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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Locally known as the “children’s pastor,” Lewis Smith’s goal is to ride 600 miles to raise money for the nonprofit Baptist Children’s Home (BCH) of North Carolina.

## Lewis Smith to bicycle 600 miles to raise funds for children’s home

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

Lewis Smith was a runner until he was in a car accident and had to have screws inserted into his ankle. When he realized he needed to lose weight back in 2008, the now 71-year-old was told by his physician that cycling was good exercise and would not put strain on his ankle.

Since then, Smith has cycled at least 20,000 miles, and in September his goal is to ride 600 miles to raise money for the nonprofit Baptist Children’s Home (BCH) of North Carolina, where he has been the western area director of development for almost 20 years.

“My job has been to travel throughout Western North Carolina speaking, preaching, and informing, to raise money for the 23 diverse ministries across the state and the three children’s homes in Guatemala, as well as adoption agency

offices in North Carolina and South Carolina. Places like Moody Family Care Home and Drake Cottage, which are here in Macon County, always need funds for operating costs.”

The September fundraising ride will be his second. In 2008, after training for a short time, he decided to ride 571 miles throughout Western North Carolina to raise \$50,000 for BCH. He ended up raising \$70,000.

“In the process of the 2008 event, I caught the cycling bug,” said Smith. “I would ride 15-25 miles a few times a week and have kept it up since then.”

More recently, the president of BCH suggested Smith consider cycling the whole state, from Murphy to Manteo, to embark on another fundraiser. However, Smith’s health insurance company was not keen on him cycling on major roads

See BIKE RIDE page 9

## Health director says no need for masks at school

Diane Peltz - Contributing Writer

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin addressed the board about face coverings going into the 2021-2022 school year. He said that he had been in contact with Macon County Public Health director Kathy McGaha on Wednesday and based on the low transmission rate in Macon County, McGaha does not see the need for masks to be worn by staff or students this fall.

“This would be if school was starting tomorrow, but it is not,” said Baldwin. “School starts on Aug. 23, 2021, and depending on the transmission rate at that time, it could lead to a temporary need for face coverings.”

The central office sent out a public statement on Thursday, “The Macon County School system will continue to

monitor this situation in conjunction with the Macon County Health Department in order to begin the new school year in a manner that is in the best interest of our students. As of now students will be returning to school without needing to wear a mask.”

However, while it is up to local districts to determine individual mask policies for inside school buildings, due to an existing order from the Centers for Disease Control, masks will still be required on school buses.

“The CDC guidelines are pretty clear,” said Dr. Baldwin. “They are requiring face coverings on public transportation, which includes school buses.”

The North Carolina Coronavirus Task Force is set to

See SCHOOL BOARD page 2

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World War II veteran and his bride still living life

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# SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

address the public during a press briefing on Thursday, and based on the updated CDC mask guidelines recommending mask usage indoors regardless of vaccination status, the state may reverse its decision regarding masks being optional this school year.

### Washington trips on for 2021

After having their Washington DC trip cancelled in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, Mountain View Intermediate (MVI) students will once again be able to visit our nation's capital. Two separate trips will take place for MVI students, one which will send 300 students to DC on April 27, 2022, and another trip which is scheduled for Oct. 12, 2022, also hosting 300 students. During a meeting with the Macon County School Board on Thursday, July 22, the board unanimously approved these trips.

### Nantahala Library debate continues

The School Board was briefed on the decaying building that houses the Fontana Regional Library in Nantahala. Karen Wallace, Fontana Regional Library Director, explained that after 20 years the current building is in disrepair and has outlived its life. She stated "repairs are no longer an option." She suggested that converting the Industrial Arts Building at the Nantahala School campus would be the preferred option. The library offers internet and other technology which students and residents regularly use. During a focus group held about two years ago, stakeholders agreed that it was best to keep the library at the school for ease of access to all, comparing the convenience of the Franklin branch library housed next to Macon Early College and Southwestern Community College. Students there have easy access to the li-

brary as they would if the library was at the Nantahala School. A concern that Wallace brought attention to was the fact that the county commissioners approved the purchase of some land about four miles away from the school and had suggested building the new library there.

"There is no internet access at that location and it would not be accessible to students during the school day," said Wallace. She believes that housing the library at Nantahala School would be a good arrangement as is the case with the Franklin branch library. The board made no decision on the next course of action.

### Summer School program a success

Dr. Baldwin also spoke about the success of the summer school program. He explained that there was some recovery, students were well behaved and all in all it was a very positive experience. The board also addressed the option of giving summer school teachers a bonus of up to \$1,200 for participation in the summer school program. Bonuses would be pro-rated for those not serving the full summer school schedule. The board also discussed falling in line with other counties who offer signing bonuses for newly hired teachers. Macon County Schools is in need of eventually filling the positions of 41 teachers, due to teachers retiring or resigning. Macon County School system currently lists 17 job openings with ongoing interviews including custodians, school counselor, music teacher, science and math teachers and a psychologist.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, at the Macon County Schools Administrative Office, beginning at 6 p.m.

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## Depression, World War II, family and more mark near-centenarian's long life

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Earle Johnson remembers the Great Depression bread lines and people yelling, “Help! Help!” in desperation for food. But one event that made an indelible impression on the 98-year-old Franklin resident was serving in the Navy on a submarine in the South Pacific during World War II.

Johnson, who lives with his wife of nine years, Gloria Prestia Johnson, 93, said he did not immediately sign up to fight in World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941; he was finishing high school. However, it was in 1942 that he realized he needed to go ahead and enlist before he was drafted. Three of his five brothers would also serve in World War II.

He admitted that when joining the Navy, the only motivation to serve on a submarine instead of a ship was that submarine duty paid \$10 more per month.

“I didn’t know a row boat from a sub,” quipped Johnson, “but the extra money was what made my decision. I had grown up during the Depression when, if you had a nickel, you were rich.”

Although he grew up in the landlocked community of Sioux City, Iowa, where his father worked in city government, Johnson was suddenly in submarine school in San Diego, Calif.

“I didn’t have any trouble adapting to tight spaces. I had to learn in school to handle anything on the ship that might go wrong, and I



**Earle and Gloria Johnson, married in their 80s, met while dancing and have been married for nine years.**

It was not until 1944, toward the end of World War II, when the Allied campaign in Europe against the Nazis was coming to a close, that Johnson began his tour on four different submarines, ending with the USS Razorback (SS-394) while fighting the Japanese in the South Pacific.

“The submarines were all waiting outside of Guam and then instructed to go to certain areas,” said Johnson. “Of course, we didn’t know we were approaching the end of the war. We did a lot of shooting at the Japanese, but my submarine did not get hit.”

He was on the submarine when his crew learned the Japanese had surrendered.

“I do not consider myself a hero,” Johnson told an unofficial biographer, Gary Shaffer. “But I was in submarines with them. It took a special kind of courageous person to live on a submarine for months at a time. It was a dangerous, claustrophobic, foul-smelling, noisy environment. You had to have the temperament to get along well with a lot of other men in a confined space for long periods of time. And some sailor called submarines steel coffins.”

