

Franklin plans modified event for the 4th

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

When North Carolinians William Hooper, John Penn, and Joseph Hewes risked their lives along with 52 others to sign their names to a document asserting the necessity to “dissolve the political bands” with Britain, Naturalist William Bartram was trekking through Western North Carolina and Cherokee Natives inhabited what became Franklin, 165 years later. Although much has occurred since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, July 4 has been faithfully celebrated due to its significance as the birth year of America.

Despite the pandemic-led health crisis that has overshadowed 2020 thus far, Independence Day will not be overlooked.

Franklin

The Town of Franklin announced June 18 that it would offer a July 4th fireworks show. Added to the Town’s pronouncement is assurance that spectators will be able to see the fireworks show and still have the ability to remain at a safe distance from one another.

“With the cancellation of the Chamber of Commerce’s annual fireworks show, the Town of Franklin stepped up to provide our citizens and visitors with a unique way to view fireworks. This is a first for the Town and we believe you will be able to see them from just about anywhere around Franklin,” said Mayor Bob Scott.

Fireworks Over Franklin will launch from East Franklin at 15 First Street, across from the Shops at Riverwalk (formerly East Franklin Shopping Center.) Thus, people parking all around the Town of Franklin should be able to view the show.



Franklin’s Fireworks will be launched in East Franklin and said to be visible from “just about anywhere around Franklin,” said Mayor Scott.

“In fact, many folks will not even have to leave their homes to view them,” said Scott.

“We are working with Hale Artificier, Inc. of Lexington, North Carolina, to produce the show,” said Summer Woodard, Town Manager. “This all-aerial show will feature hundreds of fireworks with nearly 250 shells in the grand finale alone. With so many summer activities on hold or cancelled due to the pandemic this year, it was important for the Town to maintain one of our local traditions.”

A perimeter around the site will be secured and spectators will not be allowed to park or walk close to the launching site, said Woodard.

Individuals and families are encouraged to watch at a distance either from their homes and other areas around Franklin where the show will be visible. Those attending are expected to comply with all social distancing guidelines in place including six-feet of separation from others, and they are encouraged to wear facial coverings if leaving their cars at any time prior to or during the event.

“With so much fear and sacrifice because of the virus, coupled with the emotional whammy of the George Floyd death and aftermath, we need the Fourth more than ever,” said Vice-Mayor Barbara McRae. “I’m glad town residents will be able to enjoy the fireworks without exposing themselves to the potential danger of a crowd. It will be a welcome break and also a statement of faith in our country and our future, and our ability to work our way to a healthier, better place for everyone.”

“These are certainly challenging times for all us,” said Mayor



Photos by Vickie Carpenter



A popular activity on July 4th – and every summer day – is a visit to the Macon County Recreation Park pool. Micah, Caleb, of Franklin, and Jack and Adaline of Atlanta took advantage of the break in the clouds to cool off Wednesday.



I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.
I fly atop the world’s tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America’s halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom. I am confident.
I am arrogant. I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher,
My colors a little truer.
I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered.
I am respected - I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years.
I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appamatox.
I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy.
Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.
I was there. I led my troops.
I was dirty, battleworn and tired,
but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries
I have helped set free. It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country.
And when it’s done by those whom I’ve served in battle - it hurts.
But I shall overcome - for I am strong.
I have slipped the bonds of earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.
I have born silent witness to all of America’s finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battle field,
when I am flown at halfmast to honor my soldier,
or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,

I am proud.
I am the flag of the United States of America.

Originally entitled, *My Name is Old Glory*
by Howard Schnauber
Submitted by Linda McMahan

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FOURTH

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Scott. “The Town of Franklin feels that it is important that we have a way to celebrate and create a safe way for our residents and visitors to share a wonderful experience while at the same time preserving physical distance.”

In partnership with WFSC Radio, the event will also feature a live broadcast beginning at 8:30 p.m. At 9:30 p.m., WFSC will air a patriotic soundtrack for the fireworks display; people watching the fireworks can tune into 104.9 FM.

Fireworks over Franklin will begin at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. Prior to the actual fireworks display, test shells will be fired at 9 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. so that people “who want to view the fireworks display can determine if they might need to move to a different location for better viewing,” said Mayor Scott.

Rain date for Fireworks over Franklin is Sunday, July 5th at 9:30 p.m. The traditional July 4th parade on Main Street in Franklin has been cancelled. However, merchants on Main Street are showcasing their retail offerings by sponsoring a sidewalk sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The event will feature music, snow cones and plenty of good bargains. Some stores may be open late as Main Street may be the best view of the fireworks happening in East Franklin.

Highlands

Highlands in Macon County will not offer a fireworks show this year, but shops, restaurants, hiking trails, and more are open. And, as a way to celebrate Independence

Day, Highlands Chamber of Commerce is providing a virtual concert, live-streamed on the Chamber’s Facebook page. The Wobblers, a South Carolina band, will perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 4th. With an emphasis on New Orleans style rhythms and unique instrumentation, the band pulls from a wide variety of influences, including gospel, blues, hard-bop jazz, and old school twangy country.

Lake Glenville

Even though Cashiers’ annual Fireworks Extravaganza on the Green has been canceled, Celebrate Independence Day with the Friends of Lake Glenville is still occurring. On Friday, July 3, beginning around 9:30 p.m. is a presentation of the annual fireworks spectacular over the lake.

Sylva

On July 4, fireworks will begin at dark, around 9:45 p.m., and can be seen from anywhere around the downtown area of Sylva, according to fireworks organizers at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chamber thanks their corporate sponsors who make the fireworks show possible,” said Kelly Donaldson, assistant director. A Concert on the Creek at Bridge Park, along with food trucks and kids’ activities, were also supposed to be part of the July 4 celebration, but Donaldson issued this statement after the N.C. Governor’s announcement on Wednesday, June 24, to extend Phase 2 of Covid-19 restrictions until at least July 17: “The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce has postponed the 11th season of Concerts on the Creek again until at least July 17. For specific locations and hours of operation, visit www.jackthedipper.com.

Patriotism test comes with sweet rewards

Jack the Dipper, a 1976 established ice cream shop with four Western Carolina locations, including one on Georgia Road in Franklin, is celebrating National Ice Cream Month with the I Pledge for Ice Cream Project. In an effort to bring awareness to American patriotism – surrounding Independence Day – the business will award any child at or below the age of 12 (accompanied by an adult) who can recite the Pledge of Allegiance a free small ice cream in one of its signature made-to-order warm waffle cones.

The kickoff will take place all day on Saturday, July 4, as well as every Monday and Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. during the month of July at all Jack the Dipper locations: Franklin, Sylva, Waynesville, and Fletcher.

According to Michael Martone, owner, “The I Pledge concept was created by ice cream entrepreneur and Hollywood movie producer Stratton Leopold and his wife Mary, who launched the I Pledge for Ice Cream Project in Savannah, Ga., on July 1, 2010, to underscore the importance of teaching patriotism to young children. Jack the Dipper also strongly agrees with these principles and is excited to continue supporting this concept. The project received the coveted Promotion of the Year Award from National Dipper Magazine at the National Ice Cream Retailers Association Convention in 2010, and has since spread across 39 of the United States to over 165 ice cream shops.”

Jack the Dipper is considered an old-fashioned, hand-dipped ice cream parlor that serves, besides waffle cones, sundaes, shakes, malts, ice cream sodas, and banana splits. For specific locations and hours of operation, visit www.jackthedipper.com.

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Franklin's monument built as a memorial to lost loved ones

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Slavery across the South during the Civil War was very real. While minimal in Macon County, it did exist and remains as a dark chapter in our nation's history that continues to have real implications on our society today. Slavery was a central cause for the Civil War. The nation was expanding – while Southern states campaigned for new territories to be slave states, the North wanted them to be free. It was one point of contention that undeniably led to the Civil War. However, as is the case with most divisive issues today, that contention wasn't present in Macon County during the Civil War. History recounts the decision for North Carolina to join the war as being one of survival – if they fought for the North, they would be joining the Union after the first attack on South Carolina, leaving North Carolina to be the southernmost Union state and most certainly an entire battleground for the War. With the surrounding states seceding to join the Confederacy, North Carolina followed suit and the brave men who answered the call to join the fight did so because there was no other choice. Newspaper archives from the time prove that men in Macon County went into battle fighting someone else's war and just praying to return home. When many of them didn't return, a monument was erected in their remembrance in downtown Franklin.

Before monuments began being removed across the country, even as recently as two weeks ago when North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper ordered the removal of two monuments at the state capitol, a total of 109 Civil War monuments or memorials stood across North Carolina. Of those 109, 100 were dedicated to Confederate efforts during the war and eight represented the Union. There is also a memorial dedicated to the African American soldiers who fought during the War.

Over the last few years, Civil War monuments have been the subject of heated debates, with opponents calling for their removal and supporters calling for their protection. The effort to remove Civil War monuments cites the racial sentiments of many monuments across the South that while dedicated to the Civil War, were erected during the Jim Crow era as a passive attack on black Americans, according to one source. Southern leaders against segregation were said to have orchestrated the creation of hundreds of monuments in Southern States under the guise of preserving history and the Confederacy, but detractors infer it was an intimidation attempt and a silent warning for black Americans fighting for equality.

Even before the vast numbers of monuments were built during the Civil Rights era, dozens of monuments were built in the early 1900s in the South with similar passive intentions – a way to protest the Union's victory. However, not all monuments are created equal. There is no denying that monuments across the South symbolize slavery and the resistance to segregation or accepting the Confederate loss, documents available to the public at the Macon County Historical Society Museum tell a story of setting out to establish a monument in Franklin to honor the 300 men who never returned home from the War – a memorial site to serve as a gravesite for families for generations to be able to visit since their soldiers remains never made it off of battlefields across the country.

