 55,485 |
| 2016 | GMC | Terrain | 64,919 |
| 2019 | GMC | Yukon XL | 42,472 |
| 2019 | GMC | Yukon XL | 37,463 |
| 2002 | HARLEY DAVIDSON | FATBOY | 2,318 |
| 1997 | HARLEY DAVIDSON | ULTRA CLASSIC | 26,160 |
| 2017 | Honda | Accord | 21,739 |
| 2017 | Honda | CR-V | 27,039 |
| 2019 | Honda | HR-V | 13,836 |
| 2019 | Honda | Odyssey | 25,630 |
| 2017 | Hyundai | Tucson | 63,714 |
| 2014 | Jeep | Grand Cherokee | 76,055 |
| 2017 | Jeep | New Compass | 58,040 |
| 2016 | Jeep | Patriot | 57,115 |
| 2018 | Jeep | Renegade | 21,426 |
| 2016 | Kia | Sorento | 79,879 |
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| 2019 | Nissan | Frontier | 24,310 |
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| 2019 | Nissan | Sentra | 36,396 |
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| 2018 | RAM | 3500 | 19,819 |
| 2014 | Subaru | Forester | 95,536 |
| 2018 | Subaru | Legacy | 39,087 |
| 2016 | Toyota | Camry | 68,815 |
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| 2018 | Toyota | RAV4 | 41,686 |
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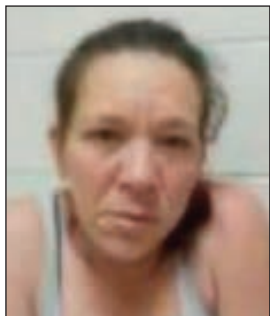
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One shot, multiple suspects arrested in weekend home invasion

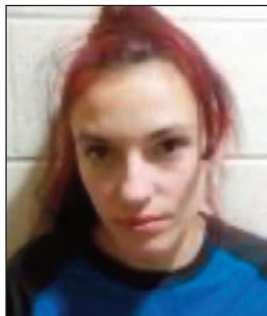
Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

On Saturday night a 9-1-1 call was made following an incident in the Addington Bridge Road area of Macon County. An elderly man reported that he had answered his door to find what he believed to be a female wearing a “Covid mask” at his carport door but who kept her back to his view. When the homeowner opened his door to see what the visitor wanted, another individual wearing a similar mask forced his way into the home. The elderly homeowner who was using a walker was able to retrieve a firearm from a basket attached to his walker. The victim stated he feared for his life and fired one time striking the suspect in the forearm. Both the male and female suspect fled the scene in a vehicle. The homeowner was unsure of the type or color vehicle the suspects were driving.

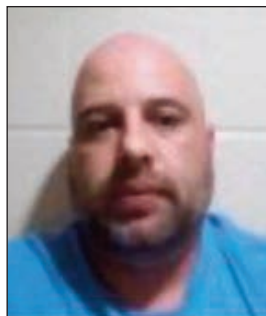
Macon County Sheriff’s Office responded to the scene and detectives initiated an investigation into the incident. A large amount of blood was visible both outside and inside the home. A short time later, a male and female reportedly arrived at Angel Hospital with the male subject suffering a gun shot wound to his arm. The female dropped the injured man off and left the hospital. The individual being treated for his gunshot wound claimed he had been shot by two intruders at his home in Otto on Norris Road. Following interviews with multiple individuals, detectives came to the conclusion that the story of two intruders shooting him was false. This led detectives to believe that the person who arrived at Angel Medical Center seek-



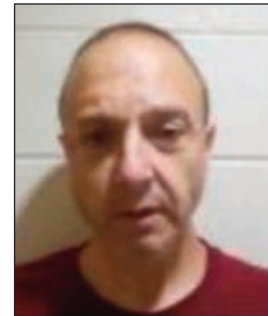
Natasha Kerberg



Carmalita Pike



Kenneth Lawrence



Dean Myers

ing medical treatment for a gunshot wound was the same person shot by the homeowner earlier that night.

At the conclusion of the interviews, some of those interviewed admitted to their role in a plan to commit a robbery against the elderly man. Based on the interviews, it was determined that not only were there two people at the man’s home but there were actually four people. Two at the door seen by the homeowner, another waiting at the end of the porch and another remaining in the vehicle. The group of individuals planned to steal the man’s money and his prescription medications in an effort to purchase heroin that was being sold by an individual at a local motel.

During this investigation, MCSO detectives were able to identify two individuals who were in the Franklin area selling heroin from a motel room. One of those individuals selling heroin at the motel had pending warrants out of the state of Georgia.

“I appreciate the hard work and dedication of each of the officers involved in this incident and subsequent investigation. MCSO patrol officers and detectives worked diligently throughout the night to solve and arrest these individuals who clearly demonstrated that they were a significant risk to the safety and well-being of our community and its citizens,” stated Sheriff Robert Holland.

Following the criminal investigation into the incident, the following suspects were arrested:

Natasha Kerberg was charged with first degree burglary and assault on a handicapped person. Suspect is being held on a \$200,000 secured bond.

Carmalita Pike was charged with first degree burglary, assault on a handicapped person. Suspect is being held on a \$200,000 secured bond.

Kenneth Lawrence was charged with first degree burglary, assault on a handicapped person, simple possession schedule VI. Suspect is being held on a \$200,000 secured bond.

Dean Myers was charged with trafficking heroin, possession Schedule II substance, possession Schedule III substance, Possession Schedule IV substance. Suspect is being held on a \$150,000 secured bond.

“The investigation continues and additional arrests and charges are forthcoming,” concluded Sheriff Holland.

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Restaurant petitions to lease town-owned property for expansion

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Local business owners are getting creative to continue operating now that Governor Roy Cooper has extended Phase 2 – limited capacity for customers and altering requirements to open - through Aug. 7.

Brett Murphy, owner of Root + Barrel Kitchen approached the Franklin Town Council last week asking permission to expand their outdoor seating options, to be able to serve more customers safely during COVID19.

Murphy said the restaurant would like to be able to add 40 more seats in the alley, which would mean an additional 20 seats during the 50 percent capacity COVID-19 orders. Normal full capacity inside is 150, Murphy said, and under the governor's orders, the restaurant is permitted to operated at 50 percent capacity. ABC

(Alcoholic Beverage Commission) regulations would also require Root + Barrel to put up some sort of barrier around the outdoor seating to be able to serve alcohol.

"We'd like to clean it up and do some landscaping buffers between the sidewalk and the seating area," he said.

The request was made to the town of

"We're looking for at least a three- to 10-year lease because we're looking at investing \$20,000 into the project," he said.

Murphy said preferably, the idea would be to install a concrete pad for the outdoor patio seating, but said the restaurant had alternative plans to just use gravel if the town didn't approve the concrete installation.

Supporting the request, Council member David Culpepper referred to the recently approved Comprehensive Plan, which specifically suggest the town look at ways to utilize alley ways and additional space for outdoor seating for local businesses.

Mayor Bob Scott, however, said he didn't believe the area Murphy was asking about qualified as an alley way. Scott shared his concern regarding the proposition and also said

that he didn't want to see another issue like the town had with the restaurant when it was named "The Bowery" when a piece of sidewalk had to be installed around the same area.

Members of the Franklin Board were unhappy with owners of The Bowery Restaurant in 2015 when they installed a side entrance between the buildings without getting prior approval from the town.

Murphy said that the improvements to the parcel in question would be at the expense of the restaurant and would allow for extra seating for customers, similar to what the town approved for Rockin' Rollie Pollie's restaurant which has installed temporary seating on the sidewalk in front of their business.

The town asked Murphy to develop a specific plan and return to the board in August.



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

The property in question is located between Root + Barrel and Town Hall.

Franklin because the piece of property Murphy is asking to expand on belongs to the town. Murphy proposed a lease on the small parcel to allow for outdoor seating.

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Artist features local themes with murals on downtown building

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Marina Tkach and the owners of 828 Café in Franklin, David and Beatriz Gomez, have been friends for a decade. They met not too long after Tkach arrived from Russia on a student visa. Gradually, Beatriz said she learned of her new friend's artistic skills. Thus, when the Gómezes decided last fall to open the "American food with a hint of Latin" café just across from the Little Tennessee River Greenway on Main Street, they enlisted Tkach to



Besides the painting of the murals at 828 Café, Marina Tkach is an adept graphic and watercolor artist.



paint images on the building that convey aspects of the area's natural beauty and wildlife.

Tkach, an academically trained graphic designer who also paints watercolors and designs t-shirt art, said the Gómezes came up with the idea to have her paint a large black bear face on the side of the building to greet oncoming traffic into the Town of Franklin. It was her first mural attempt, so she drew the images on paper and then used the buildings' bricks to establish a large grid, which she drew in chalk. That process enabled her to determine scale – placement of eyes, nose, mouth, ears, etc. She also drew other aspects of the art in chalk before painting the mural.

"I did the large bear first ... that took about



five hours," said Tkach, adding that the coordinating smiling mountains and sunshine, as well as the bear on a bike, were added whenever she had a chance to work around caring for her two young children, ages 8 and 4. Most recently, Tkach painted the entire back of the café, where there is outdoor seat-



Photo by Deena C. Bouknight

Marina Tkach, far left, painted the murals at 828 Café, which is owned by David Gomez (center) and his wife, Beatriz. Second from left is Beatriz's mother, Gloria Rodriguez, who assists in the kitchen, and Beatriz's niece, Saory Vasquez, (front) who is working at the café this summer.

ing, with brightly colored flowers and foliage.