Johnson shared in his unpublished biography: “In 1944 alone, our submarine force would sink over 500 Japanese merchant ships with all their precious cargo. Near the end of the war, there were few enemy ships left to sink. ... On August 14, 1945, we received word by radio from naval headquarters in Pearl Harbor to cease all hostile wartime operation – the war was over. We were to proceed to Tokyo Bay, Japan, for the surrender ceremony. There was great jubilation and celebration on our submarine. We would be one of 11 submarines taking part in the surrender ceremony.”

As a souvenir of that momentous occasion, Johnson kept the identity card certifying his presence at the event.

After the war, Johnson stayed in the Navy



**With his son, Richard Johnson looking on, Earle Johnson reminisces about his time serving in a Navy submarine during World War II.**

had six months to qualify. Each of us had to know what each function was on each part of the ship, just in case something went wrong.” Johnson began his submarine duties learning the intricacies of the diesel engine, but he eventually became a chief electrician.



until 1963 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor until 1954. He also went back and forth to San Diego, and he was involved in the Korean War. He played football for the Navy from 1948 until 1951. Before leaving the Navy, he became a nuclear-powered submarine instructor.

Although Johnson never intended for submarines to become his life, his career after the Navy involved working for different submarine parts and components companies. He finally retired after spending 12 years working for the Department of Defense.

In 2013, Johnson was invited on an honor flight, which recognizes aging American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, D.C., for memorial tours.

"I still keep in touch with my sponsor," said Johnson.

One of Johnson's sons, Richard, explained that his father's time on the submarine "was like belonging to a big family." However, as to whether he currently keeps in touch with any of the former submarine soldiers, Johnson jokingly noted, "I don't keep in touch with any soldiers anymore because they are not around anymore. I've lived too long."

Besides achievements in the military and as a civilian, Johnson pointed out that he is the father of four children, all born after World War II, the grandfather of nine, and the great-grandfather of 10. He married his high school

sweetheart, Darlene, and they were married for 47 years before she died in 1988. Currently, Johnson is the "angel" of his second wife, whom he met almost 20 years ago during a singles' dance.

"Right after we met, he asked me to go on a cruise," said Gloria with a laugh. "I said I can't go on a cruise with someone I don't know well. And he said, 'Well, I'll just ask someone else.' So I had to go with him or I thought I would lose him."

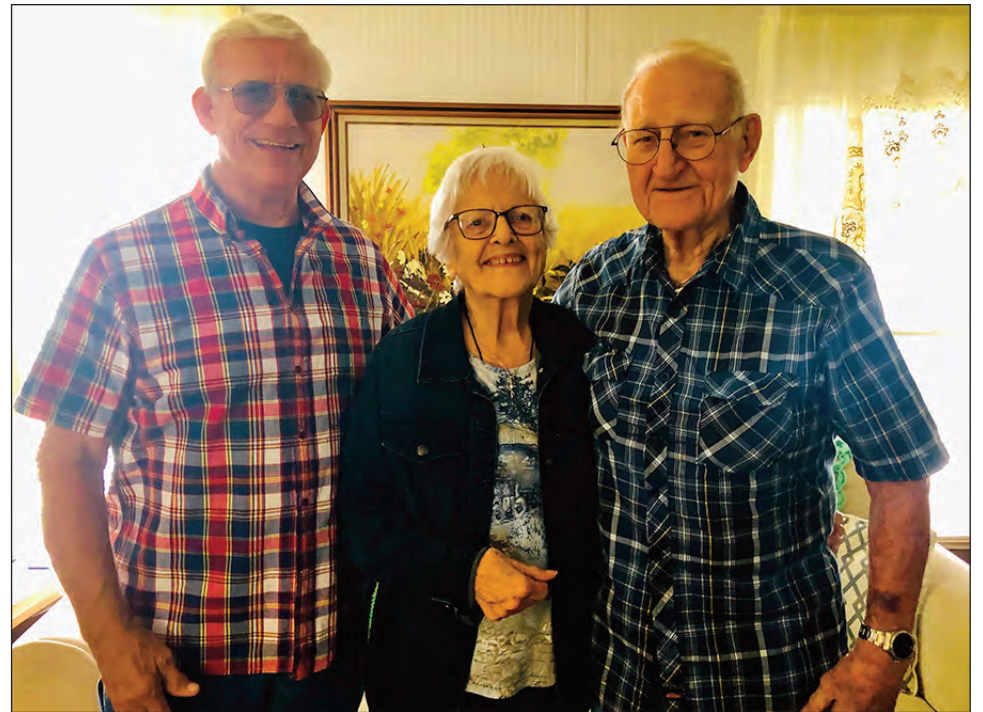
After the couple dated and danced together regularly, Gloria's son-in-law "threatened" Johnson into marrying Gloria. Johnson said, jokingly, "A shotgun is a motivator to get you to the courthouse."

During their courtship and marriage, the couple has been on more than 30 cruises.

"We were never home," said Gloria. "We would get home and soon we were on another. We always danced on the cruises together and just had so much fun."

Johnson said he thinks he loved cruising so much in his retirement years because, "I was able to see everything. When I was on the sub, I couldn't see anything, so I made up for it when I was on the cruises. And I loved all the cruises. Alaska was a favorite."

A caregiver in Franklin for 37 years, Irene Risko has been assisting the couple since last November. She explained they are still able to get around somewhat and have participated in their neighborhood events but need some



Pictured (L-R) are Richard Johnson, Gloria Johnson, and Earle Johnson.

help. She has been impressed with how humorous and lively they both are.

"He is just the most generous person ... always wanting to help people out. A beautiful man. And she is so comical and sweet. While working for them, I feel like I'm part of their

family. Listening to stories about their lives has been wonderful as well."

"We laugh a lot," said Gloria, who explained they moved to Franklin six years ago to be closer to family. "We are always enjoying and remembering."



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# Artist Doreyl Cain's work found throughout Western North Carolina

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Doreyl Cain works remotely in her yurt studio not far from the Tuckasegee River near where the Macon and Jackson county lines converge, but her colorful, nature-inspired artwork is prominent in homes, businesses, and at libraries throughout the counties and the region.

Cain, who grew up in Western North Carolina, barely remembers a time when she was not drawing or painting. She recalls that around age four, she was drawing in the dirt. And then she was “thrilled” to have paper, pencils, and colors when she entered school. After a stint in the Air Force, she decided to pursue a career in art and achieved a master’s in fine art with a concentration in medical and biological illustration. For close to three decades, while living in California, Cain illustrated detailed aspects of the human anatomy for teaching purposes.

Her love of nature, the mountains, and painting drew her back to Western North Carolina about 20 years ago and she and her husband, Jerry, a retired engineer, built a home on 24 remote acres so that Cain could be surrounded by the natural environment that she longed to paint. They also installed two koi ponds. Her paintings in pastels and acrylics feature everything she sees from her yurt: the

koi, deer, raccoons, myriad birds, flowers, pollinator insects, and more.

At this point, the septuagenarian estimates she has painted thousands of paintings. Her home is filled with the paintings that she or her husband decided they would like to keep instead of sell. She said she paints daily for up to five hours. Inspiration flows, and she said her “strokes” take on a “magic” of their

ilege of drawing and painting. And I could not be living and working in a better place.”