Robert Shook, curator for the Historical Society Museum noted that North Carolina was one of the



The Confederate monument is located on the square in Franklin in a well-kept garden maintained by the Franklin Garden Club. The monument was installed in 1909.



last states to secede and did so in part due to all neighboring states already joining the Confederacy. Because of the state's reluctance to be involved in the war at all, there was a greater sense of importance and pride taken to honor the men who died in a war they never wanted to be a part of, which is why the monument in Rankin Square is dedicated to soldiers from Macon County, and not that war or soldiers in general. While Southern states built memorials for the Confederacy in the early 1900s for a variety of reasons and intents, history shows that the charge to erect a monument in Franklin was led by a Civil War veteran in the last years of life who wanted to honor his fallen brothers.

ford County after the end of the war, suggested during a business meeting that members of the camp form a monument association in an effort to erect a memorial on the public square.

The work on the Civil War monument in Macon County dates back to 1903 when a number of Confederate veterans met Nov. 26, 1903, and formed the Macon County Monumental Association. Major Rankin read a plan of organization and submitted a form of constitution which was adopted. Nine officers were elected for the association president and seven as vice presidents, and secretary and treasurer. Of the seven vice presidents, one was chosen from each of the seven companies that served in the war. Four years later,



Although the sculptor is unknown, the stone statue in Rankin Square includes intricate details worthy of note.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

The first documented conversation regarding erecting a monument in Macon County in honor of Confederate soldiers was held in September 1903 during an annual reunion of Charles L. Robinson Camp No. 947. Major Nathaniel P. Rankin, who moved to Macon County from Guil-

ford County after the end of the war, suggested during a business meeting that members of the camp form a monument association in an effort to erect a memorial on the public square.

Minutes from Chapter 165 of the 1907 session of the General Assembly states, "The Confeder-

ate Veterans of Macon County, North Carolina, including alike those who sacrificed their lives either upon the field of battle or in obedience to their country's call, as well as those yet living and stumbling upon the brink of time were a noble and patriotic body of men, whose devotion to principle was only equal to their patriotism and valor and whereas deeply cherishing the memory of these fallen and fast falling heroes, and their many acts of bravery and deeds of valor in the late war between the States, together with the sacred influence of their pure and bible lives as citizens and civilians."

The act goes on to say that the Monumental Association was formed for the direct purpose of erecting a suitable monument to those, "who sacrificed and offered their lives upon the altar of their country in the late War between the States in a course sacred and just, as an ever-living reminder to succeeding generations of their valor and patriotism."

The initial association approval in the General Assembly was comprised of a list of more than 50 Macon County residents working toward creating the monument in Franklin. The act goes on to specifically state, "The association shall have power to build and erect either on the public square or at some other convenient place in town of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina, a monument, not to cost exceeding five thousand dollars and such design and material shall be agreed upon; the same to stand as a perpetual memorial to perpetuate the memory of those brave soldiers who either lost or offered their lives in the service of the Confederate States."

Once approved by the General Assembly, the Monumental Association got to work raising the money to build the monument in Franklin. Among the more than 50 names listed as being members of the association were wives and children who lost their husbands and fathers in the war. The women spearheaded fundraising efforts.

"A quarter at a time, the families of those fallen soldiers raised the money themselves to build the monument on what was then the public square," said Shook.

Two years later, in February 1909, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to authorize the Macon County Board of Commissioners to donate a modest plot of land to the association for the purpose of erecting the monument.

The statue in Franklin specifically names seven units who fought in the war and originated from Macon County. The county's first Confederate military force was Company H, 16th North Carolina Regiment; they were honored with their inscription placed directly above the primary inscription. The three remaining sides of the monuments each display an inscription to an infantry unit and below, a cavalry company.

On Sept. 30 1909, Macon County prepared for the unveiling of the highly anticipated monument. The event was a grand occasion with grand stands built around the monument to house the more than 1,500 people in attendance.

The "Confederate Veteran" publication recorded the event.

"Maj. N. P. Rankin, president of the Macon County Monument Association, called the assembly to order and requested Adjutant W. A. Curtis to act as master of ceremonies. Rev. J. A. Deal, of the

Episcopal Church, invoked the divine blessing. In most fitting and tender manner the minister returned thanks for the benefits and privileges of the day, for the brave men who had gone before and those who still remain and whose heroism and devotion are to be honored by this memorial. Then the Franklin Choir rendered "The Old North State Forever!"

The September celebration included a break for lunch at the Junaluska Lodge.

"Hon. J. Frank Ray delivered the address of welcome in an admirable and appropriate manner, which was responded to by Hon. J. M. Gudger, Jr., of Asheville, N. C., a former Congressman from this district. The unveiling address was appropriate and beautifully delivered by Miss Elizabeth Kelly, daughter of Lieut. M. L. Kelly, of Company D, 62d North Carolina Regiment," reported the "Confederate Veteran."

With the intent of honoring the men from Macon County, the honor of unveiling of the monument was given to the families of men representing all seven companies from Macon.

"The following ladies, descendants of the commanding officers of the seven companies that went from Macon County to the war, Mrs. F. T. Smith, Misses Kate Robinson, Irene Ashe, Lassie Kelly, Esther Rogers, Maggie Angel, and May McDowell, marched to the front of the monument and pulled the cord, and the veiling fell gracefully from the statue and floated gently down right and left of the shaft, and the monument stood unveiled in all its grace and majestic beauty, while the assembly applauded," wrote "The Confederate Veteran."



The inscription at the base of the monument reads, "In memory of the Sons of Macon County who served in the Confederate Army during the war period 1861-1865."

eran."

The monument reads:

"IN MEMORY OF
THE SONS OF MACON COUNTY
WHO SERVED IN THE
CONFEDERATE ARMY
DURING THE
WAR PERIOD
1861-1865

North side:

CO. H, / 16TH REGIMENT, N.C.T.
INFANTRY

West side:

CO. B.
39TH REGIMENT N.C.T.
INFANTRY

South side:

CO. D.
62ND REGIMENT N.C.T.
INFANTRY
CO. K.
9TH REGIMENT N.C.T.
1ST CAVALRY

East side:

CO. I.
39TH REGIMENT N.C.T.
INFANTRY
CO. E.
65TH REGIMENT N.C.T.
6TH CAVALRY

Just before the celebration broke for dinner, North Carolina Governor W.W. Kitchen gave a speech the "Confederate Veteran" remembered as being "polished, scholarly, and historical, and held his audience spell-bound for an hour or more." Veterans in attendance were treated to a private dinner with both Gov. Kitchen and Gov. M.F. Ansel of S.C. who also attended the celebration.

The monument was formally presented by Adjutant W. A. Curtis, from whose address the following extracts are taken:

"It is appropriate that this monument has been reared in memory of the sons of Macon County who served in the Confederate army during the period of the war, 1861-65. It will remind our children's children of the heroism and devotion of a people who fought through four years of the greatest conflict ever known on this continent in defense of home and State and our beautiful

Southland."

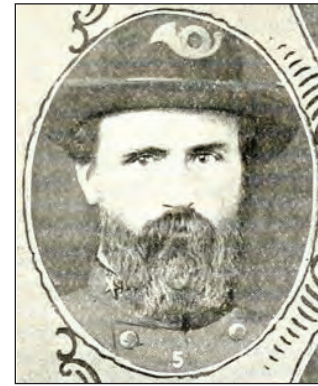
North Carolina was the first state to experience a casualty during the War, when a soldier from Edgecombe County was killed. From then, North Carolina went on to lose more men during the war for its population than any other state fighting in the Confederacy. As Curtis remarked years later

during his address at the annual reunion of Confederate Veterans, the families of the men lost in battle have no gravesite to visit to mourn and victory to celebrate. Which, according to Shook, is why the monument was so important to the families of the 300 men who died from Macon County.

"Men who died on battlefields across the South weren't brought back to Macon County to be laid

to rest," said Shook. "That monument serves as a gravesite for those families to visit to honor their lost loved ones."

It wasn't until sometime later that the area on Main Street now known as Rankin Square was named for N.P Rankin for not only his efforts in securing the monument for Macon County, but to honor his service in the Civil War as well as his work as a teacher and civic leader up until his death. Rankin was buried at the Presbyterian Church Memorial Gardens just four years after the monument's unveiling.



Major N.P. Rankin

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School board still examining plans for possible schools reopening in August

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Governor Roy Cooper has once again delayed an announcement on what plan will be used to allow students to return back to school in August. The announcement was expected at a July 1 press conference. Scenarios, as of now include an A, B, or C, schedule option. Macon County School Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said at the School Board meeting on Monday night that he had received much information in the last week regarding plan "B."

This phase would require students to be in school at 50% capacity. Students who ride the bus would be seated one to each seat and would require both drivers and students to wear face coverings while on the bus. Middle and high school students and their teachers would be required to wear face coverings while in class. The board is

also looking at face shields for the teachers, perhaps even within the six foot distance, so students would be able to see their teacher's face. Also included in plan "B" is if schools can only operate at 50% capacity, this means that half the students would be in school on Monday and the other half would be in school on Tuesday. On the days the students are not in school, they will be required to complete assignments through remote learning. Dr. Baldwin said that they have enough devices to be able to give out to students who need one. Students who have no internet at home will be able to park by a school and access the school's internet system and download the needed assignments so they could work on them at home without needing internet access. The completed assignments could be uploaded the following day and then they could download the next assignment. For students who would not have the abil-

ity to have someone drive them to a school site, they could download and upload assignment the day they are scheduled to be in school.

School board member Fred Goldsmith expressed concern regarding opening in plan "B."

"How is a student whose parents are not at home, because they need to work, going to get the guidance and help they need with their assignments, and what if the parents need to place their child in day care, how is that going to work?" he asked. "It would be a burden on the parents and the student."

Dr. Baldwin emphasized the fact that whatever they do as far as remote learning is concerned, they can improve on what they offer.

"It has to be better then what it was in the spring," said Baldwin. "That is something that we are committed to be doing, is improving the education that we are providing through remote learning."

A change in the way students receive grades will not be as it was in the spring. Students were told that their grades would be the higher of what they earned in March or if they improved through remote assignments.

"Many students 'checked out' academically due to that. This will not be the expectation for next year with improvements of the number of devices we have and an expectation that we improve the connectivity of Macon County, to the extent that the school system can. There will be enough ipads for every student in grades 5-12 and also for anyone in K-4 school that doesn't have a device."

He also explained that the school system has purchased Wi-Fi "jet packs" that they could use to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to a number of students that are close enough to a church, fire department, or a community building. If parents cannot get to a school, they can pull into any of these places and access Wi-Fi. Students will be able to go into the community building and take part in a live-stream lesson that the teacher is teaching that day.