Tkach explained that her parents enrolled her in art school when she was younger. She had a one-day showing, with other local artists, last year in Highlands. She says she was concerned with how the murals would turn out, but is happy with the results and would like to do more "for the town."

Already, Tkach and the Gómezes are talking about ideas for the front of the building and the remainder of the side of the building where the bear murals appear.

"With our food and our café, we wanted to bring something different to the Franklin community," said Beatriz Gomez. Some of

the regular menu items include Guava French Toast, breakfast bowls, and specialty burritos, sandwiches, and wraps. "The food is nutritious and healthy, with a touch of what's trending ... creativity. And that creativity is also what we want to show to the town with the murals. We think they turned out beautifully and enhance the building with the images and the color. Marina is talented. The murals are all her style; we might have come up with the ideas, but the art is all her."

828 Café is open at 50 percent capacity for dine-in, and orders can be called in and carried out. Breakfast is served from early morning until 2 p.m. The café also serves lunch.



The backside of 828 café includes a mural of brightly colored floral and fauna with surprise whimsical elements such as bear faces and eggs frying in a pan.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter





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COVID cluster identified in farm community

Macon County Public Health has identified a cluster of nine people who have tested positive at Norton Creek Farms. Employees who have tested positive are isolated from others. All of the farm workers who have potentially been exposed to these individuals have been contacted and will be tested for COVID-19.

In addition to Norton Creek Farms employees, MCPH is working to identify any 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. Based on information provided by the individual, 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.

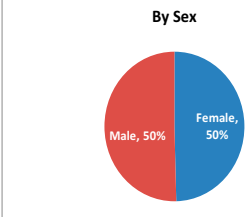
MCPH's Medical Director and Norton Creek Farms are working together to limit the spread of COVID-19 among farm workers and the community. Norton Creek Farm owner, Nathan Moss, has said of the farm's precautions for COVID-19, "We have use the strongest precautions possible to keep our farm workers and community safe, and will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our workers and community."

The entire state of North Carolina remains under a "Safer at Home" executive order, currently under phase two that Gove. Roy Cooper has just extended for three more weeks. Masks are required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness. Therefore, community members are encouraged to follow the governor's or-

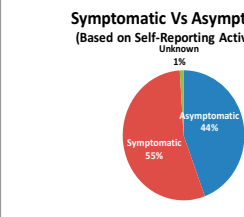
Macon County Public Health

Weekly Macon County COVID-19 Case Demographics: 7/15/2020

By Sex



Symptomatic Vs Asymptomatic
(Based on Self-Reporting Active Cases)



| Ethnicity | Percent |
|---------------------|---------|
| Hispanic/Latinx | 78% |
| Non-Hispanic/Latinx | 22% |

| Age Group | Percent |
|-----------|---------|
| 0-17 | 24.2% |
| 18-24 | 16.3% |
| 25-49 | 44.1% |
| 50-64 | 9.7% |
| 65-74 | 2.7% |
| 75+ | 3.0% |

Zipcodes

| Zipcode | Percent |
|-----------------|---------|
| Franklin 28734 | 77.2% |
| Highlands 28741 | 17.6% |
| Otto 28763 | 4.6% |
| Franklin 28744 | 0.58% |

This demographic information is based on available data and will be updated every Wednesday.



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PLAN B

Continued from page 1

same days. Nantahala's and Highlands's plans will be slightly to completely different. A survey from each school will be sent to parents and staff. This survey will provide school specific information so that we can adjust our transportation routes and plan for teachers to cover the students who choose to shift completely to remote learning."

While the details have to still be worked out, there are specific requirements districts will have to follow, which includes masks being mandatory for all students, K-12 grades. The state will be providing five cloth masks for every student and teacher, one for each day of the week.

Under Plan B, schools are required to follow key safety measures that include:

- Require face coverings for all teachers and students K-12
- Limit the total number of students, staff and visitors within a school building to the extent necessary to ensure 6 feet distance can be maintained when students/staff will be stationary
- Conduct symptom screening, including temperature checks
- Establish a process and dedicated space for people who

For businesses, the Phase 2 extension was scheduled to expire on Friday, however, Cooper announced that North Carolina will remain in Phase 2 for at least another three weeks as he described the state's current case count as "troubling."

are ill to isolate and have transportation plans for ill students

- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in the school and transportation vehicles regularly
- Require frequent hand washing throughout the school day and provide hand sanitizer at entrances and in every classroom
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups
- Discontinue use of self-service food or beverage distribution.

In addition, schools are strongly recommended to follow additional safety measures that include:

- Designate hallways and entrance/exit doors as one-way
- Keep students and teachers in small groups that stay together as much as possible
- Have meals delivered to the classroom or have students bring food back to the classroom if social distancing is not possible in the cafeteria
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Place physical barriers such as plexiglass at reception desks and similar areas

If a school district in the state is experiencing an outbreak, or want to implement safety regulations beyond Plan B, the Governor said that districts can opt for Plan C, which would be all remote learning.

In addition to districts being able to select Plan B or Plan C – Governor Cooper said that all districts should offer remote learning for families who request it.

Governor Cooper also said that the state will continue to monitor the virus, and "wouldn't hesitate" to adjust the plans based on the evolving situation, which could mean immediately implementing Plan C, or lessening restrictions.

For businesses in North Carolina, the Phase 2 extension was scheduled to expire on Friday, however Cooper also announced today that North Carolina will remain in phase two for at least another three weeks as he described the state's current case count as "troubling."

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Let me again thank those folks who care for the health and safety of their fellow citizens by wearing masks. Research is very clear that wearing masks is a very basic, and effective way of containing the spread of COVID-19 virus. While individuals have personal freedom, there is a responsibility to not jeopardize the health and safety of others within the community. Individuals can't make it too far without the support of a healthy community. Concern for others is a fundamental religious and community value.

In some instances people go into businesses without masks. Some citizens ask for the police to be called to establishments to enforce the governor's mask order. The order prohibits our police from citing individuals on sidewalks or in businesses. The first line of enforcement falls on the business owner. It is their responsibility to request people to wear masks. If a customer refuses to do so, that person can be asked to leave the business. If the person refuses, the police can be called, and that person can be charged with trespassing. Rather than requesting police involvement, I suggest concerned citizens talk with the business owner that they believe is routinely allowing customers not to wear masks. As a last resort, a business owner could be cited for failing to enforce the governor's mask order if there is a total disregard for doing so.

I hope Highlands will continue to have a high level of voluntary compliance. Our police have increased foot patrols in the business district. Officers wear masks in an effort to model best behavior in these crowded zones.

On public sidewalks outside the business area, there is no expectation that people wear masks, provided social distancing can be maintained. The governor's order states that if a person is exercising outdoors and maintaining social distance, masks are not required.

Tonight is the July meeting of the town board by way of ZOOM. The town website has the information for public access. I encourage anyone wishing to make a public comment to call town hall at 526-2118 and let our staff know. Requests can also be emailed to me at: mayor@highlandscnc.org.

The first agenda items will be a request by OEI to annex the Farm on Arnold Road, a request recommended by the planning board. The next step will be a public hearing at the August meeting for the annexation and for the rezoning of the Farm property to B-3. The Farm is currently outside the town and is not zoned.

There will be a discussion of current town bear policies. I will request the board to form an educational partnership with the B.E.A.R. Task Force. Also, I want the board to consider an ordinance prohibiting the willful feeding of bears.

A request to do engineering plans for several upcoming water and sewer projects is on the agenda. We believe another federal stimulus package may be coming that includes public works projects. Shovel ready plans like the ones proposed could be funded through federal stimulus project grants.

Letters to the Editor

Fear plays major role in American politics

Writer Jack Kerwick recently published an extraordinary article entitled "Fear in Politics" on the conservative website frontpagemag.com. "The role of fear in our politics," he wrote, "is seldom mentioned by commentators. I suspect that this is in large measure because it is exceedingly difficult for people, especially men, to reckon with their own fears." Guilt, it has often been observed, is a whole lot easier to handle than Shame.

Kerwick is writing primarily about urban America, so this requires an exercise of the imagination for some here in Mayberry - sorry, Franklin. But we need to make it.

Kerwick continues: "There has been much ink spilt over the decades on 'white guilt.' Little, if any, has been spent on the subject of white fear - which, I'm contending here, is what lies beneath the veneer...The moral posturing of whites, particularly white liberals, that extends back decades and which has sunk to heretofore unplumbed depths in recent weeks is not, as conservatives are wont to label it, 'virtue-signaling.' It is vice-signaling. The repulsive spectacle of whites kneeling before blacks and 'atoning' for their 'white privilege' highlights the most toxic of character defects on the part of the white penitents: obsequiousness, folly, impiety, idolatry, and, most fundamentally, cowardice."

Here are words that speak to every one of us, black and white: "This denial, though, doesn't obviate the fear. It only exacerbates it while miring the fearful ever deeper in his (or her) self-delusion. In and of itself, this is a private matter for folks to address on their own. But since the refusal of these fearful people to address their fears has resulted in disaster for American society as a whole, the fearful, and their fears, need to be called out and exposed for who and what they are."

Kerwick reminds us of Jesse Jackson's "unguarded moment of candor that the Racism-Industrial-Complex pretends never happened" when, in 1993, he blurted out: "There is nothing more painful to me at this stage in my life than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery. Then I look around and see someone white and feel relieved."