Bill Abraham, a co-owner at Mountain Valley Health Foods in Franklin, was so taken with one of Cain’s large meadow and wildlife scene paintings that he purchased it a few years ago, and he explained that the work sets a “cheery tone” in his store.

Besides individual paintings, Cain also il-

large weather-proof panels she calls “postage stamp murals.” In fact, because of her love of children’s books and her support of reading programs, she is also involved in an initiative, for which she received a grant, called Story Book Lane, that has her creating panel murals for libraries.

“I saw my first mural when I was in California,” she said, “and I thought, I want to do

artwork like that one day. And then my husband and I traveled throughout Europe, and I began to realize that some of the great masterpieces are actually murals – like the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Murals are forever.”

Cain and Ammons are also the brainchild behind the Appalachian Mural Trail project (MuralTrail.com), which – similar to a barn quilt project – guides interested participants on a scavenger hunt of sorts throughout Appalachia to view murals. Appalachian Mural Trail

has received national attention, according to Cain, and she appreciates how it brings communities together. A mural design she sketched for a building in Robbinsville, N.C., will be completed by Native American artists with ties to the historical figures featured on the mural. Currently, she is completing a mural for Sparta, N.C. that features aspects of the farming community, including present and historical figures. She conveyed that she would enjoy involving Macon County artists for a mural somewhere in Franklin.



When she moved back to her native Western North Carolina, artist Doreyl Cain decided she wanted her studio in a yurt so she could better commune with natural elements that make up her colorful paintings.



Artist Doreyl Cain estimates she has painted more than 1,000 paintings in her lifetime so far, including art for children’s books.

own as she loses herself in the process. And the sometimes whimsical style and vibrant signature colors of her artwork is in contrast to her years of meticulous illustrations for medical purposes.

“My art now sometimes has a mind of its own,” said Cain. “I often don’t know what’s going to happen when I start painting. And, for me, color is everything. Life has color! And nature is color ... an awesome, truly amazing thing to observe and have the priv-

illustrates children’s books written by her sister, Amy Ammons, herself, and other authors. The books are published through the Catch the Spirit of Appalachia (CSA) imprint.

“Each book is so special and I truly enjoy creating every piece of art for each page of each book.”

Her current focus is primarily on murals. Not only does she do CSA “performance art” in schools and at colleges, which basically means Cain illustrates stories on large boards while her sister tells them, but she paints

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She uses special weather-proof paints and then clear coats the murals at least three times. Some of her own outdoor paintings displayed near her yurt studio have been in the weather for at least 20 years and they show no signs of wear.

While some of Cain's children's books and her art are available online, she noted that the public can view them at the Shelton House Museum in Waynesville as well. An Author & Artist event is scheduled there on Aug. 20-21 as part of Blue Ridge Heritage Days.



A current artistic passion for Doreyl Cain involves mural work for up to 5 hours daily.

"I want to continue painting and know that people are enjoying my work ... for as long as possible," she added.



Her yurt art studio provides not only plenty of natural light, but a surround of windows so that she can observe and paint nature.



Doreyl Cain paints daily and loses herself in the "magic" of each "stroke," she said.

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# Local rock group joins international movement

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Saturday morning a group of artists met at the Gazebo in Franklin and counted beautifully decorated rocks one by one until the very last — the 540th rock — was counted. The rocks were painted blue and features a red heart in the center — the original design of the Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock event held around the world on July 24.

A movement to share random acts of kindness has spread across the country and taken root in Franklin over the last few years. The rock painting group held an event over the weekend to send a special message.

Brenda Thorn pitched the idea of the event to other members of the Franklin NC Rocks group after coming across the idea of The Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock first proposed by Nancy Powell Pierson. Pierson, whose original rock group is Northeast Ohio Rocks, started in 2016. The group has 206,000 members and is the largest rock painting community in the World.

“That is what drove me to start Paint a Rock Hide a Rock Day,” said Pierson. “I wanted to bring together rock painting

groups so that the members of those groups could see the inspiration around the World and so they could know what they do matters. We are all a part of something larger than ourselves.”

The rocks were taken by members of the group after the event and hid around town and on various travels. Later on in the week, someone posted on the Franklin NC Rocks group that they found one of the rocks on the Greenway and dropped it a rest stop on their way to Georgia.

The celebratory rock holds a special meaning — the blue represents the world and the red heart represents the kindness created by painting and hiding rocks. The design was kept simple, so all artists with all abilities and talents could participate.

The public Facebook group for the event has more than 5,000 members and featured participants from all over the world in places such as Germany, California, Con-

necticut, and England.

Members of the Franklin Rocks Group spent the last two months decorating their contribution to the event, and were able to complete 540 rocks in the short amount of time and hope to grow the event for next year.



The Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock movement was established as a reminder to share random acts of kindness.



Members of Franklin NC Rocks got together on July 24 to participate in the international “Paint a Rock, Hide a Rock” event. The group had painted 540 rocks for the event.



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Lewis Smith, 71, began cycling in 2008 in an effort to lose some weight, and he said he quickly "connected" with the activity and has ridden at least 20,000 since.

## BIKE RIDE

Continued from page 1

he said.

The effort is called Bike for Hope, and other than Sherry, his wife of 51 years, Smith will be alone – “other than with Jesus” – to ride 600 miles in places “where there is no traffic.” He added, “I plan to do 12 days and ride 50 miles a day to try to raise \$100,000.”

Trained as a Baptist preacher and called into the ministry in 1972, Smith has been with BCH since 2004. Prior to this second career, he pastored churches beginning in 1976. Born in North Carolina, he has been in Macon County since age 9.

“I don’t hunt, fish, golf, and I never thought as a young man that I would be interested in cycling, but it just connected with me and I feel so free on a bicycle,” he said, “and I’ve always been drawn to children’s ministries, and BCH is a wonderful ministry. They care for thousands of children. If money is not raised, we have to say no to a child who might need us so desperately.”

Already, Smith said he is “making progress” raising money for BCH. Individuals can sponsor him by either sending a check marked “Bike for Hope” in the memo line to BCH, PO Box 338, Thomasville, N.C., or by contacting him at 828-421-9300; lgsmith@bchfamily.org.

Smith said he expects to make his 600-mile goal, and he is hopeful to raise the necessary funds to “ensure that a girl who had no place to sleep now has a warm, comfortable bed. The boy who has gone days at a time without eating will now have nutritious, regular meals and snacks ... to meet the tremendous needs of vulnerable children in our state ... to see children receive the compassionate care they deserve.”

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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last week I contacted a governor's representative before Governor Cooper's afternoon press conference. I asked if the governor planned to increase mask requirements given that the COVID Delta variant is spreading across the country. It turns out the governor hasn't increased mask requirements, but rather eased them for resumption of school.

The Delta variant's potential impact on Highlands concerns me. Our community had a wonderful volunteer response in setting up vaccination clinics for everyone. Our residents have cooperated with town and state COVID emergency. I am grateful for all these efforts. The last thing I want to see is a regression to those dark days of lockdowns and quarantines.