Dr. Baldwin said that they are doing what they can to simplify the process. He explained that on March 13 they had no plan for remote instruction.

"We've learned from then, based on what both parents and teachers have told us. For instance there will be only two platforms for providing instruction, that will be through Google Classroom or through campus learning. We are providing professional development for teachers, over the next six weeks. We are streamlining the process," said Baldwin.

The school board sent out a survey to parents and teachers a few weeks ago to see how they felt regarding the issues for reopening and how remote learning worked for them. Teachers who responded that in terms of contacting their students, Google Classroom, email and phone calls were the best. Some teachers used social network platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channel to contact students. Approximately 32 teachers made home visits to students to take and pick up homework packets. Parents had some trouble uploading work so many of them took pictures and sent it in that way. Motivation was a problem due to grading policies. Parents were concerned with child care issues on days when remote learning takes place. Teachers, students and parents participated in discussions that took place on line.

As far as whether or not parents want their students to return to school in the fall, out of a total response of 1,653 parents 86% said "yes," and 13% said, "no." Concerning transportation, 77.8% of parents said they would drive their child to school in the morning, which is 1,126 students compared to 23 who would ride the bus, making transportation less of an issue. To get home in the afternoon, 845 respondents said they would pick up their child while 600 said they would ride the bus. There were 211 parents who responded that they do not plan on sending their child back to school in the fall, but would be interested in virtual learning as an option if offered. Dr. Baldwin explained that teachers would not be involved in that scenario, that parents would have to come up with a plan for that. Teachers would only have to offer remote learning full time if the state went from plan "B" to plan "C." Dr. Baldwin expressed concern that now they would have four plans they would have to come up with.

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1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160
2000	Dodge	Durango	214,249
2002	GMC	Sierra 1500	221,488
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	FATBOY	2,318
2003	Cadillac	DeVille	235,058
2005	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	86,504
2005	Scion	xB	181,096
2007	Dodge	Nitro	106,328
2008	Mercury	Grand Marquis	103,467
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	255,565
2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	122,763
2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	119,071
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	95,570
2013	Dodge	Durango	141,512
2013	Ford	F-150	101,579
2013	Ford	Focus	129,451
2013	GMC	Sierra 1500	99,394
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	114,928
2014	Chrysler	Town & Country	150,724
2014	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	76,055
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,536
2015	Ford	F-150	74,115
2015	GMC	Sierra 1500	55,485
2015	Nissan	Altima	105,350
2016	Chevrolet	Traverse	80,732
2016	Chrysler	200	58,507
2016	Ford	Fusion	56,651
2016	GMC	Terrain	64,919
2016	Jeep	Patriot	57,115
2016	Kia	Sorento	79,879
2016	Toyota	Camry	68,815
2017	Chevrolet	Camaro	134,652
2017	Chevrolet	Equinox	37,384
2017	Chevrolet	Tahoe	75,142
2017	Dodge	Journey	76,764
2017	Ford	Expedition EL	82,959
2017	Ford	Fusion	43,886
2017	Honda	Accord	21,739
2017	Honda	CR-V	27,039
2017	Hyundai	Tucson	63,714
2017	Toyota	Prius Prime	32,541
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,654
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	25,450
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	18,986
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	24,127
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	50,327
2018	Chevrolet	Trax	3,706
2018	Ford	EcoSport	5,000
2018	Ford	Edge	53,011
2018	Jeep	Renegade	21,426
2018	RAM	3500	19,819
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686
2019	Chevrolet	Blazer	17,294
2019	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,698
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	15,105
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LD	34,349
2019	Chevrolet	Spark	15,271
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	39,053
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	37,309
2019	Ford	Escape	35,189
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	42,052
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,463
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2019	Honda	Odyssey	25,630
2019	Kia	Soul	34,258
2019	Nissan	Frontier	25,659
2019	Nissan	Frontier	24,310
2019	Nissan	Rogue	36,401
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2019	Nissan	Versa	36,812
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2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,630

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Macon County fitness center legally reopens

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After more than three months of being closed due to COVID-19, Franklin Health and Fitness announced late last week that they would be opening their doors with safety precautions despite Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order banning gyms from opening during Phase 2.

"Franklin Health and Fitness is opening legally because the governor is allowing the 'use of indoor gyms or fitness facilities when that use is prescribed by or directed by a medical professional,' the facility posted to their Facebook page on Friday. "Your right to privacy is recognized and respected by this facility. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Members and Guests will not be required to disclose any medical information or disability."

Gyms aren't allowed to ask members for medical waivers or to talk about medical history because of the Americans with Disabilities Act and medical privacy laws. So, many are now opening their doors with a stipulation that people working out must have a doctor's note – but they can't ask to see it.

The medical provision loophole in the law came after Phillip Rubin, Special Deputy Attorney General—Special Litigation Section, sent an email answering questions specifically about the exemption. According to Rubin, "this exemption applies, for example, to physical or occupational therapy ordered by a medical professional. In many cases, physical or occupational therapists' equipment is part of a hospital facility or doctor's office, but if health care professionals determine that specific patients with medical conditions need to utilize equipment at an indoor gym or fitness center, such care would not undermine the public-health rationale of the Phase Two order. Because the number of individuals taking advantage of this exemption will be low, the risk of the public is reduced versus opening these facilities to the general public at this time."

Macon County Emergency Management Director said that after learning of the precautions the facility intends to take,

he isn't concerned about the reopening.

"I don't have any concerns at the moment based on the information available so far," said Cabe. "It is encouraging that businesses are trying to maintain sanitation and social distancing but there could always be issues that arise not just at this specific facility but at any facility frequented by customers."

Franklin Health and Fitness will be closing nightly from 8-9 p.m. to disinfect the entire facility with a new efficient Electric Atomizer Sprayer (Fogger) and a Electrostatic Sprayer.

Cabe said no similar discussions between the county's emergency management and his office have occurred up until this point.

"There have not been a lot of questions from similar facilities directed toward the Emergency Management office, especially as related to

"According to the guidance that the Attorney General's office has provided regarding the use of indoor gyms as medical care, a gym may be open to provide services that have been prescribed or directed by a medical professional."

– Emily Ritter, Macon County Public Health

this specific interpretation," Cabe. "The NC Governor's Executive Orders were obviously not issued by Macon County. County staff can assist with some questions but the official interpretation/opinion on compliance will be from the NC Governor's Office or an appropriate NC department or agency. Any specific questions from businesses concerning an official opinion on what is and is not allowed per the Executive Orders are referred to NC Emergency Management to be submitted to legal staff with N.C. for review."

Macon County Department of Public Health Public Information Officer said that Franklin Health and Fitness are permitted to reopen under the law.

"According to the guidance that the Attorney General's office has provided regarding the use of indoor gyms as medical care, a gym may be open to provide services that have been prescribed or directed by a medical professional," said Ritter. "County officials have met with the management at FHFC and gone over the specific occupancy, distancing and sanitation requirements for operating in these circumstances."

For additional details regarding Franklin Health and Fitness, visit their Facebook page or contact the facility at (828)369-5608.

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Three test positive for COVID-19 at Macon Valley nursing home

Macon County Public Health has identified a COVID-19 outbreak in staff at Macon Valley Nursing Home. Because this is a congregate living facility it will continue to be identified as an outbreak. The term cluster is used for non-congregate, community-based spread. Three staff members of Macon Valley Nursing Home have tested positive for COVID-19, are asymptomatic and are isolating at home. The employees will not return to work until they have two negative COVID-19 tests, taken 24 hours apart. Macon Valley Nursing Home has been following the highest levels of Personal Protective Equipment standards while in their facility and especially when working with patients. At this time, no patient in any Macon County nursing home or long-term care facility have tested positive for COVID-19. (See page 10 for a statement from Macon Valley.)

All the residents and staff of Macon Valley Nursing Home have been tested for COVID-19 at the direction MCPH's Medical Director and Macon Valley's leadership team, and plans are in place to isolate any residents, should there be a positive result in the future. Macon Valley Nursing Home and Macon County Public Health have been working together and have verified that Macon Valley has all the necessary PPE, sanitizing, and monitoring supplies and guidance they need to assure that any spread is minimal.

As of June 30, Macon County had 282 cases; 146 active positive; 135 recovered; and one death.

Check www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth for up-to-date information.

NB&T Bank CEO: 'No national coin shortage'

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Social media rumors began circulating over the weekend regarding a “national coin shortage” after some businesses such as fast food restaurants displayed signs asking for coins due to a shortage – however, according to Nantahala Bank & Trust CEO Tim Hubbs – there isn't any type of shortage locally.

“What happened was, when people started to receive their stimulus checks they were cashing the checks, so companies such as Brinks delivered more cash during the week or two of the checks instead of coins,” said Hubbs Monday morning. “They went right back to delivering coins after that.”

While the U.S. Mint is the issuing authority for coin, the Federal Reserve manages coin inventory and its distribution to depository institutions (including commercial banks, community banks, credit unions and thrifts) through Reserve Bank cash operations and offsite locations across the country operated by Federal Reserve vendors. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said last week in a press release that the shutdowns caused by the pandemic have raised concerns about circulation of coins, which the Fed's 12 regional banks are in charge of supplying to commercial banks.

“With the partial closure of the economy, the flow of funds through the economy has stopped,” Powell said during a virtual hearing with the House Financial Services Committee. “We are working with the Mint and the Reserve Banks and as the economy re-opens we are starting to see money move around again.”

The press release from the Federal Reserve, which introduced the issue as “Strategic Allocation of Coins” – not a shortage – specifically said, “Federal Reserve coin orders from depository

institutions have begun to increase as regions reopen, resulting in the Federal Reserve's coin inventory being reduced to below normal levels.”

The press release resulted in media reporting a coin shortage – even though the Federal Reserve specifically stated it was temporary, resulting in speculation and rumors.

Hubbs explained that to accommodate for the injection of cash needed by banks to cash stimulus check, there was a brief interruption in coins being delivered to banks – however that was to accommodate the need for cash, not because there was any type of shortage for coins.