Wouldn't a lot of us love to be given an op-ed in a big paper like the *Los Angeles Times*? Kareem Abdul-Jabbar got a chance on May 30. After all, he's the NBA's all-time leading scorer and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among other things, he wrote that "it feels like hunting season is open on blacks."

Note: Less than 1% of current American murders - 0.95% to be precise - are blacks killed by whites, cop or otherwise. Source: FBI Crime Report 2018. Expanded Homicide Data, Table 6. As of June 6, Instagram was removing this FBI crime statistic graph under its "hate

speech" guidelines. (They may still be, for all I know.)

Ten days after his op-ed was published, Abdul-Jabbar's son, Adam, 28 - no hunter he - was arrested for allegedly stabbing a neighbor multiple times. Let us save our knees for God and pray for wisdom, compassion but especially that rarest of virtues, courage.

Patrick Wallace - Franklin, N.C.

Commander in Chief's duty is to protect the people

The first duty of our Commander in Chief, Donald Trump, is to protect the people of these United States. He took an oath to perform this most basic of duties. Over a 135,000 American have died as a result of the Covid virus. The family of each person lost to this pandemic can rightly ask: If Donald Trump had done his job would my loved one still be alive?

Owners of struggling and failed businesses and their workers can rightly ask: If Donald Trump had done his job would the business and its jobs still exist? The doctor in an over-run Arizona or Texas hospital could rightly ask: If Donald Trump had done his job would I have to decide who gets a ventilator today? Grieving parents of soldiers killed in Afghanistan can rightly ask: If Donald Trump had read his Presidential Daily Briefing would my son or daughter still be alive?

Donald Trump's failure of leadership has become appallingly apparent to anyone who dares to look. In the early days of this pandemic our Commander in Chief said that this "Chinese" virus would magically go away. When that did not happen he said it was not his problem; the individual states and their governors would have lead the fight. When that did not work he blamed the WHO (World Health Organization) for the failure.

Seven months into this fight we are still short of PPE and testing is still a problem. Just to be clear, the United States has more cases and deaths by far from this virus than any other country on the planet.

Donald Trump's failure to lead goes far beyond this pandemic. Once the leader of the free world, the United States has now withdrawn from virtually all international organizations and he has nothing but praise for autocrats around the world. The Russians and Chinese have rushed in to fill this vacuum to the great detriment of the United States.

While Donald Trump defends dead confederate generals and holds up someone else's bible in front a church, we can only hope that his "leadership" is not again tested.

Louis Vitale - Franklin, N.C.

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Some stats on deaths in North Carolina

Let's look at the major causes of death in North Carolina, per 100,000 of population (info from CDC [Centers for Disease Control] then Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center and Statista.com, 7/6/20, annualized):

- 155 - Heart Disease
- 154 - Cancer
- 55 - Accidents
- 43 - Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- 41 - Stroke
- 38 - Alzheimer's Disease
- 23 - Diabetes
- 22 - Drug Overdose
- 17 - Influenza/Pneumonia
- 15 - Kidney Disease
- 12 - Septicemia
- 7 - Homicide
- 14-COVID-19

Percent of persons in the United States NOT killed by the Coronavirus - 99.96.

Stephen Crosby – Franklin, N.C.

U.S. laws apply equally to all

I am gravely concerned about the present and future of the United States. The recent civil unrest, both physical and verbal, is turning the country against itself and I am afraid of where it will lead. It appears we now have mob rule and all words are looked at closely to try to find any possible racial overtones and to voice an objection. It seems that weekly some news organization lists new words that are to be banned because they might offend someone.

I have no problem with peaceful protests but in many cases that is not what is happening now. In many "progressive" cities rioters are stealing, burning, illegally occupying territory and shooting others in the name of justice while the elected officials apparently will not allow police officers to enforce the laws because the "protests" are for the right reasons. At the same time, these leaders do not seem to care about the citizens who are the victims of the criminal actions. I believe that in the United States laws apply equally to all and elected officials have no right to decide which ones should be enforced. When laws do not apply to everyone, all the time, citizens will become afraid, police will resign and lawlessness will take over. The world learned at the time of World War II that continued appeasement only led to having to give more in order to appease.

The rioters also have decided to tear down statues of Americans that have stood for many years. Sometimes I wonder if some of these people even know the history of the statue or are just out to destroy. If today's citizens believe a statue should be removed, there are legal ways in which this can be done. No one should be allowed to act illegally and just tear them down. I wonder, under the current ideological purity tests, if there is anything that should be named after a person, because everyone has flaws. History is complicated and we should not always use today's standards of right and wrong to judge people. We need to look at how a person acted relative to the culture of that time in the past. Many people over the years have said that people need to know about the past to do better in the future. For example, Maya Angelou, a poet and civil rights activist said, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." One of the first things Hitler did was try to erase the past.

I realize these protests and riots were precipitated because some white police officers caused the death of unarmed black men. If these officers are found guilty of a crime, they need to be punished. Since the first of these recent events took place, I believe well over 100 unarmed men, women and children have been killed by non-law enforcement per-

sonnel in this country. Also, numerous law enforcement personnel were shot by civilians. These deaths do not get much attention because these murders do not fit the narrative the media wants now. I hope that someday all deaths of people of any race caused by another person will be mourned equally.

Many people will say that since black people were mistreated in the past, white Americans owe them something in the future. As another famous black American, Thomas Sewell, has stated, "Have we reached the ultimate stage of absurdity where some people are held responsible for things that happened before they were born, while other people are not held responsible for what they are doing today." I believe all people need to be responsible for their own actions and not what others have done in the past.

Most people say integration is important. However, many colleges have separate dorms and clubs for minority students. There are various business and professional groups, entertainment awards and other contests only for minorities. Now the NFL is going to have two "national" anthems. Many citizens now identify themselves as a hyphenated American. We say we want to be one nation and everyone treated equally but divisions like this based on skin color make me question if we will ever get there.

I would agree that the USA is not perfect but do believe it is better than any other country. It sickens me to see people use violence and intimidation to try to force changes they desire. Until the country can work and talk together in a civil manner, I do not think much will change. We are a country of laws and changes need to be made by citizens and elected officials, not mobs.

Ken Stonebraker – 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.

NCDMV fees increase July 1

A number of N.C. Division of Motor Vehicle fees will increase, effective July 1.

As mandated by state law, the DMV is required to adjust fees and rates every four years, based on the percentage change in the annual Consumer Price Index during the past four years. The increase will be 7.86 percent for about 90 license and registration-related fees.

Examples of the changes includes a 50 cent per year increase for a regular driver license. Currently, the fee is \$5 for each year of the license, which is issued for five or eight years. So a five-year license will go up \$2.50 and an eight-year license by \$4. The issuance of a learner's permit and a provisional license will increase by \$1.50 overall, with a duplicate license increasing by \$1.

Fees are also going up slightly for commercial driver licenses, copies of driving records, and several other license related processes.

For regular private passenger vehicle registrations, the annual fee will go from \$36 to \$38.75. Registrations for commercial vehicles, motorcycles, for hire vehicles, house trailers, low-speed vehicle and electric vehicle fees among others that will also increase.

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Summer & Bray at SMCPA drive-in concert



Photos by Betsey Gooder



Summer & Bray of the Mountain Faith Band presented a concert in the parking lot of The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts last Friday. The drive-in concert featured car-hop type concessions (above) while concert goers tuned in to their car radios to hear the music. For info about upcoming events, visit greatmountainmusic.com.

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Couple celebrates 65th anniversary

On July 16, James L. and Betty Teem will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Both natives of Franklin, the couple was united in marriage in Walhalla, S.C., in 1955. They were blessed with two sons, Jimmy (Sandra) and Johnny (Frieda), who they raised in the Cullasaja community of Franklin. The couple has four grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. James and Betty remain in their home in Cullasaja and are thankful for the blessings that God has given them throughout their years together. In June, James celebrated his 89th birthday.

Lindsay Law office opens with ribbon cutting

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Lindsay Law in Franklin. The office is located at 26 Iotla Street.

After more than 20 years of serving legal clients around Macon County, attorney Steve Lindsay decided to establish a permanent office near the Macon County Courthouse.

"Over the years, I've come to love this community. The people here are among the finest I've met - blessed with incredible kindness and compassion."

Lindsay, known for over 30 years throughout North Carolina for his in-depth practice in criminal defense, is also an instructor for the National Criminal Defense College, the top training program for criminal defense attorneys in the United States and internationally.

Ginny Hornsby brings 18 years of criminal law experience to the firm, first as an Assistant District Attorney and then in criminal defense. She also takes family law clients on a limited basis in child custody and complex divorce cases, having begun her practice in North Carolina in 2004.



Pictured are Stephen Lindsay, Virginia Hornsby and friends.

Lindsay and Hornsby believe that they can serve the people in and around Western North Carolina using their combined years of experience, skills, and most of all, passion for the law and justice for their clients. Says Lindsay, "Sometimes life hits you hard. We hit harder."

In addition to the Franklin office, Lindsay Law has locations in Asheville and Raleigh, focusing on criminal defense, personal injury, and complex family law issues.

Appalachian Growers join Franklin Chamber

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Appalachian Growers located in the Cowee Valley.

Appalachian Growers started farming hemp driven by the passion to help others discover and apply the benefits of hemp. As a certified USDA organic and GMP operation, they have carefully developed their full spectrum hemp product lines. They are made with organic ingredients to guarantee that the final item in the consumers' hands is of the upmost quality, safety and integrity. When you choose their products, you become part of the Appalachian Growers' family and story, and in turn, they are honored to become part of yours.