The large number of our citizens who have not taken the vaccine truly concerns me. Sallie and I stepped forward, like so many of you, and took the vaccine. This spring we saw a loosening of restrictions at the state level. I was ecstatic by the prospect of Highlands returning to normal. I, along with the town board, had not relished the burdensome responsibility of issuing emergency measures. It hoped we had crossed the Rubicon, so to speak, in abating the spread of the virus. Over a period of months our policies merged and conformed with the governor's state emergency orders, and we followed the state lead again in easing restrictions.

The governor had previously allowed businesses to reopen provided masks were worn. Also, in crowded areas, such as on business district sidewalks, Highlands required. Our police enforced the state orders which were supported by NC statute law. In late spring, the governor rescinded these emergency orders, so we adjusted our signs downtown to read, "masks suggested in crowded areas."

I hope we do not go back to mandatory masking requirements, but if the state makes that decision, Highlands will comply. For the town to pass a local masking ordinance at this time would be premature and probably counter-productive. First, it could slow the resurgence in the local economy. Second, a local mask ordinance would be hard to enforce and problematic to defend in state court where judges are dealing with what they view as serious cases such as domestic violence and drug violations. Third, a local ordinance would be at this time based on conflicting scientific information, especially for

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Time for a house-cleaning in nation's capital

My life began during the first term of Franklin D. Roosevelt. In all of my life there has been only one president who did exactly what he said he would do if elected. That man is Donald J. Trump. Also, he is the only president who was 100 percent for the people. He was not a politician but a successful business man. His accomplishments were remarkable in spite of who and what he was up against. Just think of where we could have gone as a nation had our legislators and the main stream media worked with him. Well, we know how that played out.

Sadly, the Republican leadership is a bunch of timid, spineless, weak-kneed, lily-livered people who do not want to take control from the liberal Democrats. They kowtow to them when we depend on their ability to stand up and take control. The Democrats, however, stick together. In my opinion, they do not do this out of loyalty to their party, but out of fear of what will happen to them they don't. Think about Vince Foster and lately, Jeff Epstein, to name two. Both of these men had information on the Clinton and Obama administration to put a lot of people in prison. How convenient that they both committed "suicide." Also, William Barr who had the goods on the Clintons and Obama but backed off. There are others who have been found dead or were ruined. The latest one was Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn. His problem with the Democrats was that he knew where the "bodies were buried" so, they had to get rid of him. The government is so corrupt that if God wanted to give the United States an enema, the point of insertion would be Washington D.C.

Unfortunately, we have some here in Franklin who constantly spew their drivel of hate and lies about President Trump in letters to the editor. I don't waste my time reading their bilge.

I can remember when the mainstream media reported the news. Now, they try to make the news and will not report the truth when it concerns conservatives. In fact, the media has never mentioned any of the many accomplishment attributed to President Trump. Look at all of the destruction in the blue states with rioting, looting, burning and killing that has been going on for over a year now by BLM and Antifa. Those arrested were set free! You don't hear about this from the main stream media at all unless they want to say that it was caused by President Trump. They also claim President Trump is responsible for the "disturbance" at the border. Cut me a break.

Pelosi is all fired up about the events of Jan. 6. The hundreds who were arrested are still in solitary confinement! I'll bet she won't find that paid infiltrators from BLM and Antifa instigated what little damage was done. This was financed by Soros who should be deported out of the country. She claims to want to find and report the truth. She and other liberal Democrats wouldn't know the truth if it was slapped along side their heads with a bed slat.

It is time for those who identify as Christians and conservatives to stand up for what is right. The Bible teaches us to turn the other cheek. This is a good thing to do and we continue to do this. However, Jesus turned over the tables and chased the money changers out of the temple. It is time to start turning over tables and chasing lying liberals out of the Capitol. We can start with the likes of Schumer and Pelosi and then continue on from there with Schiff, Nadler, Waters and the Squad to name a few. Unfortunately, there are some Republicans who need to be chased out too. These Rinos hurt the nation and must be voted out of office. It's absolutely imperative to enact term-limit legislation. Look what these idiots have done to our country in just six months!

You know, I should feel better having written this letter and getting it off my chest, so to speak, but sadly, I don't. We are in a precarious situation with Biden and Harris at the helm and Democrats in control of the Senate and House. The Supreme Court could return President Trump to the White House because of the stolen election. And, yes, Liberals, President Trump did win the election and by a landslide. The proof is there. It's a matter of finding honest judges to take this up and make it right. I pray it will happen this year because our country cannot survive another three and a half years with these current clowns in control.

Tom Wanson – Franklin, N.C.

### It's not goodbye; but see you soon

To all our dear friends in this beautiful mountain community of Franklin: We have enjoyed 20-plus years as summer residents and will miss the beautiful surrounding area and the friendships we have made. We will cherish them forever.

It's time for us to return home to Florida as full-time residents as this is where we were raised from infancy.

We are thankful for your acceptance and friendship over the years. You've made us feel at home; like family.

In the future, we may not see you annually, but do plan to visit periodically, when we can. We look forward to vacationing and visiting without maintaining a home here.

So, it's not goodbye, but see you soon. Take care. Always in our hearts and minds, with love,

Donna Park & Deanne Dullea (The Girls) – Franklin, N.C.

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

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**Forbes.com seen as a conservative news outlet**

Forbes.com is a very politically conservative news outlet. Since Forbes' founding 1917, they have strongly endorsed every Republican presidential candidate, as well as most every Republican congressional candidate. If there ever was a highly conservative place to read about presidential election audits, Forbes is the place to look. So look I did.

On Jul 15, 2021, Forbes published a report entitled, "Arizona's Bizarre Election Audit Likely Can't Keep Documents Secret, Judge Rules." Here is the web link to this report: [reportinghttps://www.forbes.com/sites/joewalsh/2021/07/15/arizonas-bizarre-election-audit-likely-cant-keep-documents-secret-judge-rules/?sh=7b6aca942d1c](https://www.forbes.com/sites/joewalsh/2021/07/15/arizonas-bizarre-election-audit-likely-cant-keep-documents-secret-judge-rules/?sh=7b6aca942d1c) . Take a look.

I am not going to attempt to refute anybody's claims that the "election audit" being carried out in Maricopa County, Arizona has led to the discovery of widespread, egregious, strategically planned fraud. Instead, I let the editors of Forbes magazine do this for me.

However you may regard Forbes' editorial page, their news reporting is done by very experienced and highly respected news reporters. I am confident that there are readers that will refute Forbes' reporting 2020 election, quoting from or referencing web sites that do not employ reporters or do not have any history of election reporting prior to the 2020 election. If you look in enough places on the internet, you will find someone who supports any point of view of any subject imaginable, but none of these sites have a history of solid reporting for over 100 years, as does the very conservative Wall Street Journal.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

**TAYLOR**

From previous page

those who have been vaccinated. Information might have changed by this publication date.

In summary, I will be following the emerging information from medical experts on whether to reinstate mask requirements, or not. If the state health director and the governor issue new orders concerning masking, the town will follow. If not, we will continue to urge everyone to get a vaccination. Medical experts stress that the vaccines offer good protection from severe COVID infections requiring hospitalization.