The brief interruption in coins being delivered to banks, paired with stimulus checks being direct deposited into bank accounts which were then electronically accessible, may have attributed to a short decrease in coins, but it is something that will end as quickly as it began.

Hubbs said that the bank has seen a request from businesses who do not have accounts with the bank request coins, however, their policy is to only service their clients and customers. Hubbs said that if there was an actual need or concern locally, Nantahala Bank & Trust, which hasn't experienced any sort of shortage of coins, would provide coins if needed, regardless if those in need were clients of the bank.

“We would certainly help if there was a need for us to, but we are not at that point and I don't see us getting to that point locally,” said Hubbs.

While the Federal Reserve has stated the coin shortage is temporary and is taking precautions necessary to get back on track—consumers who are returning to stores are encouraged to expedite the recovery by spending coins when possible.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

Yesterday day marked the start of a new budget year for the Town of Highlands. The town board approved a scaled back budget at their June meeting.

The town manager developed the balanced budget based on projections of less revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If there is an upswing in the economy at midyear, some capital projects that were cut may be reconsidered. Same goes for a cost of living adjustment for town employees. Our employees have truly stepped forward during this state of emergency. I hope we can make a midyear adjustment in their compensation provided revenues increase.

There are several road paving projects that were funded in this budget. The town has been behind in road paving for several years. The board felt these roads projects could not be postponed for another year. At the top of the list was the second part of Cullasaja Road. Last year the first leg from US 64 to Mirror Lake was done. The rest of the road to the bridge at Mirror Lake will be paved this summer. Also, Hickory, Cowan, Church Street Alley and Pinecrest will be paved.

These road paving projects will start sometime in late August and go through September. Lamar Nix, our public works director, schedules paving when weather conditions are optimum and traffic is light. For instance, the week of the Fourth of July, or during the late October leaf season, are not good times to be delaying traffic for road paving.

The budget also has funding for sidewalk repairs on Satulah, Pierson Drive and in front of Reeves Hardware. The concrete curb and railing at Reeves are in bad condition. A new wrought iron rail will replace the existing ugly pipe rail. Repairs to the Loafers Bench on Main Street are also funded for this year.

The town will purchase a new garbage truck this year for \$172,000. This truck will be a midsize truck and replace an old one that has been rusting out in the back for a number of years. A new wood chipper is being purchased for the electrical department for \$85,000. The old chipper has been used on a daily basis for many years, and like the garbage truck it is simply worn out.

The 50-year-old, two-inch galvanized waterline serving Valentine Lane will be replaced this year for \$192,000. The town has been replacing these old, rusty galvanized lines for a number of years.

The police department will upgrade their radios to the new Viper system. This system is used by the NC Highway Patrol. The Viper radio system will cost \$34,000. It provides much better reception in these mountains, and it allows different first responders seamless communication with one another.

I want to wish everyone a very happy Fourth of July Weekend. We are suffering together through this COVID-19 emergency. We will endure this scourge and get it under control. We are a free and innovative country that will resurge and thrive.



Patrick Taylor

Letters to the Editor

Statement from Macon Valley Nursing and Rehab regarding staff members testing positive for Covid-19

Ensuring our residents and staff are in a safe and healthy environment has been our primary concern since the onset of this unprecedented pandemic, and it continues to be to this day. Eighteen weeks ago, we began working to develop guidelines and protocols in the unfortunate event the virus became prevalent in our local community, which it has in Macon County. To date, we have aggressively implemented the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and developed over 60 internal guidelines to ensure we are constantly taking appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The following list explains, in detail, the efforts we have taken to date:

- Macon Valley started screening visitors and staff before it was a CMS mandate. We have rigid screening processes that we require all employees to complete with supervision prior to the start of their shift.

- We established routine monitoring for presence of signs and symptoms of the virus in our residents. It is now general knowledge that many people of all ages can have the virus yet remain asymptomatic.

- We partnered with Mother Earth Brewery, in Kinston, N.C., to produce hand gel specifically for our company.

- In early March we started making home-made masks in Goldsboro, N.C., and, to date, have produced over 27,000. We hired over 30 individuals to sew, cut and inspect our masks, which are made of polypropylene and cotton with elastic ear loops.

- To supplement our supply of masks, we purchased 3D printing technology to manufacture face shields and, to date, have produced nearly 1,000.

- In mid-April we began producing homemade surgical gowns at our Goldsboro location. To date we have made close to 11,000 gowns.

- Additionally, we have distributed KN-95 and N-95 masks, currently the gold standard, to all staff. We were forced to pay exorbitant prices for these products but knew that if we had a positive case of the virus in the building, they would serve as critical protection.

- We have received multiple deliveries of surgical masks and are continuing to source more nationally and internationally.

- We partnered with a laboratory in South Carolina to provide COVID-19 tests that deliver results in 48 to 72 hours versus other testing sites that were taking from 7 to 10 days for results.

- These tests, when we acquired them, provided the quickest results available to nursing homes. We are, however, searching for rapid tests that return results within hours. To date, these rapid tests have not been available to nursing home communities.

- We have contracted with an environmental service company that specializes in electrostatic disinfection, which uniquely targets potentially infected surfaces using EPA endorsed chemicals known to combat the human coronavirus.

- An isolation unit has been constructed in our facility and meets the requirements for mold remediation, an exceptionally high standard.

- We partnered with a COVID-19 Special Care Units (SCU) that we operate in Wake County, Mecklenburg County and Wilson County and are currently evaluating additional dedicated SCU partnerships throughout the state.

- Knowing how difficult this time is for our residents and family members with the imposition of visitor restrictions, we acquired iPads for virtual family visits with our residents and for telemedicine purposes.

- As you know, the spread of COVID-19 continues throughout the state, impacting all areas, including Macon County, creating greater exposure for our facility. Out of an abundance of caution, we completed 100% testing of all residents and staff earlier this month. As a result of this 100% testing, zero (0) residents or staff tested positive for COVID-19.

Despite the 100% testing, we continue to test for COVID-19 as needed due to the dynamic nature of the virus. The results of further testing revealed that two (2) staff members tested positive for the virus. These individuals were screened prior to their shifts, at which time they reported no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

Please know that we continue to monitor our residents' temperatures and assess them for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 every shift. Likewise, we continue to rigorously screen staff prior to all shifts.

In response to the two (2) staff members testing positive for the virus, Macon Valley is in the process of conducting another 100% testing of residents and staff.

We will continue to work closely with the Macon County Health Department and the facility medical director for guidance on care and communication. We also want to take this opportunity to thank the Macon County Health Department for all of their guidance and support during this unprecedented time.

We would again like to stress that our foremost goal in everything we do is to provide for and protect the safety and well-being of our residents, staff, and community. Macon Valley has in place effective and approved infection control protocols. We have also developed additional tools to identify, track and communicate potential symptoms should they develop in our residents or staff. We are also in close communication with the local and State Health Departments, as well as our community hospitals, who are providing up to the minute information.

Sent via Macon County Public Health.

Email letters to
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Article misstates section of Confederate Constitution

Ms. Lofthouse's article, "History says state's involvement in Civil War was an economic decision," from June 25 not only diminishes the evils of slavery and its role in the Civil War, but also contains one glaring error.

Ms. Lofthouse writes that the Constitution of the Confederate States "outlawed slavery as part of the Confederacy." This couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, the Constitution of the the Confederate States enshrined slavery. Section IX to which she refers states, "No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed." This means that in their constitution, the Confederate States could not pass any law that prevented a person from enslaving people of African origin. The Confederate States made the enslavement of African Americans a permanent fixture of the newly formed nation.

The outlawing of slave trading to which Ms. Lofthouse refers is in fact a ban on importing Africans from any foreign nation other than the United States. This ban on importation was already a part of the U.S. Constitution. I will also add that this language of 'importation' is misleading. What the Constitutions are discussing is the kidnapping and transporting of people to be put into forced labor.

While North Carolina's late secession from the United States and subsequent joining of the Confederate States is a complex topic, worthy of study, Ms. Lofthouse's article misstates and misrepresents the facts. When we North Carolinians review our history of our involvement in chattel slavery and the Civil War, it should not be to paint a rosier picture and let ourselves morally off the hook. Rather, we should be honest about the moral evils of our ancestors so that we may understand how those evils contributed to our present world. When we're honest about our failings, we stand a better chance from learning from them.

Evan Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Editor's note: The following is the actual section of the Confederate States Constitution in question that specifically states the intention of the Confederacy to retain and acquire slaves in the newly formed government. The constitution was adopted on March 11, 1861, and in effect from Feb. 22, 1862, through the conclusion of the War Between the States. The assertion that slavery was outlawed in the Confederate States Constitution was false. However, North Carolina's reasons for becoming involved in the Civil War are complex and varied. The sources cited indicated an economic interest. It does not, however, negate the nefarious practice of slavery which all Americans should abhor.

Section 9 - Limits on Congress, Bill of Rights

1. The importation of negroes of the African race from any foreign country other than the slaveholding States or Territories of the United States of America, is hereby forbidden; and Congress is required to pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the same.

2. Congress shall also have power to prohibit the introduction of slaves from any State not a member of, or Territory not belonging to, this Confederacy.

3. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

4. No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed.

Dismantling ACA would put people on the streets

The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court late on Thursday to overturn the Affordable Care Act, telling the court that, "The entire ACA must fall." The administration's argument comes as hundreds of thousands of Americans have turned to the government program for health care as they've lost jobs during the coronavirus pandemic. Dismantling the ACA would leave more than 23 million people without healthcare plans.

The filing came the same day that a government report showed nearly half a million Americans turned to the ACA in April and May amid Covid-19's economic devastation. According to the Thursday report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 487 million Americans took advantage of the special enrollment period on Healthcare.gov after losing their healthcare plans, likely among the millions of Americans who lost their jobs during the pandemic. The numbers mark a 46 percent increase from enrollments in April and May 2019.

The administration is asking for the entire law to be declared unconstitutional. However, the law includes and expansion of Medicaid eligibility. There was nothing magically constitutional about the previous eligibility cut off for Medicaid. And if some Medicaid is constitutional, more Medicaid is constitutional. The Trump administration is calling for the entire Medicaid program (at least the portion that covers people in or close to poverty) to be declared unconstitutional.