Pictured are Gabe Jertberg; Josh Brandes; Steve Yuzzi & Lori Lacy, owners of Appalachian Growers; Ryan Lacy and Noah Miller.

Their products are derived from hemp, containing the legal amount of 0.3% or less THC, which makes the product non-intoxicating. Although no legal claims can be made about certain CBD benefits, users report that the products help them with sleep, pain management and overall relaxation. The oil comes in five different concentrations: 300mg, 500mg, 1000 mg, 1500mg and 3000mg so customers can choose a strength depending on their body's needs. The topical products contain full spectrum hemp, as well as organic and natural essential oils to soothe and nourish the skin. Appalachian Growers products have been state and third party lab tested to ensure compli-

ance and potency.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. It is always recommend to seek a physician's guidance if you have a pre-existing condition or are currently taking medications.

Oils, lotions, salves, roll-ons and lip balm are available for purchase from the website at www.appalachiangrowers.com or drop by the Franklin Welcome Center/Chamber of Commerce or Smoky Mountain Host Visitor Center. Email to info@appalachiangrowers.com with questions.

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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 July 6 - 13. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

July 6
Joe Adam Emery, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

July 7
William Lee Swanson, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Clay A. Sanders made the arrest.

John Cody Sanflippo, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

July 8
Ronnie Lee Queen, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Megan Leigha Alford was charged with probation violation. Clay A Saunders made the arrest.

July 9
Casey West, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

Brett Charles Aldrich, was charged with simple assault. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Kelly William Brasier, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, display fictitious registration plate, driving while license revoked. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

July 10
Davin Lane Eldridge, was charged with attempted break or enter a building, injury to real property. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Dustin Louis Swafford, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Jamison Lawrence Lassiter, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

July 11
Destiny Parker, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Matthew Devon Perkins, was charged with breaking and entering a vehicle, injury to real property, first degree trespassing. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Avery Allison Bates, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Steven Blake Edwards, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Nolen Billy Bennett, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

July 12
Dean Leonard Myers, was charged with trafficking in opium or heroin, possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. Parrish W.

Young made the arrest.

July 13
Bryan Draven Burch, was charged with felony probation violation. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

July 6
Darryl Ray Mcauley, 54, of Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

July 7
Larry Jake Dills, 42, of Northside Dr., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear on a misdemeanor, malicious conduct by a prisoner. No bond was set.

Michael James Bailey, 33, of Duckback Trail, Whittier, was charged with contempt of court. No bond was set.

Rebecca Elizabeth Bradford, 37, of Shoal Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Gregory Mark Thompson, 60, of Grasshopper Rd., was charged with trespass, animal control ordinance violation. No bond was set.

July 8
James Adam Brooks, 37, of Mimosa Lane, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin. An unsecured bond was set.

Jaicelyn Dalya Shanelle Beck, 20, of Estella Teesatuskie Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, trafficking opium or heroin by transportation, trafficking opium or heroin by possession. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Jadam Elizabeth Valrie Martin, 22, of Utopia Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

July 9
Claudia Isabella Cannon, 20, of Abbyhill Dr., Columbia, was charged with second degree trespass, breaking and entering. No bond was set.

Devaniel Robert Dale, 22, of Leugion GQ St., Salisbury, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jessica Lee Allen, 20, of Sweetwater Dr., Whittier, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Brittany Nicole Woodard, 29, of Spinning Wheel Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Steven Cody Moore, 28, of Floral Dr., was charged with receiving stolen property. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Randall Francis White, 38, of Connifer Dr., Whittier, was charged with misuse of emergency communications. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

July 10
Nolen Chuck Camp, 54, of Mutts Place was charged with violation of court order. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

July 12
Gabriel Isaac Baumgarner, 38, of Highlands Hwy, Walhalla, S.C., was charged with failure to appear for no operators license, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

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.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike on Saturday, July 18, with an elevation change of 900 feet, from Long Branch to Rock Gap in the Standing Indian Recreational Area. Start at the backcountry parking, hike up Long Branch to the Appalachian Trail. At Glassmine Gap, continue north to Rock Gap and return by the Forest Service Road. Dogs on leash are welcome. Hike is limited to 6 people. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 11 a.m., drive 38 miles round trip. For reservations or more information, call Leader Katharine Brown at (828)421-4178.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike on Sunday, July 19, with an elevation change of 500 feet. They will hike to Wayah Bald Loop, starting at Wayah Tower to hike the Appalachian Trail to the junction with the Bartram Trail and coming back via a forest service road. Beautiful views from the tower and the bald. Hike is limited to 10 people. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 p.m., drive 32 miles round trip. For more reservations or information, call leader Gail Lehman at (828)524-5298.

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. The program topic will be "Being Allies to the Asian American Community", presented by Ricky Leung, from NC Asian Americans Together. All are welcome to attend. Email jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Drive-in Graduation will be held on Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. at the parking lot of Holly Springs Baptist Church, 366 Holly Springs Church Rd. in Franklin. Rain or shine. No bathroom facilities. The 45-minute ceremony will be delivered via a PA system as well as on FM transmitter over your car radio. All are welcome to join the celebration. For more information, call (828)524-2157. To learn about the faith-based recovery program visit www.mtcots.com or go to the Facebook page - Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies.

Back The Blue Walk to Support Law Enforcement will be held on July 25, 11:30 to 2 p.m. Walk will start at Town Hall and will go up Main St. to the gazebo. Poster decorating contest for the kids with prizes, ceremony honoring fallen officers with special guest speakers. Wear a mask for safety.

Descendants of Weimer and Margaret Siler will gather on Saturday, Aug. 1. There will be two options for gathering: in person and online. The in person gathering, which will comply with all state guidelines and requirements for meetings during COVID-19, will be at the Moss Valley venue, 1145 Patton Road in Franklin. For those who are not comfortable attending or who are unable to attend in person at this time, an online option will be available. For more updates and information, visit www.silerdescendants.org.

Macon County Schools is offering meal pickup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the following locations: Mountain View Intermediate School, South Macon Elementary School, Iotla Valley Elementary School, Franklin High School and Nantahala School. If you have questions regarding the meal pickup service, contact School Nutrition Director David Lightner at david.lightner@macon.k12.nc.us or by calling (828)524-3314 ext. 1010.

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

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 is now open 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.

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

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

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

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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.

New Song Church Cherokee 5th Annual Speak to the Mountain Divine Healing Conference is hosting a Hundred Days of Healing, 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

First Alliance Church has resumed its Sunday services, meeting at 10:30 a.m. Senior Pastor is Scott Eichelberger. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

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 visit www.firstumcfranklin.com.

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Disc Golf Tournament planned this weekend to benefit local family

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Local business owners have rallied behind David and Patience Izquierdo to host a Disc Golf Tournament to raise money for medical costs associated around their unborn daughter, Meadow.

The “Meadow Open” is scheduled for 9 a.m. this Saturday, beginning at the Macon County Recreation Park and will raise money for the family, who found out earlier this year, that their unborn child was facing serious health issues. Local businesses have helped raise money by sponsoring holes and promoting the event.

“On December 1 after spending a long weekend with family for Thanksgiving, we found out we were pregnant,” said David. “Before we ever got married we talked about the future and having a house full of children. We were so excited that God had given us the gift of this baby and the future ahead of us as we began our family of three. On March 31, that excitement turned into fear as we went for a routine anatomy scan and found that our baby girl, Meadow Ruah, had multiple congenital anomalies.”

The couple were immediately sent to Asheville for further evaluation, and received a diagnosis they were not prepared for.

“After being sent to Asheville the same day to visit with a maternal-fetal medicine doctor, we found out that she has what is known as Dandy-Walker syndrome and an unknown heart condition,” said Izquierdo. “Dandy-Walker is a malformation in her brain that causes her cerebellum, the part of the brain that coordinates movement, not to form. This brain abnormality often results in problems with movement, coordination, intellect, mood, and other neurological functions. In some children with Dandy-Walker,

fluid build-up in the brain (hydrocephalus) is an issue but that has not been the case with Meadow so far. We are very thankful for that. Once she is born, if she does experience hydrocephalus, she will need to have a shunt placed in her brain cavity to allow for fluid drainage as this can be fatal if not treated. The doctors are also worried she has a heart condition involving her aorta (main artery that comes out of her heart). They know her aorta extends higher up into the neck but, due to her positioning and bones around the area, they have not been able to get a good image of it. Once she is born they will do an echocardiogram and a CT scan to get a definitive diagnosis and to decide if she needs heart surgery.”

According to David, it took a while for the news to set in. The couple had just adjusted to the thought of becoming a family of three, and now they were facing so many unknowns.

“Our first reaction to her diagnosis was initially just shock,” said Izquierdo. “We had never heard of Dandy-Walker Syndrome so at first, we weren’t sure exactly what that even would look like for her.”

Patience’s due date is Aug. 9, but out of an abundance of caution, the birth will be induced on July 26.

“We will be delivering in Charlotte where our daughter will be admitted to the NICU to be observed and receive extensive testing



David and Patience Izquierdo are facing a tough road ahead with the impending birth of their daughter, Meadow Ruah, on July 26. Prenatal scans have revealed multiple congenital anomalies. A disc golf tournament is being held to help the Izquierdos with their medical expenses.

“From there she will have an MRI to get a better view of the health of her brain. She will also receive genetic testing, during this time, to find out the cause of her birth defects. In the future, she will most likely need therapy as well.”