Everyone eligible needs to be vaccinated, if not for sake of love ones and the community, at least in respect to the medical heroes who treat those unvaccinated who become infected. For me, it is an issue of fairness, and a line between personal choice and what is good for the community.

**Body found Tuesday in Nantahala Lake area**

On Tuesday, July 27, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, NC Wildlife officers, Macon County Emergency Management, Medical Examiner and members of Nantahala Fire & Rescue were involved in an incident after a couple kayaking reported finding a body in the Nantahala Lake shortly after 3 p.m.

Deputies immediately responded to the area along with members of the Nantahala Fire & Rescue. Investigators with MCSO and NCWRC were able to locate a residence near the lake in which the occupant hadn't been seen since shortly after he arrived on Sunday. Investigators found items on a dock near the residence that appeared someone may have been planning to go fishing. MCSO investigators and the medical examiner were able to identify the individual found deceased. No foul play is suspected at this time but an autopsy is scheduled to be conducted.

Family members of the deceased have been contacted by investigators and out of respect for the family the his identity will not be released at this time by the MCSO while the family is in the process of contacting other family members and friends.

*Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer*



Smith's grandparents, Dottie and Wayne Smith, joined their grandson for the swearing-in ceremony.

**New ADA in the 43rd**

Haywood County native Christopher Smith is now an assistant district attorney assigned to the 43rd Prosecutorial District's Waynesville office.

Smith graduated Tuscola High School. He earned a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice and criminology from East Tennessee State University. Smith received his law degree in December 2020 from Elon University.

He initially worked in the 43rd Prosecutorial District for District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch in 2016 as an investigator. That position was funded through a federal grant targeting domestic violence. Smith's mother, Amanda Smith, was a victim in 2010 of domestic violence.

The 43rd Prosecutorial District's newest employee turned 28 just one day before his swearing-in ceremony.

"My birthday present is my job," he said. "Coming back to the office and to my first work family, where I began my actual working career, is special to me."

District Court Judge Kaleb Wingate administered the oath of office.

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# Weekends in Franklin



There's always something going on in Franklin and last weekend was no exception. Rock hounds were in town in full force attending the 34th annual gemboree. Held at the Macon County Community Facilities building, the gemboree draws gem enthusiasts from all over. Above, the Darrenn Nicholson Band were featured at the weekly Pickin' on the Square held every Saturday night at 7 p.m. through October in downtown Franklin. The Upbeats are on tap this Saturday. For more information, see page 17. Photos by Betsey Gooder



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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests July 12 - 25. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

July 19

Mary Lynn Decoteau, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

July 21

Kelly Lee Bowers, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Wesley Preston Crone, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, false report to police station, failure to wear seat belt, no operators license. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

July 22

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with failure to appear. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Lisa Eugenia Wykle, was charged with failure to appear. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with defrauding a drug test. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

July 23

Danielle Nicole Mathis, was charged with assault and battery. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

July 24

Rachel Annaleah Jones, was charged with assault and battery. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

July 25

Mindra Perez, was charged with assault and battery. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

July 16

Anthony Shamal Bryson, 28, was charged with second degree criminal trespass. No bond was set.

July 18

Dakota C. Mathis, 28, was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay. A \$1,500 bond was set.

July 22

Michala Cheyenne Taylor, 21, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear. A \$24,000 bond was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

July 12

Cheyenne Robin Arneach, 29, of Mark Bigmeat Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

July 13

Ollie Ray Nichols, 58, of Lucy Long, Whittier, was issued a governors warrant. No bond was set.

Logan Mckenna Otter, 26, of Junes Loop, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for attempted break and enter a building, misdemeanor larceny, break and enter a motor vehicle, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and/or entering. A secured bond of \$40,040 was set.

Tyler Dillion Washington, 27, of Lucille Beck Lane, Cherokee, was charged with conspire to obtain property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Kimberly Lynn Butler, 49, of Springwood Trail, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Joshua Warren McDowell, 40, of Habitat Dr., was issued a true bill of indictment. A secured bond of \$45,000 was set.

Marlene Cecille Osorio, 31, of Honor Court, Glenville, was charged with domestic violence, protective order violation. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Terra Avalon Edwards, 30, of Kettle Creek Rd., Cashiers, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

July 14

Gary John Norris, 58, of Westridge Rd., was charged with extradition fugitive from other state, interfering with emergency communications, communicating threats, assault with a deadly weapon, assault on a female. A \$10,000 bond was set.

Katrina Lynn Cook, 34, of Dawn View, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Kevin Michael Hart, 48, of Patten Cove Rd., Swananoa, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, first degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Jesse Douglas Cook, 39, of Harley Cove Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for attempted break or enter. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

David Matthew Green, 25, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for first degree trespass, larceny, probation violation, damage to currency machine. A secured bond of \$8,000 was set.

Virgil Lee Panther, 47, of Floyd Brady Rd., Cherokee, was charged with felony possession of possession of stolen motor vehicle, felony obtain property by false pretense. No bond was set.

July 15

Jennifer Lynn Ladowski, 40, of Ensley St., was charged

with failure to appear for communicating threats. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Erin Roberts Harbin, 35, of Hampton St., was charged with failure to appear for local ordinance/leash law. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Whitfield J. Anderson, 31, of Laurel Branch, was issued a warrant for arrest for injury to personal property. No bond was set.

Dustin Lyle Jones, 39, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with communicating threats, simple assault. No bond was set.

July 17

Austin Eugene Langley, 26, of Hedy Mountain Rd., Cashiers, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

July 18

Joseph Cain Luker, 23, of Mexican Dr., Whittier, was issued warrant service for other jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Courtney Danielle Mashburn, 26, of Sutton Branch, was charged with failure to appear, bill of indictment. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Brandon Lee Nalley, 46, of Knob Hill Rd., Asheville, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, conspire to traffic methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

Jon Kyle Jordan, 44, of Queentown Rd., Canton, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, conspire to traffic methamphetamine, traffic methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set.

James John Welch, 56, of Loral Hill Dr., Canton, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, conspire to traffic methamphetamine, traffic methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set.

Joshua Anthony Wildcatt, 19, of Tslie Enola Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$16,500 was set.

German Palleres Garcia, 42, of Tsalie Enolia Rd., Cherokee, was charged with resist a public officer.

July 19

Larry Oxedine, 58, of Rocky Branch, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked impaired revocation, violation of unsupervised probation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Jessica Renee Yates, 39, of Webster Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.


Shawn Littlebull Standingdeer, 35, was charged with sex act by substitute parent/custodian, statutory rape of child 15 or under. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set.

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-- Bahá'u'lláh

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**The Women's History Trail will dedicate its 15th plaque** in the series on Saturday, July 31, 1 p.m., at the Nikwasi Mound kiosk. This plaque celebrates the life of Rebecca Na-Ha Morris, one of several Cherokee women who made an impact with the early settlers of Macon County. Sponsored by Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center and the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will hike to Straight Fork in the GSMNP at Big Cove near Cherokee on Saturday, July 31. Hike up Straight Fork Creek to a horse camp and have lunch. Many wildflowers along the creek. For reservations and more information, call leader Katharine Brown at (828)421-4178.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will hike to Betty Creek to Yellow Patch on Sunday, Aug. 1. Hike south on the Appalachian Trail to an overlook and see Picken's Nose. Return by way of a path to a forest service road out to Yellow Patch. For reservations and more information, call leader Gail Lehman at (828)524-5298.