All the low wage workers on Medicaid whose employers don't pay for health insurance will be without any access to medical care unless the states pick up the Medicaid tab or they self pay the whole bill.

I can already hear the hew and cry that the ACA and Medicaid are socialist programs, and that these people should just "pull themselves up by their boot straps."

Well...

You probably know people, here in Macon County, who are on Medicaid. One thousand, seven hundred Macon County children are on Medicaid. The vast majority of wage earners on Medicaid are low wage workers whose employers don't, for a variety of reasons, pay for employee health insurance. These are hard working people trying to provide for their family. They will not be able to afford healthcare for themselves and their families. Then when they get too sick to go to work, without Medicaid to cover the costs of their healthcare, these people will likely lose their jobs. Many of these families will become homeless. These poor people will still get sick anyway, and then present themselves to hospital Emergency Rooms. Right at the worst time, during this pandemic, for our ERs to get jammed up with "non-emergency" patients.

Or perhaps you know or are related to senior citizens whose nursing home care is paid for by Medicaid. There are 550 seniors on Medicaid... they all will be kicked out on the street.

I suppose ending the ACA and cutting Medicaid is just the kind of "tough love" we need right now so to remove Franklin of the "scourge of communism."

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

Cowboys and hippies unite for freedom

It is somewhat alarming how many people expect and almost invite a more drastic infringement on their freedoms. Our response from the onset of the Covid19 should have been that we will err on the side of freedom. When did we stop being the land of the free and the home of the brave? Take charge of your own life. Nobody owes you anything. The government has never been more ill equipped to solve your problems nor is it its function to do so. This is America! Stand up and be somebody! Be brave and live free.

It amazes me that so many people who should know better are continuing to put their trust in elected officials, esp. at the state and federal level. Can't we see that neither Trump nor the crazy socialist Democrats will be capable of bringing peace and freedom to a divided country? It is time for intellectual solutions from We the People rather than political solutions. The ruling elite desire to keep all of us divided so that we are focused on petty issues instead of holding them accountable. The establishment wants us at odds with each other so that we do not understand the bigger picture. It is past time for a return to freedom and individual responsibility. If we do not learn real truth now and stand up for it today, then America is well on its way to the trash bin of empires.

If you love your country, do something about it. Guard against the falsehoods from the left and the right and realize true history and true constitutional principles. Act on them. Live by them. Practice civil disobedience. Trust God Almighty and allow those that do not, to simply live their lives also. Do not live your life by unconstitutional mandates handed down by the corrupt politicians. Do not wear a mask if you do not want to. That is your right. Business owners, if you want to earn money in a difficult economy, simply allow non-mask wearers into your store while realizing this entire mask charade is pointless. Psychologists have found that over 90% of test subjects will just go along with what they think they are supposed to believe – even on clearly incorrect information. It is important to understand that most people, by far, prefer to go over the cliff with the rest of the collectivist lemmings than to actually sift through relevant information on their own. It is important for remaining in the group. It's ancient, tribal behavior. Are you part of the 90%? Ask yourself why you think the way you do? Haven't we progressed beyond the spoon-fed crap that gets served up from the state-controlled media? There is real truth if people are willing to search it out and willing to change their minds when exposed to truth. It takes effort, but once freedom is discovered, we can all unite together around freedom for each person to do according to his choices as long as we follow the non-aggression principle and protect private property. It is time for cowboys and hippies to unite against tyranny from government because continuing to put your trust in elected bureaucrats on both sides of the aisle will only lead to more chains. Benjamin Franklin wisely said, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary security deserve neither liberty nor security."

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.



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Smithsonian traveling exhibition exploring impact of water

From above, Earth appears as a water planet with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry and more. It inspires art and music. The Macon County Public Library, in cooperation with North Carolina Humanities Council, will examine water as an environmental necessity and an important cultural element as it hosts “Water/Ways,” a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program. “Water/Ways” will be on view July 14 through August 24.

The Macon County Public Library and the surrounding community has been expressly chosen by the North Carolina Humanities Council to host “Water/Ways” as part of the Museum on Main Street program—a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. The exhibition will tour six communities in North Carolina from July 14, 2020 through April 25, 2021.

“Water/Ways” explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water’s effect on landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at how political and economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, “Water/Ways” will serve as a community hub

to inspire conversations about water’s impact on American culture. With the support and guidance of North Carolina Humanities Council, the Macon County Public Library is partnering with numerous local organizations and individuals. These groups are developing a film and photographic tour of the Little Tennessee and its watershed, virtual and in-person public programs and facilitating educational initiatives to raise people’s understanding about what water means culturally, socially and spiritually in their own community.

“We have a wonderful group of local partners helping us to safely engage with the community this summer. Because while we want to make the most of the six weeks that the Smithsonian exhibit is in Franklin, we also want to continue to support organizations like Macon County Schools STEM Program, GA/NC Bartram Trail Society, Friends of the Greenway (FROGS), Mainspring, and the Nikwasi Initiative that help us protect and enjoy our waterways now and in the future,” said Kristina Moe, Library Assistant at the



“Water/Ways” a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street will be on view July 14 through Aug. 24 at The Macon County Public Library.

Macon County Public Library. “We want to facilitate conversations about water and are developing local content and public programs to complement the Smithsonian exhibition.” Such free events include documentary films, book discussions, and outdoor activities near the Little Tennessee River.

“Water/Ways” is part of the Smithsonian’s Think Water Initiative to raise awareness of water as a critical resource for life through exhibitions, educational resources and public programs. The public can participate in the conversation on social media at #thinkWater.

“Water/Ways” was inspired by an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), and the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul (www.smm.org), in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, Sao Paulo, Brazil; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; San Diego Natural History Museum; and Science Centre Singapore with PUB Singapore.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about “Water/Ways” and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit www.museumonmainstreet.org. Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit www.sites.si.edu.

For more information, visit www.fontanalib.org or call the Macon County Public Library at (828) 524-3600. The Library is open by appointment Monday-Friday from 10:00am-5:00pm.

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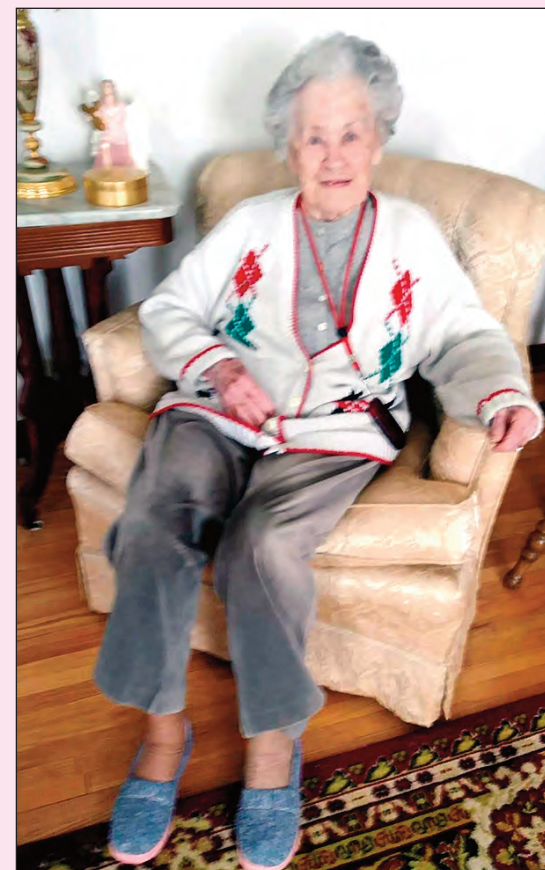
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Rotarians give out Cinderella Slippers to Franklin seniors

One of the last Franklin Rotary projects before the Stay At Home order from Gov. Roy Cooper, was the distribution of 68 pair of slippers to the Franklin area seniors who receive a daily home delivered meals. Jennifer Hollifield, Senior Citizens Center director, assisted in obtaining slipper sizes for each of the seniors.

Rotarians rode with the delivery drivers one day delivering slippers to each senior on the route. This particular project came from a suggestion by District Governor Tiffany Ervin and called the project the Cinderella Project.

Pictured at right is Dorothy Crawford trying on her slippers. Crawford is a former director of the Senior Citizens Center, having dedicated many hours to the issues of seniors on the state level.



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JULY 3



JULY 10



JULY 17



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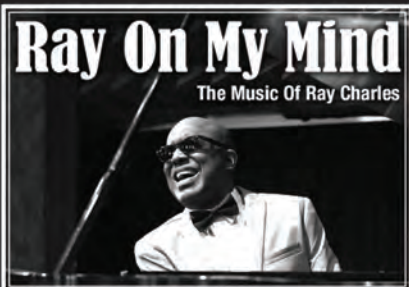


AUGUST 17



AUGUST 29

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SEPTEMBER 17



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests June 15 - 27. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 22
 Casey Lee Evans, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, injury to personal property. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.
 Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, breaking and entering to terrorize or injure, second degree trespass, assault on a female, domestic criminal trespass. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

June 23
 William Keller, was charged with assault inflicting serious injuries, assault on a female, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Matthew W. Bowman made the arrest.
 Brian David Dills, was charged with assault on a government officer/employee. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.
 Stephen Anthony Higbee, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/enter, possession of stolen goods/property, obtaining property, obtaining property by false pretenses. Matthew W. Bowman made the arrest.
 Deborah Crisp, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

June 24
 David W. Heller, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation, driving while license revoked impaired revocation, probation violation. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.
 Luis Roberto Rubio, was charged with failure to appear. Joel Lynch made the arrest.
 Matthew Ryan McClain, was charged with failure to appear. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.
 Charlene Welch, was charged with assault on another person in the presence of a minor. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

June 25
 Axel Anguiano-Magana, was charged with weapons of mass destruction, carrying a concealed gun, no operators li-

cense. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.
 Jimmy Rogers, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.
 Bryan Andrew Dunn, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a place for controlled substances. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

June 26
 Cindy Ann Calangan, was charged with probation violation. Anthony Zari made the arrest.
 Jason Brett Stone, was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

June 27
 John Michael Howard Jr., was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.
 Henry Rodriguez, was charged with assault on a female, assault on another in presence of a minor. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.
 Brittney Rodriguez, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery, assault in the presence of a minor, communicating threats. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.
 Silvana Lisa Bettencourt, was charged with simple assault, communicating threats. William D. Stamey made the arrest.
 Gregory Stephen Waldroop, was charged with assault on a female. Michael R. Hollifield made the arrest.
 Jonathan Wade Hurst, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 15
 Matthew Thomas Lockwood, 42, of Franklin, was charged with damage of property. A \$1,500 was set.