The couple said that while there are a lot of unknowns and are preparing to bring a medically fragile child into the world is difficult, they are trusting in God.

“Despite the unknown of the health of Meadow, we have peace knowing that God is in control and that he has a plan for her life,” said David. “We have already witnessed God’s hand on her life this far, as she has pleasantly surprised the doctors with how well she has done so far and we have faith that that will continue on once she is here.”

The Meadow Open will be held on an approved temporary course organized by the Franklin

Disc Golf Club. The tournament will be sanctioned by the PDGA.

and care to give her her best chance at life,” said David. While there are so many unknowns, David said that they are anticipating a lot of expenses being for the travel to the hospital in Charlotte, as well as the immediate medical bills for the special delivery.

“Our largest expenses initially will be the delivery and hospital stay for Meadow. Almost immediately after she’s born they will take her to perform an echocardiogram on her heart and then a CT Scan to determine the exact heart condition she may have and if she will in fact need surgery,” said David.

“Experiencing the support from our community has been such a blessing to Patience and me,” said David. “We have seen support from so many businesses around town sponsoring the tournament, as well as personal donations through a Facebook fundraiser that was started. We have gotten kind messages of hope and encouragement. We felt alone going into this. We don’t feel that way anymore. Macon County should be proud.”

For more information about the tournament, visit Meadowopen.com.



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Hickory Knoll holds first drive-in church

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church held its first drive-in service last Sunday. Pastor Stephanie Thompson spoke to those gathered who were able to hear the service over an FM station in their cars. Photos by Henry Fichner



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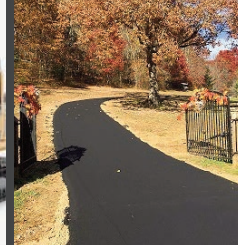
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Deaths & Funerals

Maria Mercedes Domingos Neto

Maria Mercedes Domingos Neto, 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, July 6, 2020, in Tiger, Ga. She was born Nov. 28, 1930, in Portugal to the late Manuel and Judite Dores Domingos. She was a homemaker. Zazzy her dog was her greatest love. She attended St. Francis of Assisi Church and was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by her niece, Teresa Mira Knippel (John); nephew, Carlos Mira (Sheila); great-nieces and nephews, Wesley Mira (Tanya), Ryan Mira, Kimberly Pinkston (Jesse), Michelle Mira, Johnny Mira Knippel (Karmen), and Melissa Faetz (Tyler); Great great-nieces and nephews, Alex Mira, Elizabeth Mira, Leila Pinkston, Larkin Pinkston, Sage Pinkston, Braxton Mira Knippel, Savannah Mira Knippel, Dominic Faetz, Patrick Faetz, Ella Hoeffler, Kendall Reis, and Kamden Reis.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Narciso Neto.

A funeral service was held Friday, July 10, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin, NC.

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

Ray Massey Lillard

Ray Massey Lillard, 63, of Portland, Ore., passed away on June 15, 2020.

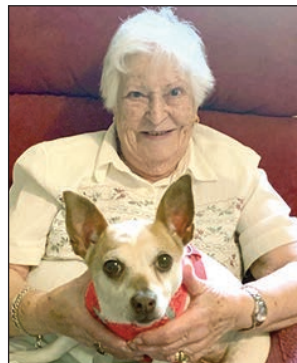
Born in Hollywood, Fla., he was the son of Rose Massey Lillard and the late Albert James Lillard. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his brother, Jim Lillard of Hendersonville, N.C.

He worked most of his life as a graphic designer, most recently for Morel Ink of Portland, Ore.

A graveside service was held Sunday, July 12, in Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Brandon Breedlove and Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

Macon Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

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



Maria Mercedes Domingos Neto



Ray Massey Lillard

James Dennis Petersen Sr.

James Dennis Petersen Sr., 78, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on July 6, 2020.

The son of the late Donald Wayne Petersen and Mildred Louise (Robinson) Petersen, he was born April 4, 1942, and reared in Waterloo, Iowa.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, David Wayne Petersen.

After graduating from Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, S.C., he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with minors in English, Accounting and Business Management at Bob Jones University in Greenville. He spent 15 years in management with JCPenney before teaching six years at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, Wisc. The next 24 years, "Mr. Pete" was principal of four Christian schools in North and South Carolina, retiring from Victory Christian School in Sylva, N.C. He also taught high school English, math and computer applications.

He trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior May 28, 1967, and became a born-again Christian. He understood that he could not continue putting the Lord off according to Proverbs 29:1, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

He was personally involved in the ministry of churches as a deacon, song leader, choir director, special music provider and Sunday school teacher. A long-time member of Victory Baptist Church in Sylva, he enjoyed teaching the Mature Adult Sunday School class.

He always enjoyed spending time with his family, taking road trips, listening to reasonable music and watching sporting events.

He is survived by his loving, devoted wife, confidant and best friend of 56 years, Lana Carol (Woodbury) Petersen; sister, Donna Jean (Petersen) of Tehachapi, Calif.; daughter, Carla Christine (Petersen) Sankuer and husband Fredrick Sankuer, of Florence, S.C.; son, James Dennis Petersen Jr., and wife Donna Renee (Anders) Petersen of Brevard, N.C.; five grandchildren, Ashton Brooke Streett, Lauren Noel Sankuer and Fredrick Lane Sankuer of Florence, S.C.; Grayson James Petersen and Andrew Mitchell Petersen of Brevard, N.C.; and four nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sunday, July 12, at Victory Baptist Church. Pastor Rusty Wolfrey and Rev. Bob Cadenhead officiated. A graveside service was held following the funeral at Forest Hill Cemetery in Morganton, N.C.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Mac D. Stanfield

Mac D. Stanfield, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

Born and raised in Macon County, he was the son of the late David and America Estes Stanfield. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Geneva Ledbetter Stanfield, who passed away in 2018 and his brother, Jimmy Stanfield. He was a member and deacon of Riverside Fellowship Church.

He is survived by his son, Michael Stanfield and wife Teresa of Beaufort, S.C.; sister, Emma Lou Ledford and husband Furman of Franklin; granddaughter, Hannah Capps and husband Jason; step granddaughter, Leslie Price and husband Chase; three great grandchildren, Carson, Chloe and Camille and step great-granddaughter, Paisley.

A graveside service was held Sunday, July 12, at Salem Cemetery. Rev. Bobby Cloer will officiate.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



James Dennis Petersen Sr.



Mac D. Stanfield

Lois M. Lathrop

Lois M. Lathrop, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Born in Mt. Holly, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Frank Campbell and Elizabeth Evans Campbell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Marsh Lathrop; brother, Robert Lee Campbell and sister, Mary Campbell Purcell. She loved birdwatching; her love of hummingbirds brought she and John together to spend 18 wonderful years together before he passed away in 2019. She loved being with family and spending time with her church family at Iotla Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Nequassa Chapter 43.

She is survived by three children, Gloria Oliver Franklin (Hugh) of Franklin, Jerry Oliver (Sharon Hall) of Fletcher and Randal Alan Oliver (Brenda Wheatley) of Sylva; step-children, Rev. Kerry Lathrop (Kim) of Waynesville, Greg Lathrop (Karen) of Asheville and Amy Lathrop of Franklin; three grandchildren, Ryan Alexander, Lori Elizabeth and Shannon Nicole; two great grandchildren, Kylie Brielle and Theodore Cabe and one niece, Cathy Hamrick of Wilmington, N.C.

Private funeral services will be held at Iotla Baptist Church. Rev. Brandon Breedlove, Rev. Judson Hall and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Iotla Baptist Church, 1537 Iotla Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Lois M. Lathrop

Annie Jones Shepherd

Annie Jones Shepherd, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, July 12, 2020, at the Franklin House.

Born Oct. 23, 1931, she was a native of Jackson County. She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Nora Chastain Jones. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Shepherd and one son, Ernest Larry Shepherd and nine brothers and sisters. She was a member of First Assembly of God.

She is survived by one son, Dale Shepherd and wife, Sandra; three daughters, Georgia Hooper, Dorothy Dills and husband Paul and Debbie Chastain and husband Eric; one sister, Lucille Jones of Washington; eight grandchildren, Larry, Kim, Christy, Rickey, Shaun, Josh, Nathan and Melinda; 17 great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday, July 17, at 2 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Davis Hooper and Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Lonnie Jones, Rickie Shepherd, Larry Shepherd, Mason Shepherd, Nathan Chastain and Adam Prather. Honorary pallbearers are Homer Green, Raymond Green and Mark Landers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to Liberty Baptist Church, Cemetery fund, c/o Carolyn Crisp, 372 Rosecreek Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



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Arthur Louis Barfield

Arthur Louis Barfield, 93, of Hernando, Fla., passed away April 13, 2020, in Lecanto, Fla. He was born June 24, 1926, in Tampa, Fla., to the late William Barfield and Agnus Alice Rosse, preceded in death by his late wife of 60 years, Edna Louise Barfield and brother, Charles Williams Barfield.



Arthur Louis Barfield

He was a 25-year resident of Citrus County, original member of the Citrus County Airboat Club and all-around neighborhood ambassador to Willola Heights.

He married the late Edna Louise Barfield on Oct. 2, 1948. They spent many of their 60 years together loving and caring for their children, their friends and their families. Louise Barfield passed of Alzheimer's on Jan. 8, 2009.

In 2009, he married Faye Pearson. Faye, Louis and Louise were childhood friends that grew up in Seminole Heights. Faye introduced Louis and Louise in 1948 and remained friends with Louise until her death.