**Cullasaja Community Association** will meet on Monday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Residents of the community are urged to attend.

**Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Drive thru Food Pantry** will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 299 Maple St.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** member Bill Van Horn will discuss Benton MacKaye: A.T. Visionary and show the film "Appalachian Trail, the Beaten Path" on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 6 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Questions and answer session to follow.

**Macon County Art Association Encaustic Painting Classes** will be held on Fridays, Aug. 6 and 27, Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery 30 E Main St., Franklin. For more information, call Karen Smith, at [karen@programservices.org](mailto:karen@programservices.org).

**Gibson Family Reunion** for the descendants of Joseph and Alva Allen Gibson will be held on Aug. 8, at the original Cowee Fire Dept. A covered dish luncheon will be served at 1 p.m., followed by a short business meeting.

**Siler Family Reunion** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Moss Valley Venue, 1145 Patton Road in Franklin. Lunch will be served at

12 noon, but all family members are invited to arrive early to bring their finest foods, visit, and reminisce outside under cover of an open barn.

**Death Cafe** will be held on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2 to 4 pm, at Wayfarers Unity Chapel, 182 Wayfarers Lane, Dillard, Ga. Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT, will lead a group-directed conversation about death and dying/life and living. Participants are invited to share fears, tears, laughter, curiosity, creativity, stories, or lend an open ear in this safe, relaxed and supportive setting. For further information, call Jan at (510)684-5555 or visit [www.deathcafe.com](http://www.deathcafe.com).

**Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers** whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 11 and 25, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the sings. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Friends of the Rickman Store** is looking for volunteers to be greeters and assist in Saturday activities. The store is open Saturdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call Connie Reynolds (828)524-0359.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Franklin First United Methodist Church meets at 9:30 a.m.**, on Sundays for in-person worship or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin. Senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit [www.firstumcfranklin.org](http://www.firstumcfranklin.org)

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

**Tellico Baptist Church** is now having in-person Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. inside the church building with the Rev. L. E. Angel. Everyone is welcome.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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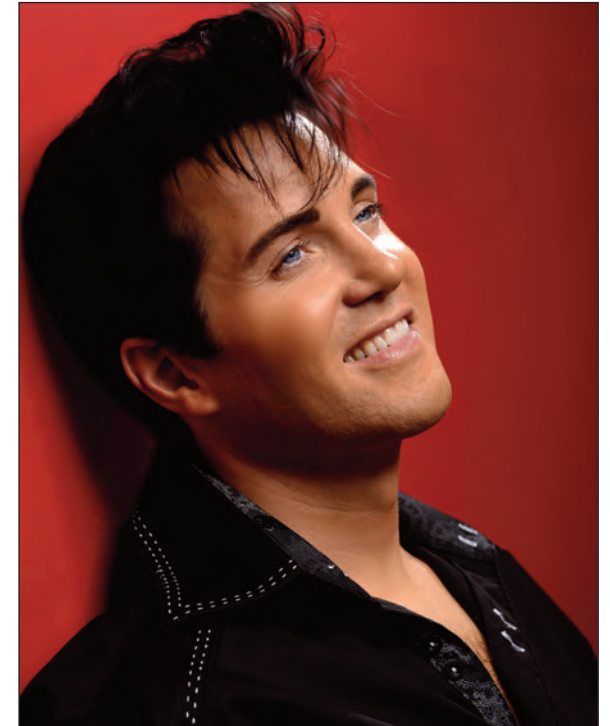
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## Travis LeDoyt pays tribute to 'The King'

The New York Times described artist Travis LeDoyt as “the world’s best young Elvis.” LeDoyt will present a tribute to the one and only Elvis Presley at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Aug. 6. LeDoyt’s remarkable resemblance and immeasurable talent provides for a dynamic show that is truly the next best thing to seeing “The King” perform live. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$20 each, with priority seating options available.

LeDoyt was exposed to all types of music as he was growing up in Greenfield, Mass., but it was when he was 16 years old he found himself completely captivated by a documentary on the career of Elvis Presley that began his admiration for the “King of Rock ‘n Roll.” He was intrigued by Presley’s looks, his charm, his music and his famous dance moves. LeDoyt could clearly see why so many people were drawn to the great Elvis Presley.

“Perhaps, what attracted me most about him was all the raw energy,” he said. LeDoyt expresses that same energy on stage as he captures the true essence of Elvis Presley in his show, “A Tribute To The King.”

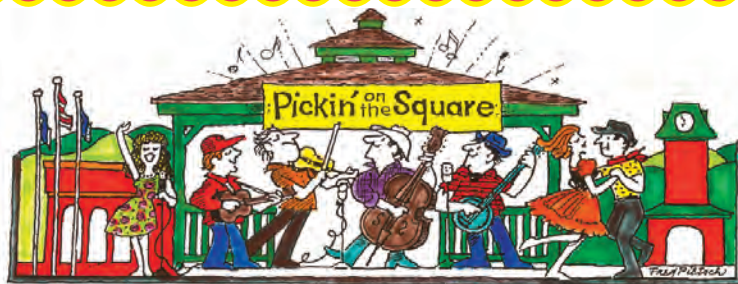
In 1999, LeDoyt entered a local talent show and debuted his first Elvis-inspired performance. Soon after, he was asked by someone in the local Chamber of Commerce to do a show for the town. From that point forward, his career began to bloom. He is a singer, performer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist who is very convincing in his jaw-dropping tribute to Elvis Presley. He utilizes an authentic three-piece band featuring upright slap bass, guitar, and drums which takes the audience back to a genuine Elvis Presley concert.

Elvis Presley is easily considered the most significant American icon of the 20th century. Some of his hits include, “Jailhouse Rock,” “Shake, Rattle, and Roll,” and “Love Me Tender.” LeDoyt greatly admires Elvis not only for the music he produced, but for his generosity, humility, and his desire to be an individual. It is that respect and admiration that leads LeDoyt to offer a spectacular show honoring a man who shaped a generation.

LeDoyt looks like Elvis, sings like Elvis, and has strikingly similar mannerisms like Elvis, but he is not just an Elvis impersonator, but a performer who perfectly captures the spirit of “The King.” To purchase tickets to see LeDoyt’s tribute to the iconic Elvis Presley, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.



# PICKIN' ON THE SQUARE



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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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## Deaths & Funerals

### Orrin Boyd Robert Sword Sr.

Orrin Boyd Robert Sword Sr., 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021.

Born in Salerno, Fla., he was the son of the late Bert R. and Agnes Driggers Sword. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Elisha Woodcum; and sister, Hilda Mae Kovacs.