June 16
 Gabriel Mendoza Dominguez, 32, of Bateman Park Rd., Otto, was charged with driving under the influence. No bond was set.
 Christina Phillips, 29, of Shiver Phillips Dr., was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, driving the wrong way, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. A \$3,500 was set.

June 17
 Brandon Lee Austin, 22, of Locust Creek Rd., was charged with driving under the influence. A \$1,500 bond was set.

June 21
 Brandi Nicole Moore, 26, of Fisher Creek, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A \$1,400 bond was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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, Iolla 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.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Jones Gap and White Rock on Saturday, July 4, meet at Bi-Lo, 9 a.m. Hike the NC Bartram Trail to a spur trail and see a spectacular view of the Tessentee Valley and the Nantahala Mountains, Albert Mountain on the A.T. The hike is limited to 10 people. For more information, call leader Gail Lehman (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take the Women's History Walk in downtown Franklin on Sunday, July 5, at 2 p.m. The walk will begin at Town Hall, walk the trail through town and around town to 10 to 12 locations. For more information, call Mary Stone (828)369-7352.

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.

Franklin Covenant Church Curbside Complimentary Hot Lunch and Dry Goods Food Pantry will be held on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 265 Bellevue Park Dr.

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. Interested persons may contact Valerie Norton ASAP at (828)524-3314 ext. 1041.

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, 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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

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

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

West Franklin Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Road.

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

CHURCH LISTINGS (Call ahead for schedules)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grace Presbyterian Church (EPC) Services with Pastor Toby Popeare are Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m. The church is located at 360 First St. (828)369-6800.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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8	3	6	5	2	9	4	7	1
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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S	H	O		S	A	D					



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Macon County Senior Services commits to justice on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Macon County Senior Services recognized World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on Monday, June 15, 2020. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the annual walk was limited to Senior Services staff and county leaders. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN) launched the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2006, in an effort to unite communities around the world in raising awareness about elder abuse. WEAAD serves as a call-to-action for our communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders, and reaffirm our country's commitment to the principle of justice for all.

Elder abuse is widespread. Every year, an estimated 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that elder abuse is significantly under-reported, in part because so many of our communities lack the social supports that would make it easier for those who experience abuse to report it. Research suggests that as few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities.

In addition to being a clear violation of the American commitment to justice for all, elder abuse is an issue with many consequences for society. Its effects on communities range from public health to economic issues.

The good news is that communities can prevent and address the issue of elder abuse. There are many ways to strengthen social supports through policies, services, and programs that keep seniors integrated in communities as they age:

- ♦ Design and equip community centers to work as inter-generational spaces that allow older people to build relationships and participate in the work, play, and life of our neighborhoods.
- ♦ Consider the role of transportation in reducing social isolation and adjust systems so that citizens can all continue



Senior Services and county leaders marched around the Senior Services building to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

to move throughout their communities as we age.
 ♦ Figure out new and better ways to arrange and coordinate the teams, agencies, and programs that work specifically with older people.

♦ Develop programs to educate families and professionals who work with older adults to understand the importance of preventing isolation, how to spot the warning signs of abuse, and what to do to address abuse or neglect.

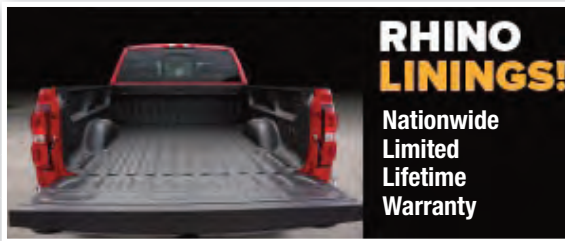
Strengthening the social support structure can reduce social isolation, protect communities and families against elder abuse, and build a nation that lives up to its promise of justice for all.

For more information about Macon County Senior Services, call 828-349-2058.

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Betsy's School of Dance has new owner

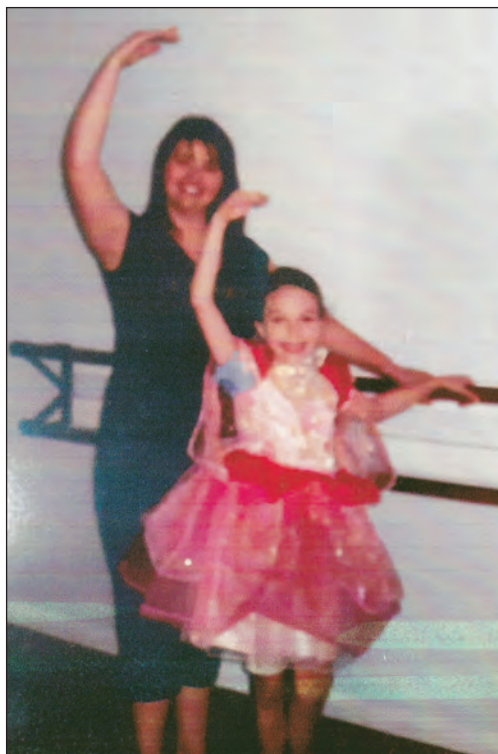
Betsy's School of Dance has been in operation for 30 years in the Franklin area. From holiday show to their yearly recitals, Betsy's has produced generations of dancers over the years, providing a creative outlet for children and youth in the community.

After 30 years, Betsy is handing the reins to a new owner. Although stepping back from the management role, Betsy looks forward to teaching and continuing to pour into her students.

"We are so excited to welcome back former Betsy's



Betsy Apel (R) has turned over ownership to a former student, Sarah Shepard who has been a student of Betsy's since the age of 3.



School of Dance student Sarah Shepard as the new owner of what will now be known as "Inspire School of Dance."

Shepard danced at Betsy's for 15 years, from age 3 through her senior year of high school. She then moved to Springfield, Mo., to extend her training as a company dancer at Petra Ballet.

"I am so excited to be back home and start inspiring existing and new students in dance and sparking a love for the arts. I am so honored to continue this legacy and look forward to expanding the artistic community in Franklin," said Shepard.

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All Saints Episcopal begins construction on ‘The Grove’ on Church Street

All Saints Episcopal Church in Franklin has begun construction on The Grove, a landscaped space for retreat and prayer at their St. Agnes Chapel on Church Street. The space is located next to the church office, on the corner of Church Street and Iotla Street, where an old house that belonged to the church stood until being demolished two years ago. When completed later this year, The Grove will include a timber frame pavilion, walkways, trees, and other plantings. The retreat space is designed to provide a place of quiet, prayer, and contemplation adjacent to the church and in the midst of the busy downtown area of Franklin.

The Grove is a gift to the church from parishioner John Russell and will be dedicated in memory of his late son John, Jr., and his late wife, Sharron. The Rector of All Saints, the Rev. Jonathan Stepp, says the parish is excited about the beauty and utility of this addition to their property.

“We see this as a place that will be a blessing to both ourselves and the community,” he said. “It will create another space of beauty and quiet reflection adjacent to town square where anyone who is seeking a place for contemplation, a peaceful lunch, or time for prayer can find a place of rest.”

The landscaping work began in early June, but the construction of the timber frame pavilion has been delayed be-



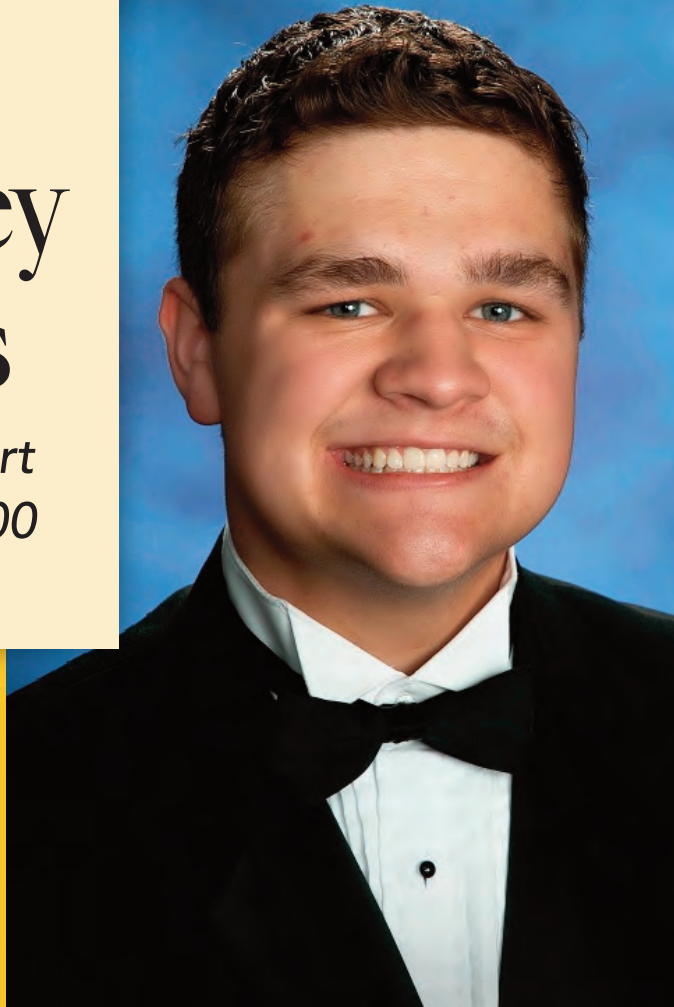
The Grove will consist of a timber frame pavilion, walkways, trees and other plantings to provide a quiet place for prayer and reflection.

cause the contractor who will do the work had travelled to Germany just before the COVID-19 quarantine began and has been unable to return to the United States. The church hopes that he will be able to return within the next few months and work will be finished by this fall.



The Arts Council Congratulates Elijah Trey Hawkins

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A 2019 graduate of Franklin High School, Elijah is pursuing a degree in Fine Arts & Graphic Design at Western Carolina University.