He was born and raised in Seminole Heights and Gowers Corner area. Growing up during the Great Depression, he spent time at Mary Help of Christian orphanage prior to attending Jesuit High School. During high school, he was an ROTC member while working at the Tampa shipyard. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and at basic training was assigned to landing craft because of his experience around water and being a strong swimmer. He was a first invader in the battle of Iwo Jima, fought on Feb. 19, 1945, in the Pacific front during World War II. During the battle, he was coxswain for both Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) and Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM). His unit was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation for distinguished heroism against the enemy.

In 1952, he joined the city of Tampa Fire Department where he was stationed at Station 4 in Ybor City for nearly 20 years. He maintained a side job as a glazer and became sought after for customized glass work in Tampa. He enjoyed playing softball on the fire department team and was an avid spear fisherman. He enjoyed spending time water skiing with his family and friends. When he retired from the Tampa Fire Department in 1972, Louis and Louise moved to Marathon, Fla., to pursue retirement as a commercial lobster fisherman where he ran three boats: the Green Hornet, Sally J and the Wa-Pa-Ho.

In 1981, he and Louise moved to Franklin, N.C., where they were active members of the community and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic church for nearly 15 years. He was past president for Macon County church league softball, member of Knights of Columbus, and a volunteer youth baseball and basketball coach. Always quick to help a neighbor or friend, often lending time and his craftsman skill to others in need, he endeared himself to many expecting nothing in return.

He is survived by his wife, Faye Pearson; one brother, Seth Marshall Smith (Janan) of Dade City, FL; son, Michael Louis Barfield (Linda) of Winter Haven, FL; son, Ricky D. Smith (Cathy) of Michigan, and daughter, Dyann Barfield Stroud (Wade) of North Carolina; grandchildren, Michael Louis Barfield Jr. (Jordan), Gabriel U'Donah Jonas (Helen), Steven Allen Barfield (Shannon), Summer Rachel Melin (Justin) and Aspen Michelle Leonard (Quinn) and nine great grandchildren (Iris, Landon, Dylan, Chase, Kennedy, Hazen, Rory, Tate and Kasen).

A celebration of life has been scheduled for June 29, at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Fla.



Deaths & Funerals

Gale Jones Carpenter

Gale Jones Carpenter, 66, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Grant Owen Jones and Lucy Faye Cabe Jones. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Ann Franks. In her free time, she enjoyed crocheting and more than anything, spending time with her grandkids. She was a member of Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church.



Gale Jones Carpenter

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, JB Carpenter; two children, Renee Waldroop and husband Matthew and Bryan Carpenter and wife Jessica all of Franklin; sister, Elizabeth Johnson of Franklin; beloved grandchildren, Kevin Carpenter and Raylan Waldroop; and numerous nieces and nephews.

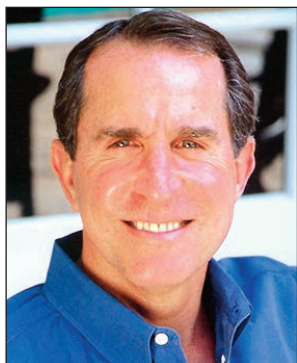
Funeral services were held Saturday, July 11, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jason Smith, Rev. Evan Hill and Rev. Phillip Cochran officiated. Burial was in Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Larry Drew Barbles

Larry Drew Barbles, son of the late Eugene Anthony Barbles and Dorothy Cecile Barbles, was born Oct. 9, 1949, in Houston, Texas. He was a graduate of The University of Texas and The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. After graduating from Dental School, he completed a two-year rotation in the U.S. Army to enhance his knowledge of dentistry. He was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey, in Monterey, Calif. It was there that his love of tennis rose to a high level where he often was asked to play with visiting commanders when they came to visit the post. He was on his way up the ladder if he had chosen a military career but instead, they moved back to Houston in 1978 where he began his dentistry practice.



Larry Drew Barbles

He moved to Franklin, N.C., in 2007 to grow his practice and build his dream home that overlooked the Smoky Mountains. He had a love for the outdoors; hiking along the Appalachian Trail, white water rafting on the Nantahala River and he even summited Cotopaxi in Ecuador at 60. He had a kind soul, a passion for life, and enjoyed taking on new hobbies that kept him very active and full of life. Dr. Barbles was a wonderful partner, father, grandfather and friend to many. He was cherished by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his partner, Jacob Casper Kruger; Larry's children, Jennifer Barbles Evans and husband Brady, Ryan Michael Barbles and wife Casey, John Richard Barbles and wife Madi; the mother of his children, Barbara Spafford Barbles; grandchildren, Reed and Reese Barbles, Libby, James and Kate Evans.

His family will be having an intimate Celebration of Life later this year at his home in Franklin to honor all of the outdoor activities which he loved. In lieu of flowers, consider contributions in Larry's memory to Children's Cancer Fund of Dallas.



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Cole Custer wins first Cup race with four-wide pass

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR Cup Series rookie Cole Custer pulled off a daring four-wide pass for the lead on the final lap to earn the victory in Sunday's Quaker State 400 at Kentucky Speedway – the first rookie to win in NASCAR's premier series in four years.

Custer, who restarted fifth on a restart with two laps to go, made his way forward - daring to go high on track to the outside of a three-wide challenge for the lead among Martin Truex Jr., Ryan Blaney and Kevin Harvick. The 22-year old Custer held the high line and was able to get around the three veterans - ultimately holding off the 2017 series champion Truex – a two-time former Kentucky winner – by a mere .271-seconds to earn the victory.

The Californian's five laps led Sunday (four early in the race and then the final lap) were the first laps Custer had ever led in the NASCAR Cup Series.

Matt DiBenedetto, Harvick and 2019 Kentucky winner Kurt Busch finished third, fourth and fifth. Blaney, rookie Christopher Bell, Aric Almirola, Brad Keselowski and rookie Tyler Reddick rounded out the Top-10. It's the first time in NASCAR history three rookies have finished in the Top-10 in a race.

"We were so good all day, our car was so good," a beaming Custer said after climbing out of his No. 41 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford on the front stretch and sharing hugs and high-fives with his Stewart-Haas Racing crew members.

"Obviously it wasn't the easiest track to pass on so we were kind of stuck back there, but that was the best car I've ever driven in my life."

It was certainly a dramatic conclusion to a race that featured a dominant Almirola early on. He led a race best 128 of the 267 laps – the most laps led in a race ever for the driver of the No. 10 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford.

Almirola won the opening stage, ahead of Chase Elliott and Joey Logano. Keselowski won the second stage over Blaney and Custer. Caution flags were frequent in the closing laps and the pace of the race became a lot more intense.

Truex, who started last in the 38-car field after an issue in pre-race inspection, made his bold move forward in the final 100 laps. He took the lead for the first time with 94 laps remaining and his 57 laps out front were second only to Almirola as kept the field honest in the closing stage.

Four cautions in the final 35 laps, however, created drama on each restart with Blaney, Truex and Harvick contending for the lead. That's exactly when Custer made his four-wide move at the end to earn the biggest win of his young life.

Even more impressive is that these first-year NASCAR Cup Series drivers were able to excel with no practice or qualifying sessions – all precautions NASCAR has instituted since re-tuning to competition following the COVID-19 break in action.

"It's not easy," Custer allowed. "You've got to kind of adapt as much as you can. I think we've gotten better and better at that. It's just unbelievable. I didn't think we were coming here and going to win. And now we're gonna be in the All-Star



Cole Custer, driver of the #41 HaasTooling.com Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart at Kentucky Speedway on July 12, 2020 in Sparta, Ky.



victory lane in your rookie year is a big deal. I'm really happy for Gene [Haas] and everyone at [Haas Automation] and especially for Cole. He works really hard."

Harvick holds an 88-point advantage over Keselowski in the championship standings as the series heads to Texas Motor Speedway on July 19 for the next points race. The series competed in the exhibition All-Star Race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Wednesday.

Austin Cindric earns overtime victory at Kentucky

Austin Cindric won a two-lap overtime duel at Kentucky Speedway racing door-to-door with his good friend and former teammate Chase Briscoe to earn his career first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory on an oval track.

Cindric, who led 41 laps on the night, ultimately finished .952-seconds ahead of rookie Riley Herbst and Ross Chastain to take the victory in Saturday's Shady Rays 200 – the first of a doubleheader week that will include a second Xfinity Series Kentucky race, the AlSCO 300 on Friday night

Briscoe, who started on the inside of Cindric on a restart in overtime, pulled ahead briefly, but Cindric's No. 22 Penske Racing Ford rallied back by and he rode off to his first victory of 2020, securing a ticket to the Xfinity Series Playoffs. It marked a record eighth time in the 14 races this season that the pass for victory came in the final two laps.

Race.

"It's unbelievable. We had a great car all day, one of the best cars I've ever driven in my life. It was hard to get to the front. Once we got there, we took advantage of it and I just can't thank everybody at the [Stewart-Haas Racing] shop."

Although obviously, disappointed not to win, Custer's SHR teammate Harvick was quick to praise his young teammate.

"We were in position to win, you know," Harvick said. "Made it through turns one and two, Martin just misjudged on the backstretch and got into us and I had to check up. Next thing I know we were four wide on the front straightaway and then the 12 [Blaney] hit the drain and went back up race track."

"Just congratulations to Cole Custer," Harvick said. "Last week he was a big part of our win [at Indianapolis]. To get to



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"Thank you, FINALLY," an exuberant Cindric screamed into his team radio after passing under the checkered flag.