"Bob," as he is affectionately known, was a Navy veteran, who served during the Korean War. He retired from the Florida Highway Patrol. He was a member of the Holy Name of Jesus Church in West Palm Beach, Fla.; the VFW; the American Legion; and the Jaycees of Tarpon Springs, Fla. He received two very special recognitions; the VFW presented him with a "Certificate of Appreciation" which stated, "In grateful recognition of unyielding adherence to the highest ideals of law enforcement in maintaining, preserving, and protecting the lawful rights of all citizens," and a letter from the Florida House of Representatives talking about his professional contributions to the citizens, fellow State Troopers, his friends and neighbors; signed by Rep. Frank S. Messersmith.

He belonged to the Image Group, who counseled married couples. He loved woodworking, fishing, gardening, and was considered a "master" griller. He enjoyed life, but the thing he most enjoyed was taking care of his family.

He is survived by "his bride" of 69 years, Bobbie; their children, Barbara Ann Sword of Franklin, Orrin Boyd Robert Sword Jr. (Anita) of Spring Hill, La., and Cynthia Bella Sword of Franklin; grandchildren, Gwendolyn Gibson (Caleb) and their daughter, Olivia; Bert Sword (Janine) and their children, Samantha and Max; Ashley Sword (Christian); Matthew Sword (Faith) and sons, Alex and Ethan; Zacheriah Sword (Melanie) and son, Noah Boyd; nephew, Frank Kovacs (Mary); and "granddaughter from the left," Angela Fitch and her children, Andrew and Luke Sword. He also has his faithful companion, Diesel; the Marx sisters and brother, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and their children; son-in-law from previous marriage, Woody Woodcum; his extended Harth Drive family of West Palm Beach; and children of the heart, Catherine, David, and Lyric Lopez; and many other friends surviving.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, July 31, at 11 a.m., at the Wolf Creek Enchanted Cottage, 3276 Wayah Rd., Franklin. Military honors will be provided by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Orrin Sword Sr.

### Maethel Elaine Deeg Shindelman

Maethel Elaine Deeg Shindelman, 95, long-time resident and community volunteer of Macon County started her voyage into eternity on July 24, 2021. Born the only child of Arthur and Ida Deeg on Nov. 11, 1925, in St. Paul, Minn., she was a precocious child, skipping two grades and entering the University of Minnesota at age 16. Her fascination about the workings of the brain led to her dream of becoming a neurologist. However, medical school turned her down in favor of males who would be sent to the fronts in WWII.

Pivoting her curiosity to understand the human mind-body connection, she turned to psychology and got her Masters' Degree, an accomplishment for a woman in the 1940s. One of her first jobs was at the VA hospital in Bath, N.Y., where she met Lawrence George Shindelman, who was to be her husband for the next 58 years. After taking time off to start a family, her career continued as a psychologist in the Miami-Dade public schools, and after moving to Macon County in 1970, she joined the Developmental Evaluation Clinic at Western Carolina University. Maethel and Larry were two of the original founders of the UU Fellowship of Franklin. After retirement, they loved to travel and visited numerous countries in Europe, Asia, and South America, collecting local folk art. She was also active with Friends of the Library, Carenet, Humane Society, and the League of Women Voters. She retained her curiosity, read voraciously, and enjoyed beauty in many forms especially artwork, music and nature, watching the trees, birds, moon and stars outside her window. She was also a pianist, often providing music for UUFF services. She had a caring and tender heart and delighted in helping the less fortunate as well as friends and neighbors.

She is survived by a son, Damien Michael Shindelman of Phoenix Ariz.; a daughter, Martha Zeigler (John) of Asheville; and grandson, Stewart Noe of the home.

Service arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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



Maethel Shindelman

### Lawrence Lee Hawley

Lawrence Lee Hawley, 84, passed away Sunday, July 25, 2021, in Highlands, N.C., after several years of declining health. He was born Nov. 9, 1936, in Hot Springs, Ark., to the late Norman R. Hawley and Margaret Steckle Hawley.

An Eagle Scout, he was a 1955 graduate of Cordele High School in Cordele, Ga., where he ran track. He went on to the University of Georgia where he joined the track team there, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and Air Force ROTC. After graduating in 1959, he completed his commitment to the Air Force on Fire Island, Alaska, before moving back to the Southeast. His early career in forestry eventually took him to eastern North Carolina. In 1974, he took a position with Georgia Pacific in Ahoskie where he moved his family. After a number of years, he moved on to found Hawley Forestry and Real Estate Company in Murfreesboro, N.C. He maintained that office on Main Street in Murfreesboro until he retired in 2016. He is a former member of both First Baptist Church of Ahoskie and Meherrin Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

He was very proud of his three children who knew him to love a good joke, to tell a good tale, and support his Georgia Bulldogs. They also appreciated his common-sense advice which he offered when asked.

Survivors include two daughters, Leisa Hawley Rowe (Michael) and Jennifer Hawley Madrigal (Keith) of Atlanta, Ga.; a son, Norman Patrick Hawley (Katie) of Greensboro, N.C.; five grandchildren, Charles Rowe, Grant Rowe, Jack Madrigal, Luke Madrigal, and Nora Kate Hawley; and a brother, Douglas Hawley of Dalton, Ga.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, July 31, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of BryantGrant Funeral Home in Franklin, N.C., where he spent several years in his early childhood, where his parents spent their retirement years, and where many happy memories made. He will be buried beside his parents in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the GCDC Initiative to benefit Eckerd Living Center where he received excellent care over the last five years, 250 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

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



Lawrence Lee Hawley

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The John F. Chandler Family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, called, text, sent flowers and brought food. We would like to also thank the ladies from the First Methodist Church & The First Baptist Church for preparing the dinner for us. Ed & Kathy Hill, for playing and singing John's favorite hymns and especially to Dr. Robert Brown and Rev. David Beam for the beautiful service for John's Funeral. And thank you to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for the help & kindness they showed us.

May God Bless Each & Everyone of you,  
Mary Lou Chandler





# Deaths & Funerals

## Charlotte Carter Merry

Charlotte Carter Merry, 77, died peacefully on June 28, 2021, in Highlands, N.C., surrounded by her loving husband, son and daughter. She courageously battled Alzheimer's disease for 10 years with the same grace and dignity that she lived her life. Despite her struggle with Alzheimer's, she remained active and happy until her death participating in croquet and art classes.

She was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Oct. 23, 1943, to Francis Graves Carter and Elizabeth Hamlet Carter, who preceded her in death as did her brother, Francis Graves Carter Jr.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Finley Merry; her son, Will Rice; her daughter, Adrian Robinson; her step son, Howard Merry; her brother, Martin Carter; and grandchildren, Rob and Carter Rice, Will and Rice Robinson and Vee Merry.

She attended Salem Academy and Salem College in Winston Salem where she graduated in 1965. Later she served on the board of Salem College. Throughout her life she was active in numerous philanthropic organizations including Historic Augusta, the Augusta Symphony, Augusta Assembly, Sand Hills Garden Club, Bulbs and Borders Garden Club, Morris Museum Gala Committee, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Bascom Art Center, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. She was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Augusta, Ga., and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. She was also a member of the Old Town Club in Winston Salem, the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta and the Augusta Country Club and Highlands Country Club.

Her loving personality and grace will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to spend time with her. She was a devoted and caring wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She gave endlessly of her time and talent to others. Even during her sickness, she brought joy to others. She was a beautiful person inside and outside. Her memory will live on forever.