The scholarship is awarded annually to a Macon County resident seeking a college degree in an arts field. For application information, contact any Macon County high school guidance office or The Arts Council, 524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net

Betty Lou Clontz-Tabor

Betty Lou Clontz-Tabor, 74, of Bryson City, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

Born in Haywood County, she was the daughter of the late Fred Clontz and Rosa Spain Clontz. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Fred and Terry Putnam; daughter, Sheila Dianne Putnam Smalish and five brothers and sisters. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister; she loved her family immeasurably. Although she loved nothing more than spending time with her family, she could often be found painting and enjoyed playing cards. She was Baptist by faith.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Thomas "Tom" Tabor; daughter, Callie Sneed of Covington, Ga.; and 11 grandchildren, including granddaughter, Stormy Smith, with whom Betty was very close; 16 great grandchildren; and three nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 20, at 3 p.m., at Tabor Family Cemetery. The family will meet at Tom & Betty's home, 6911 Hwy 28 S, Bryson City, until 2:30 pm, prior to going to the cemetery.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Jane A. Lewis

Jane A. Lewis, 84, went to be with our Lord and Savior on June 27, 2020. She was born in Highlands, N.C., on Sept. 17, 1935, where she spent her entire life. She was the daughter of the late Charlie Anderson and Mattie Hall Anderson. Growing up, she enjoyed many happy hours riding horseback at Cranes Stables and hiking the beautiful mountains.



Jane A. Lewis

Following graduation from Highlands High School, she met the true love of her life, Alan Lewis, who was sent to Macon County as a North Carolina State Trooper, and soon found his way to Anderson's 5¢ & 10¢ Store where she was working in the family business. After falling in love, they were united in marriage at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands on Nov. 28, 1954, by Alan's father, Rev. Arthur Lewis, a Methodist preacher.

She was a lifetime member of First Presbyterian Church, being very active as a choir member and Sunday School teacher, and also held offices in the Women of the Church organization in her younger years.

She always loved and prayed for her family every day, her "jewels."

Survivors include her four children, Martha L. Betz and husband Richard, Angela L. Jenkins, Bill Lewis, and Scott Lewis; four grandchildren, Sam Jenkins (Jessie), Jimmy Jenkins (Jessica), Amy J. Ramey (Brandon), and Katy Betz (David); seven great-grandchildren, Analise Crook, Ella Crook, Aiden Crook-Jenkins; Briana Jenkins, Karmen Jenkins, Kadence Ramey and Cambran Ramey. Additionally, she is survived by her sisters, Angela Hardin of Asheville, Anne Sellers of Clemson, Mary Shearouse of Candler, and sister-in-law, Lizette Pryor of Raleigh; several cousins; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Alan Lewis, and one infant great-grandson, James Taylor Ramey.

A funeral service could not be held at the First Presbyterian Church. Pallbearers would have been Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, Brandon Ramey, Paul Kinsland, Terry Potts, and Greg Thompson; honorary pallbearers, Richard Betz, Jeff Cox, Jimmy Lowe, Steve Ham, and Skip Hughes.

A private graveside service will be held at Highlands Memorial Park with the Rev. Curtis Fussell and Rev. Emily Wilmarth officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Lewis family.

Suzanne Marie Fredrickson Thomas

Suzanne Marie Fredrickson Thomas, born to Theodore R. and Grace (Gilbert) Fredrickson, in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 8, 1946, passed away in Bradenton, Fla., with her children by her side on Thursday, May 14, 2020.



Suzanne Thomas

She is survived by her son, Brian L. (Stacy) Thomas; daughter, Dawn M. Thomas Potts and family friend Wesley Cook, all of Bradenton; two sisters, Shirley Ches of Franklin, and Karen Rice of Kettering, Ohio; and several nieces, nephews and their families.

Residing in Macon County since 2002, she worked for a number of years as secretary for Lamplighter Realty, and then for 10 years at Harrah's in Cherokee where she had numerous great friends, fellow employees and "regular" customers alike. She was a passionate Franklin Lion, and initiated the Lion's Club collection "tackle boxes" that she placed in several venues around town, which made it easy for residents to donate used glasses, hearing aids, and empty printer ink-cartridges for recycle to benefit the Lions Club mission for the blind and vision impaired. When her work hours allowed, she was an active member with Democratic Woman of Macon County, and in years past, she loved to participate with a local line-dance group. Her many old friends in North Carolina will remember the great big smile she had for everyone she met, and have sorely missed her these past two years since she left our mountains. We her family, though missing her so very much, are joyful that she was finally able to make her dream come true, retire and move to Florida to spend time simply being close to her son and daughter.

Services will be at a later date in our family home town, Northport, Mich. We'll always love you, dear little sister - till we meet again we'll remember and treasure our special times.

Bobby Claude Conley

Bobby Claude Conley, 91, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, June 24, 2020. He was born July 25, 1928, in Macon County, to the late Claude J. and Ruth Mize Conley. He was an automobile mechanic and of the Christian faith. He served his country during the Korean War and was a member of the Franklin VFW.



Bobby Claude Conley

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia Tice (John), of Franklin, and Teresa Buchanan (Darrell) of Franklin; a son Larry Conley (Sheila) of Franklin; four grandchildren, Crystal Conley, Erica McFall, Kayla Allen and Melissa Setzer; 10 great-grandchildren, Devon McFall, Austin McFall, Robert Lee McCall, Brooke Sanders, Evelyn Smith, Cayden Smith, Dylan Setzer, Kaylee Setzer, Brantley Setzer, and Mattilyn Allen.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Stacy Lionel Brendle

Stacy Lionel Brendle, 51, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, June 25, 2020. He was born Sept. 19, 1968, in Swain County, North Carolina, to the late George Stanley Brendle and Margaret Cochran Brendle.

He was preceded in death by his parents, who formerly owned and operated the Pizza Peddler Restaurant in Franklin for 31 years.

He loved fishing, cooking, music, and loved singing southern rock.

He is survived by his daughter, Talyah Brendle of Franklin; brothers, Dale Brendle and James Brendle both of Franklin, and several nieces.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

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

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Harvick holds off Hamlin for first Pocono win

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Benefiting from a two-tire pit stop with 36 laps left, Kevin Harvick held off charging Denny Hamlin over the final green-flag run to win for the first time at Pocono Raceway.

Harvick crossed the finish line in Saturday's Pocono Organics 325 .761 seconds ahead of Hamlin to post his third victory of the season - tying Hamlin for the NASCAR Cup Series lead - and the 52nd of his career, 12th most all-time.

"We weren't where we needed to be to start the race and lost a bunch of track position, but we came back and made some great strategy calls to get in clean air and get out front and make some good laps," said Harvick, who led the final 17 laps after pit stops were complete. "It's great to finally check Pocono off the list."

On Lap 94, Harvick entered the pits behind Aric Almirola, but with a two-tire stop, he swapped positions with his Stewart-Haas Racing teammate, who needed four tires on the same stop. After pit stops cycled out, Harvick had the lead, Hamlin was second, and Almirola was far behind in third.

After the flip-flop of positions on pit road, Harvick was confident the two-tire strategy would pay dividends.

"I knew when we came out of the pits, and they told me how big of a lead we had (over Almirola)," Harvick said. "I saw the 11 (Hamlin) come out of the pits, and he was in second... He caught us a little in traffic, but I knew I could be pretty patient with the gap we had."

"As I started to see everything cycle out and see with the track position we had with the fresher tires, you could kind of start to put it together in your mind as we started to run through the last stage and cars started to have to pit. Just a great call by (crew chief) Rodney Childers and all the guys up on the pit box for having the right strategy and getting us to Victory Lane."

Though he led a race-high 61 laps and won the second stage, Almirola rolled across the stripe in third, 15.224 seconds behind Harvick's No. 4 Ford.

"We opted to score a lot of points (in the stages), and that probably hurt us on strategy a little bit, but I'm really proud of Buga (crew chief Mike Bugarewicz) and these (crew) guys," said Almirola, who also finished third last Sunday at Talladega.

Even though his car picked up a severe vibration in the late going, Hamlin whittled Harvick's lead from more than two seconds to less than .3 seconds, as Harvick worked traffic late in the 130-lap event at the 2.5-mile triangular track.

"With about 15 or 20 (laps) to go, the vibration just got really, really bad," Hamlin said. "It still would have been tough to pass. Even though

we got there, it would have been tough to get around him."

Sunoco rookie Christopher Bell posted a career-best fourth-place finish, followed by Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. Clint Bowyer, Michael McDowell, Brad Keselowski and Chris Buescher completed the top 10.

Denny Hamlin wins second leg of historic NASCAR Cup doubleheader

Denny Hamlin turned the tables on Kevin Harvick on Sunday at Pocono Raceway.

Staying out on old tires and building a lead while Harvick battled traffic late in the Pocono 350, Hamlin won the second race of the historic NASCAR Cup Series doubleheader by 3.068 seconds over Harvick, reversing the finishing order of the two drivers from a day earlier.

For the first time in its history, NASCAR ran two Cup events on the same weekend at the same track.

Hamlin achieved several milestones with the win. He picked up his sixth victory at the 2.5-mile triangular track, tying NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon for most all-time. The triumph was the 41st of Hamlin's career, 19th most in NASCAR history, breaking a tie with another NASCAR Hall of Famer, Mark Martin.

And a day after Harvick tied Hamlin for a series-best three wins this season, Hamlin broke the deadlock with his fourth victory of the year.

Harvick made his last pit stop on Lap 105, surrendering the lead to Hamlin. Instead of pitting shortly thereafter, Hamlin, at the direction of crew chief Chris Gabehart, stayed on the track and built his advantage over Harvick from 30 to more than 33 seconds, as Harvick fought through heavy race traffic.

Hamlin finally came to pit road on Lap 120, handing a short-lived lead to his Joe Gibbs racing teammate, Martin Truex Jr. But Hamlin held a two-second edge over Harvick in the exchange. Hamlin took the lead for good on Lap 126 when Truex made his final stop after staying out five laps longer than Hamlin had.

"I was hoping for no caution," Hamlin said of the final 51-lap green-flag run and the winning strategy. "I knew we had the car, and I was just kind of maintaining my gap right there—didn't want to make any mistakes like I did at Bristol and gave that win away."