"We've come so close all year, these guys have given me so many awesome cars," Cindric told the FS1 broadcast.

"I'm pumped. This is awesome. I'd love to be able to come back and enjoy another performance like that tomorrow night. All the credit to my guys for getting me here."

Briscoe, a five-race winner and the Xfinity Series championship leader, finished fourth followed by Michael Annett. Anthony Alfredo finished sixth, followed by Justin Haley, Kyle Weatherman, Ryan Sieg and Brett Moffitt. It was a career best finish for Weatherman.

Noah Gragson, who led a race best 88 of the 136 laps and for the first time in his career, swept the opening two stage wins, finished 11th. He and JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier were running among the Top-5 on the restart and were poised to challenge for the trophy, but they made contact racing hard on the 1.5-mile high-banked oval and it cost them both better finishes. Allgaier was involved in an accident on the last lap and finished 20th.

Briscoe, who led five laps and ran among the Top-5 for most of the night, solidified his championship lead on a night he insisted was a true challenge for his No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing team.

"Thought we were gonna have a chance [to win] on both restarts but that last one just got real loose, but overall felt like this was our worst night of the year from the speed and balance standpoint and we were still able to race Austin for the win and end up fourth," Briscoe said.

Cindric, who was elated with the victory – dramatically planting the checkered flag in the infield - joked about having to hold off Briscoe.

"I love the guy but he's won enough, geez," Cindric joked of Briscoe, who passed him last weekend for victory at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course.

"Those restarts were a lot tougher than I was thinking they would be," he said, adding, "I'm just so happy. Thank you to [team owner] Roger [Penske]. I believe this is a championship team."

Friday night's race featured a partial inversion of Thursday night's finishing order. The top 15 finishers started in reverse order, which put rookie Myatt Snider on the pole for the AlSCO 300.

Austin Cindric sweeps Kentucky Speedway doubleheader

Austin Cindric won his career first oval race at Kentucky Speedway on Thursday night and answered it with the most dominant win of his career in Friday night's AlSCO 300, the second half of the Bluegrass state NASCAR Xfinity Series doubleheader.

Cindric led 130 of the 200 laps in the No. 22 Penske Racing Ford – nearly doubling the most laps he's ever led in a race – and finished 2.262-seconds ahead of fellow Ford driver Chase Briscoe. It marks the first time a driver has won NASCAR national series races on consecutive nights since Richard Petty did it in 1971.

"I'm just so excited, this is all a credit to my team," Cindric said. "What we did tonight was really impressive because we came with one set-up last night and won the race and came with another set-up tonight and won again. That happens at the shop



Austin Cindric, driver of the #22 Snap-On Ford, celebrates his double header victories in the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO 300 (above) on July 10, and the Series Shady Rays 200 (right) at Kentucky Speedway on July 9, in Sparta, Ky.



and with the guys on the box so all the credit to them, I'm the lucky one who gets to drive."

Kaulig Racing teammates Justin Haley and Ross Chastain finished third and fourth, followed by JR Motorsports' Justin Allgaier. Anthony Alfredo, Noah Gragson, Michael Annett, Daniel Hemric and Riley Herbst rounded out the top 10.

As the laps led total indicates, this was the most dominant victory of the 21-year old Cindric's career – both in laps out front and the way he did it. He was leading the field by almost 12-seconds when a caution came out with 22 laps remaining for an incident between Brandon Jones and Hemric, who were running second and third at the time.

Both Jones and Hemric hit the wall racing hard side-by-side for second place. Hemric was able to continue but Jones' car was badly damaged.

The front-runners opted to pit during the ensuing caution period and Cindric won the race off pit road, holding the point for the remaining 13-lap green flag run on the 1.5-mile track.

As Cindric was celebrating the fourth win of his career on the front-straight, however, Gragson and 12th place finisher Harrison Burton were involved in a pushing match by their parked cars. The two collided in the final laps, both brushing the wall before continuing on – a top-10 for Gragson but a 12th place finish for Burton's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

Team members pulled the drivers apart and both spoke on FS1's live telecast afterward.

Burton, 19, indicated it was not the first time Gragson, 21,

had derailed a finishing position for him and conceded the physical altercation was just a matter of frustration. He had been on pace for a top-5 finish before the contact.

"He put us in fence at Charlotte and now here," Burton said. "I had a lot of people coming up to me afterwards telling that [confrontation] was a long time coming."

"I was just frustrated," he said.

For his part, Gragson said he needed to go back and look at race replays to see exactly what transpired.

"We're all racing hard," he said. "I really don't have a comment, haven't seen everything that happened [on track]."

Beyond Cindric's Kentucky domination, perhaps the night's next most impressive work came from the veteran Allgaier, who rallied to his fifth-place finish after going a lap down almost immediately on the night. A piece of Kyle Weatherman's wrecked Chevrolet impacted Allgaier's No. 7 JR Motorsports Chevrolet on the opening lap of the race. He had to come in for repairs and spent the night rallying to his first top-5 in more than a month.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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THEME:
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ACROSS

1. Stockpile
6. More of the same
9. One of Los Lobos
13. Orion's brightest spot
14. A pop
15. Spur on
16. Another name for a jack
17. Between E and NE
18. For all to see
19. * Location of the first Summer Olympics
21. * ___ test
23. Utmost degree
24. Allen Ginsberg's poem
25. Do this for cardio
28. Chesterfield, e.g.
30. Like "Extral" news
35. Off-ramp
37. Barbequed slab
39. Right-hand page
40. Infamous Roman tyrant
41. Pandora's box contents
43. Socially inept one
44. Parachute material
46. And others
47. Kill a dragon
48. Prior to the present, prefix
50. Every which way
52. Swear words
53. Burst of wind
55. High affair
57. *Non-permanent addition to Olympic event roster
60. *Most decorated Olympian
63. Desire

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15



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

64. Tom and Jerry, e.g.
 66. Relating to hair
 68. Skip the big wedding
 69. Inquire
 70. Key material
 71. Bears' hands
 72. House vote
 73. Chain of hills
- DOWN
1. Biblical boat
 2. Chinese dynasty (1368-1644)
 3. Lab culture
 4. *Number of events in a heptathlon
 5. Rains and snows at the same time
 6. D'Artagnan's sword
 7. *Age of the youngest Olympian ever
 8. Words to live by
 9. Denim innovator
 10. Welcoming store sign
 11. Salz___ or St. Peters___
 12. Make a choice
 15. Tree used to make paper
 20. House duty
 22. Great horned one
 24. ___ for Humanity
25. *Most decorated U.S. female Olympian Thompson
 26. Has daisylike flowers
 27. Lena Dunham's HBO show, 2012-17
 29. *Number of countries that participated in every Summer Olympics
 31. Nugent and Danson
 32. Food contaminant
 33. A Stradivari violin
 34. *2021 Olympics location
 36. Thomas the Engine's warning
 38. Wimbledon is a Grand one
 42. Deadly sin
 45. Nullify
 49. Hard to escape routine
 51. Zoo___ or bee___
 54. Type of car
 56. Courtroom excuse
 57. Caffeine-containing nut tree
 58. Swear, not curse
 59. Exercise repetitions, for short
 60. Annoyingly slow
 61. Weary walk
 62. Spilled the beans
 63. Large edible mushroom
 65. *Most decorated Olympic country
 67. Whiskey grain

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

PACKING CLEANING Organizing & Other Household Services. Great References. Mountain Area Property Services. (828)550-4585.

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

HANDYMAN HOME REPAIRS Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Decks, Drywall, Painting, Electrical/Plumbing, Repairs of any kind. 40 Years, Fast/Reasonable/Reliable. (828)332-7247.

LAWNS MOWED in Macon County Area, 24 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$30. Call (828)524-0114.

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.

ALL PHASES OF Remodeling, Trim, Paint, Decks, Furniture Finishing and Repair, 30 Years of Experience. Call (828)421-8639.

CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. No Job Too Small. Home (828)349-9087, Cell (828)371-9754.

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.

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

Community Fundraisers

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow is open Tues.-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! (828)524-5273. Syla Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm.

HAULING

• DIRT

• GRAVEL

• MULCH



Otto • Dillard Franklin

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The Classifieds

Help Wanted

MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT Macon Program for Progress is currently seeking bids for a Mental Health Consultant. The person selected will work with children and families that have been referred for services, providing counseling and therapy as necessary. The consultant will also work closely with teachers to provide assistance in a mental health curriculum as well as consulting on managing children's challenging behaviors. This person will also facilitate a Parenting Support Group. This person should possess a BS degree and be licensed or certified as a mental health professional. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Macon Program for Progress, ATTN: Executive Director, PO Box 700, Franklin, NC 28744 by 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 3, 2020.

NUTRITION CONSULTANT Macon Program for Progress is currently seeking bids for Nutrition Consultant to provide consulting services including menu development, evaluation and development of nutrition care plans for children with special dietary needs, evaluating and monitoring food safety and sanitation practices, and other nutrition related services as needed. Consultant must possess a BS Degree in a related field and be licensed or certified. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Macon Program for Progress, ATTN: Executive Director, PO Box 700, Franklin, NC 28744 by 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 3, 2020.