"I just tried to work through the traffic the best I could, and obviously, Chris was paying attention to the strategy there and made the right call."

Despite his second-place finish, Harvick felt he had a better setup in the No. 4 Ford than the one he drove to victory on Saturday.

"He (Hamlin) just did the opposite of what we did," Harvick said. "We didn't want to get



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Head for the Mountains Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Pocono Organics 325 in partnership with Rodale Institute at Pocono Raceway on June 27, 2020 in Long Pond, Pa.

caught with a caution and then wound up losing a little bit too much time in lapped traffic with all the cars that hadn't pitted.

"He was out there running clean laps and waited till right to the very end (to pit) and wound up in front of us. I'm proud of everybody on our team. Yesterday, (strategy) won us the race, and today we finished second."

JGR driver Erik Jones ran third, posting his best finish of the season. Chase Elliott and Aric Almirola were fourth and fifth, respectively, followed by Matt DiBenedetto, William Byron, Clint Bowyer, Alex Bowman and Truex.

Saturday's fourth-place finisher, Sunoco rookie Christopher Bell, ran third in Stage 1 of Sunday's event. Then his race fell apart. Bell spun out of control in the Tunnel Turn on Lap 39, backed hard into the outside wall in the short chute and shortened his car by about three feet.

As the race approached the end of Stage 2, Kyle Busch spun in Turn 2 after contact from Ryan Blaney's Ford. Busch's No. 18 Toyota nosed into the inside wall, destroying the car. The accident kept Busch winless—and frustrated—through 15 races of the 2020 season.

"The guys did an amazing job from yesterday to today," said Busch, who finished fifth on Saturday but never contended for the win. "I guess it proves that, if you get a little practice time in, we are going to be a force to be reckoned with, so hopefully life gets back to normal eventually."

Chase Briscoe rallies for overtime NASCAR Xfinity win at Pocono

Chase Briscoe recovered from a pit road speeding penalty and a spin with 21 laps left to

pick up his fourth NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season in Sunday's Pocono Green 225.

In a race that went to overtime after a record ninth caution at 2.5-mile Pocono Raceway, Briscoe surrendered the lead to Ross Chastain in Turn 1 after the final restart but reclaimed the top spot in the Tunnel Turn and finished 1.015 seconds ahead of the No. 10 Chevrolet a lap-and-a-half later.

The victory, Briscoe's first at Pocono and the sixth of his career, left the driver of the No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford halfway to his stated goal of at least eight wins this season.

"We were really not that good at the beginning. We kind of struggled and didn't have the speed I really anticipated to have here," Briscoe said. "Zippy (crew chief Greg Zipadelli) and the guys kept working on it, kept getting it better and better. We had the lead there, after I sped on pit road."

"I was a little worried, but, fortunately, a lot of the good cars got torn up and made it a little bit easier to get back through the field. Me and Ross, it was pretty fun. He's one of the hardest guys to race against and pass... We're halfway to eight, so hopefully we can keep going."

In the final Xfinity Dash 4 Cash event, runner-up Chastain claimed the \$100,000 bonus as the highest finisher among four eligible drivers for the second straight week—and the third straight for his team, Kaulig Racing.

But Chastain nevertheless rued his second-place result for the second straight week, especially after taking the short-lived lead from Briscoe in the two-lap sprint to the finish.



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“We did everything right,” Chastain said. “Got a good push that we needed cleared him into (Turn) 1. It’s tough to be upset with second, but I am. I’m so proud of Kaulig Racing... I know how lucky I am, but, man, it’s the memories we take with us—not the money.”

Leading the race on lap 69, Briscoe spun when his left rear tire went flat. But the 25-year-old from Mitchell, Ind., kept his car off the wall and worked his way forward from 11th after the subsequent restart.

A six-car wreck on Lap 53, triggered by contact between the cars of Myatt Snider and Noah Gragson, made Briscoe’s job easier by taking out the race’s dominant car, the No. 22 Team Penske Ford of Austin Cindric, who won the first stage and finished second in Stage 2. The accident also damaged the JR Motorsports cars of Gragson, Justin Allgaier and Daniel Hemric.

“I knew that I was getting a big push from behind,” said Snider, who escaped damage in the wreck and finished a career-best fourth. “I had a run coming on the 9 (Gragson), but I knew we were going to fall off real fast, so I started lifting up, but the guy behind me didn’t.

“I hate that it got so many involved with it, but it ended up being a great day for us. We’re up front leading laps, and we had a chance to win there. It came down to experience for me. I’ve only had a few races with this RCR (Richard Childress Racing) car. It’s got speed. I’ve just got to get myself a little more consistent.”

Jeremy Clements ran third, his best result since winning on the Road America road course in 2017. Michael Annett came home fifth, followed by second-stage winner Allgaier (who regained a lost lap after the wreck), Brett Moffitt, Timmy

Hill, Riley Herbst and Jesse Little.

Briscoe regained the series lead by three points over Gragson, who finished 22nd, one lap down.

Brandon Jones, who won Sunday morning’s NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series race, didn’t make it through the first corner of the Xfinity event that followed.

With a tap from Austin Cindric in a three-wide situation in Turn 1, Jones spun off the corner and slammed into the inside wall, destroying his No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

Fourteen laps and two cautions later, Jones’ Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Harrison Burton wiped out at the exit of Turn 1 in oil spilled by Brandon Brown when his engine expired.



Chase Briscoe, driver of the #98 Highpoint.com Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Pocono Green 225 Recycled by J.P. Mascaro & Sons at Pocono Raceway on June 28, 2020 in Long Pond, Pa.

Knocked out of the race, Burton shrugged off the collision with the inside wall.

“I was racing with the 1 (Michael Annett) and felt good, and it just instantly came around,” said Burton, who has crashed out of two straight races after opening the season with a record 10 straight top 10s, including two wins. “That’s a weird place to come around. That hit looked harder than it was, so I’m all right ... but we’ll be back and hopefully win some more.”

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 4TH OF JULY

- ACROSS
- Begone!
 - Blue
 - Instinctive motive
 - Barbershop supply
 - Cover with asphalt
 - Twist and distort
 - Dismounted
 - Tiny particle
 - Like smell of burning rubber
 - *King of Great Britain when America won independence
 - Same as pleaded
 - "Well-___ machine"
 - *Abigail Adams ___ Smith
 - *Preferred cooking device on the 4th
 - They play dead
 - Tiller's tiller
 - Santa's reindeer
 - Dwarf buffalo
 - Smart ones?
 - "___ the hills and far away"
 - Penicillin holder, e.g.
 - Part of both levorotary and levorotary
 - *Like 4th of July
 - Choler
 - Egg dishes
 - Actress Close
 - *Jefferson was three and Washington was ___
 - Medal of Honor word
 - Castle material
 - *Roman Candles and Fountains, e.g.
 - Manuscript sheet

CROSSWORD

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- Steak choice
- Power system
- Former times
- Saffron-flavored rice dish
- Stares
- Decorates with gold leaf
- Negative conjunction
- Jewish folklore creature
- "Superman" star
- Machu Picchu country
- Remove from Pinterest board
- Grieve
- *Many retailers hold one for the 4th of July
- Sign of a saint
- * ___ of Liberty
- Rooster's girlfriend
- *13 of these at the start
- Give a green light
- *What contestants did at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest
- Ends of shoe laces
- " ___ a high note"
- What river did to bank
- Viola da Gamba, pl.
- Wafting pleasantness
- Aria, e.g.
- Comrade in arms
- *It should never touch ground
- Official flower of the Kentucky Derby
- Riddle without solution
- Obscenity
- Like The Beatles

The Classifieds

Services

PAINTING & STAINING Residential, Interior/Exterior, Repaint, Pressure Washing, Deck Repair, Locally Owned & Operated, Franklin/Highlands Area, 30 Years, Excellent References, Free Estimates, Insured, Chandler Contracting. (828)369-5104, (828)226-3792.

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.

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

HYDROSEEDING & SOD LAWNS Now Is The Time! Ron's Hydroseeding. (828)524-3976.

C & C PUMPS Well Pump Sales, Service & Installations. Iron Removal Filter Systems. Call David Cheek (828)369-5176.

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

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

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

J&D HOME REMODELING & Repairs, 35+ years experience in Kitchen and Bath Remodels, Exterior & Interior Painting, Decks, Tile Work, Etc. Have References. (828)424-1795. Ask for James.

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

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

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

MELTON'S ROOFING and Gutter Cleaning. Give Us a Call at cell# (828)421-6712 With All Your Roof and Gutter Needs.

GRAVEL * GRAVEL * GRAVEL Franklin, Otto, Dillard, Jackrabbit Hauling (828)332-8283.

GRADING, FINISH GRADING Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

Real Estate

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

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

Rentals

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.

Animals

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

Wanted

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

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

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

Help Wanted

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

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

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

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.

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

Garage & Yard Sales

2 FAMILIES Saturday 4th, 9am-2pm, Furniture, Tools and Household Items. 796 Prentiss Bridge Rd.,

Community Fundraisers

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

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow 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.

Misc. For Sale

FARMERS MARKET Summer Season 8am-Noon, every Saturday. Produce, honey, trout, fresh chicken, artisan breads, pastries, preserves, handcrafted soaps, eggs, peonies, hydrangeas, turnips, CBD Oils. 200 Block East Palmer.

FREE FIREPLACE WOOD Cut and split. Seasoned! Pick up only. Call (828)369-0109.

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

Motor Vehicles

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

1996 NISSAN MAXIMA with low package. 95K mileage. Prefers good gas. \$2,450. Paula. (828)369-7720.

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Matt Iannuzzi
Broker/Associate

Sitting on 13+ rolling acres of woodland and fields, this hilltop home offers secluded mountain living just outside the city limits. With 2-level living plus a spacious loft, you'll enjoy an open concept living area, 4 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, bonus room, large shop/gym, craft area, oversize double garage, 2 rock fireplaces, cathedral ceilings and lots of wood throughout. A screened porch off the master bedroom, decks and patios with 6 sliding doors for easy accessibility and space for a fire pit, makes a perfect home for entertaining or your personal retreat. MLS 26016079 \$574,900

Classifieds

\$8.00 20 words or less

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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