JOB POSTING COOK: Full-time position, 40 hours per week. Monday - Friday work hours 7am- 3:30pm. Provides food services for Early Head Start and/or Head Start Center. Benefit package includes health insurance, paid vacation and sick leave, retirement and paid educational benefits, plus 11 paid holidays. Great environment and supportive staff. Requirements: Must be able to plan, coordinate and implement nutrition services for the center. Must be able to read/write English, lift up to 50 pounds, work well with people, and communicate effectively. HS diploma or equivalent required. Prior experience as a cook preferred. Valid NC driver's license. Employment drug screen and background check is required after job offer. Ways to apply: NC Works office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin NC or www.ncworks.gov MPP website / Email resume to admin@mppnhc.org Visit the Administrative office @ Orchard View Dr., Franklin, NC 28734 Or check out our Facebook page Apply by 5:00 pm Monday, August 3, 2020. An EOE/AA Employer.

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

CNA NEEDED FOR In-home Care, Part-time Days. Call Companion Health Care. (828)524-6444.

JOB POSTING CLASSROOM Assistant: Ability to collaborate and work with the Lead Teacher and Teacher in assigned classrooms. Follows the daily lesson plan for assigned or scheduled classroom. Ability to apply Early Childhood Development theory to daily classroom activities and adapts the theory to the individualized needs of children. Supervises and maintains safety of children by following indoor and outdoor environment safety rules, routines and procedures. Relates to children in a calm, caring, and nurturing manner and uses age appropriate child guidance techniques. Must be willing to attend job training. Performs other duties as assigned. Full-time, 12 month position. High School diploma or GED required; CDA or AA preferred. CPR and First Aid Certification at time of hire or achieve within first 6 weeks of hire. NC Early Childhood Certificate and CDA required within one year of hire. Valid driver's license required and willingness to obtain CDL driver's license. Employment drug screen and background check is required after job offer. Ways to apply: MPP website / Email resume to admin@mppnhc.org Visit the Administrative office @ Orchard View Dr., Franklin, NC 28734. Check out our Facebook page. or NC Works office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin NC or www.ncworks.gov Apply by 5:00 pm Monday, August 3, 2020. MPP is an EOE/AA Employer.

JOB POSTING EARLY Head Start Teacher: Assists Lead Teacher in implementing a designated and appropriate research-based early childhood curricula. Employs age appropriate child guidance techniques. Supervises the children at all times in the classroom and on the playground. Observes children and records observations, assists in maintaining records and reports as required. Maintains ongoing communication with parents striving to achieve parental involvement in classroom and activities. Must be willing to attend job training. Performs other duties as assigned. Full-time, 12 month position. CDA or AA degree required. Valid driver's license required and willingness to obtain CDL driver's license. Employment drug screen and background check is required after job offer. Ways to apply: MPP website / Email resume to admin@mppnhc.org Visit the Administrative office @ Orchard View Dr., Franklin, NC 28734 Check out our Facebook page. or NC Works office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin NC or www.ncworks.gov Apply by 5:00 pm Monday, August 3, 2020. An EOE/AA Employer.

OLD EDWARDS INN Servers, Host/Hostess, bussers, Asst. Pastry Chef, Pastry Cook, Cook, Dishwashers, Bellman, Night Auditor, Housekeepers, Turndown Attendants, Houseman Cosmetologist, Certified Massage Therapist, Spa Attendant, Gardener's Assistant (Full-time year round, full-time seasonal, part-time seasonal) Part-time Marketing Print Production and Administrative Assistant. www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

JOB POSTING FAMILY Service Advocate: The Advocate guides families in their efforts to become more self-sufficient, to promote children's learning and development, to set achievable goals by engaging in the Family Partnership Process and to become strong advocates for themselves and their families and encourages them to grow and reach their fullest potential. High involvement and communication with families, assisting in program enrollment processes, help secure resources and provides crisis intervention services, maintains accurate documentation, monitors weekly attendance for absenteeism and conducts home visits when necessary. Education and Experience: High school diploma/equivalent required. BS/AA in Human Services or related field preferred. Social Service skills, case management, child and family service experience preferred. Requires flexibility in working hours, organization skills, computer knowledge for data entry and ability to work with children and families to assess and identify family strengths and needs. Ability to speak Spanish helpful. Valid NC driver's license. Employment drug screen and background check is required after job offer. Ways to apply: NC Works office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin NC or www.ncworks.gov MPP website / Email resume to admin@mppnhc.org Visit the Administrative office @ Orchard View Dr., Franklin, NC 28734 Or check out our Facebook page Apply by 5:00 pm Monday, August 3, 2020. An EOE/AA Employer.

WANTED CLASS A Truck Driver, Local Deliveries, Tanker and Box Trailer. Home Every Night. (828)524-2353.

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

Motor Vehicles

2015 INFINITI Q70 3.7L 330HP, One Owner, Always Garaged, Leather, Nav, M/R, 28,700 Mi, Graphite Shadow/Wheat, \$26,500. (828)524-5391.

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

Garage & Yard Sales

MOVING SALE SATURDAY July 18, 8-2. Rain or shine. Everything must go. Take Old Murphy Road to Wallace Branch. Follow Signs. 58 Running Deer Road. (828)524-7176

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Rain or shine. 35 Holland Drive, Franklin. 2 family sale. Womens & girls clothing, china cabinet, old adult bicycles, household items, odds & ends. Friday & Saturday 8 to 5.

Real Estate

4 UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL Cullasaja Riverfront Lots in Eco community located between Franklin and Highlands on Hwy 28 N. \$79K to \$99K. (828) 371-7940.

2 LOTS ON WHITE OAK CIRCLE in Franklin. (828)347-2878.

Rentals

TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2BD/1BA with W/D, \$625/monthly. Plus Security. (828)332-7175.

NEW EFFICIENCY Includes WIFI, TV, Water, Electric, Refrigerator, Microwave, All Amenities, Weekly or Monthly, Park at Front Door All Even Ground. Military Discount. (828)421-5914.

1/BD CABIN \$500/monthly, 1/2 person Camper \$500/monthly, 4 RV/Camper lots \$325/monthly, 2/1 Basement Apt. \$675/monthly. No Smokers, No Pets, \$25 inspection fee, Background checks, Water, Sewer, Garbage Included, Power in your name. Off Potts Branch Road. (828)371-6844.

Misc. For Sale

KITCHEN TABLE 5'X4' with four re-upholstered cloth chairs. Excellent condition. \$150. Downtown Franklin. Text or call (828)508-5745.

FARMERS MARKET Summer Season 8am-Noon, every Saturday. Produce, honey, trout, Fresh Chicken, artisan breads, pastries, preserves, hand-crafted soaps, eggs, peonies, Hydrangeas, Turnips, CBD Oils. 200 Block East Palmer.

MILITARY SURPLUS BDU Pants/Shirts, Boots, M65 Field Jackets Gortex, Parkers, Field Gear, Sleeping Bags, Much More! (828)349-3140.

CHEROKEE PLUS We Buy & Sell Coins, Currency, Scrap Gold & Silver. (828)421-2461 or (262)488-3374.

Wanted

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

BUYING ARROWHEADS for Private Collection and display at Macon County Historical Museum. Artifacts must have been found on Private Property. Call Monday thru Saturday 10-5. (828)634-0040.

WANTED TO BUY U.S. and Foreign Coins and Currency. Top Prices Paid. Free Appraisal. Call Dan (828)421-1616. danhazazer@gmail.com

Animals

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

TRAILER RENTALS



6X10 DUMP



18' EQUIPMENT



5X10 OR 6X12

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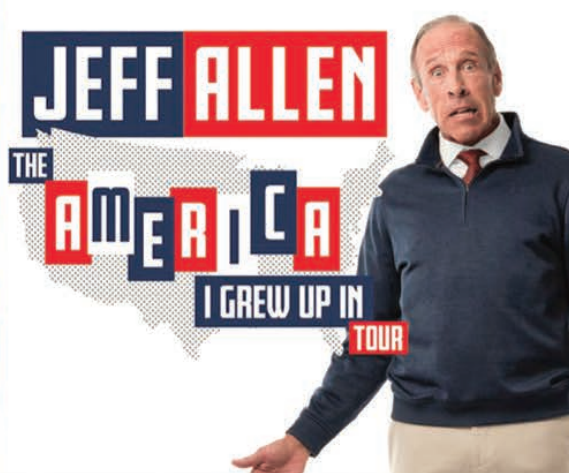
A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES:
THE BEST OF
BROADWAY IN CONCERT

JULY 17



Grains of Sand Band
SUMMER BEACH MUSIC

AUGUST 1



JEFF ALLEN
THE AMERICANA
I GREW UP IN
TOUR

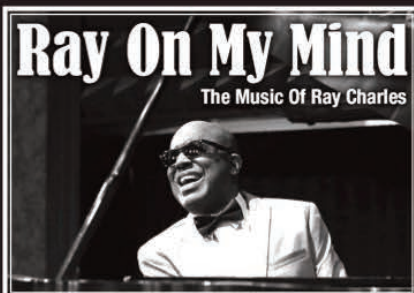
AUGUST 14



DEPARTURE
The JOURNEY
Tribute Band

AUGUST 29

UPCOMING SHOWS:



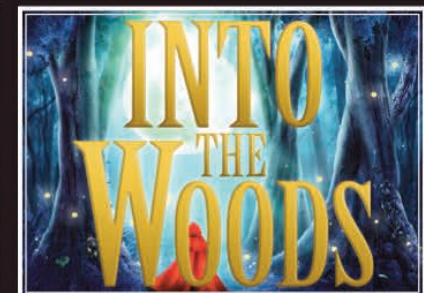
SEPTEMBER 9



SEPTEMBER 17



SEPTEMBER 25



OCTOBER 2-4

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