A graveside service was held at Highlands Memorial Garden on June 30 with Father Bentley Manning and Rev. Mike Jones officiating with a celebration reception following the service at the Highlands Country Club.

The family would like to thank Charlotte's devoted friend and caretaker, Ellie Hartweger, who lovingly cared for her over the past five years, as well as the nurses and staff at Mission Hospital in Highlands. The family would also like to thank Kirk Moore of Oakleaf Florist and Garden.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Emory University.

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



Charlotte Carter Merry

## Julia Ann Higdon Green

Julia Ann Higdon Green, 90, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 1, 2021, in Tallahassee, Fla. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, a teacher and infamous banana pudding maker.

Julia, (known to most as Julie), was born Feb. 10, 1931, in Macon County, North Carolina, to Alfred and Ann Higdon. She grew up in Franklin, N.C., where she developed her math skills, a love of people and dogs, and her quick wit. She attended Wake Forest University, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa MU Epsilon, and graduated magna cum laude in 1952. There she met Livingston Green and they were married on Aug. 24, of the same year. They raised three children, Carol, Margaret, and Jimmy, and their granddaughter, Melanie.

She had many loves, one of which was math, equaled only by teaching math. What she found in numbers was a language she respected and understood deeply. Teaching this language to high school students was her passion. She was employed with Burlington City Schools for nearly 30 years. She taught general math, algebra, and geometry for academically talented students at Turrentine, Sellers-Gunn and Walter M. Williams and Hugh M. Cummings High Schools.

Over the years, it was not uncommon for her family to hear from many of her former students, "Mrs. Green changed my life." She never gave up on a student and she would not allow them to give up on learning math.

Her students changed her life, too. As she aged one would often hear her say, "I have lived so long that my doctor, my lawyer, my accountant, my cardiologist, my dentist, my pharmacist, my police chief, and my funeral directors are all my former students." She was always proud of her students, and we are grateful for the care they provided in her later years.

She loved her church, The First Baptist Church of Burlington, where she was an active member for 68 years and a deacon. She took a special interest in the youth at her church and started the College Student Card Ministry to reach out to young church members who had moved to other cities to attend college.

She was an active member of her community. In her earlier years, she was involved with charities such as the March of Dimes and was a member of the Garden Club. In her later years she volunteered at Elon University with the International Student Group. She was a loyal friend and was often seen exercising at the local YMCA with her "Y" friends whom she loved deeply or playing bridge with what we came to know as "The Bridge Club" – her longtime and dearest friends for over 60 years.

She rescued people and animals. If you needed caring for, she was up to it. She once saved an injured squirrel who lived with us for a year. She was known to keep a baby snake safe in a box locked in her school desk for one of her students. She took care of a young friend who lived with our family for an extended time. She was a dedicated and loving caregiver to our father who had Alzheimer's at the end stage of his life.

She had a great sense of humor. She often got the last word giving the rest of us the last laugh. Even near the end of her life she kept those who cared for her entertained with her dry wit and snappy banter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Livingston Green; her parents, Alfred and Ann Higdon; her brothers, James Terry Higdon, Thomas N. Higdon, and John L. Crawford.

She is survived by her children, Carol Fenwick, Margaret Ashmore, Jimmy Green, (Barbara); grandchildren, Melanie Daniels, (Eric), Sara Fenwick, Amanda Kupchella, (Ryan), Bobby Fenwick, Griffin Ashmore, and Ben and Lily Green; great-grandchildren, Maisie, Keller, Ava, Archer, and Aristotle; brother, Alfred Higdon; and sister, Beverly Moore.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, July 13, at Baptist Church of Burlington. Her committal service was held immediately following at Alamance Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to: ARMC Charitable Foundation Cancer Center General Fund; ATTN: Gift Processing; PO Box 202, Burlington, NC. 27215.

Rich & Thompson Funeral Services in Burlington is serving the family.



Julia Ann Higdon Green

## Herbert Glenn Southard

Another one of our Lord's children just went to join Him with praise and rejoicing. Herbert Glenn Southard, 90, went on to Glory on July 21, 2021.

If you knew Herbert Glenn Southard, you knew he loved the Lord Jesus and lived his life accordingly. He was a Christian first and a family man second. A member of Longview Baptist Church, he served as deacon for several years. During that time, he and his wife enjoyed their roles as church custodians. He was also the caretaker of the church cemetery and kept the church grounds freshly trimmed.

He was born on May 1, 1931, to Albert and Ola Henry Southard. He was a veteran of the United States Army and spent many years working at Rabun Mills. He was a dedicated husband to the love of his life, his wife, Wayles Arrowood Southard. They were married almost 60 years.

He was a very kind man who loved his children and was especially proud of them and their accomplishments. He complimented his daughter, Tammy, in the best possible way by saying she was a good cook like her mother. He truly enjoyed being outdoors best of all, whether it be hunting, fishing, or just looking for ginseng. He was also a true-blue lifelong Atlanta Braves fan through good seasons and bad seasons.

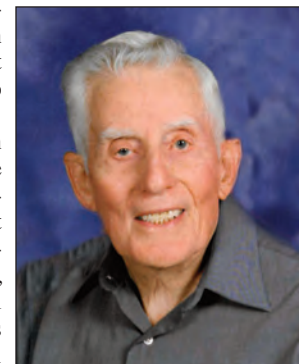
He is survived by his children, Tammy Stanley (Steve) and Mike Southard (Casey); his grandchildren, Chase Stanley, Chandler Stanley, and Jesse Stahl (Deanna), and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, his parents and his brothers, Rev. Gene Southard and Rev. Howard Southard.

His family is forever grateful to the excellent care given him by Laura Scruggs, Linda Witherington, and Marilyn Welch. He loved these ladies and cared for each of them very much.

Services were held on Saturday, July 24, at Longview Baptist Church with Revs. Johnny Lee, Tom Nahlen, and Don Moffitt officiating. Pallbearers were Bruce Fox, Ashton Fox, Stevie Stanley, Chandler Stanley, Jesse Stahl, and Nick Potts. Honorary pallbearers were deacons of Longview Baptist Church.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Southard family.

Online condolences at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).



Herbert Glenn Southard

## Thomas Preaulo Crawford

Thomas Preaulo Crawford, 91, of Franklin, N.C., passed July 14, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late Cecil and Flora Robinson Crawford. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, George Crawford, Kenneth Crawford, and Lowell Crawford.

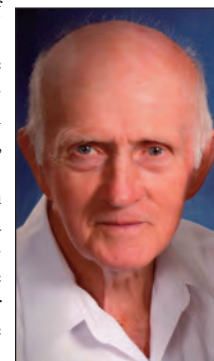
He was a United States Army veteran and served in the Korean conflict. He was a lifetime resident of Macon County, a member of Mt Hope Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and in any areas where he was needed. He also worked with the Macon County Schools for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Johnson Crawford; children, Charles Crawford (Teree) of Asheville, N.C., Virginia Coss, and Alan Crawford (Lori) all of Franklin; brothers, Bruce Crawford and Burt Crawford; sisters, Ruth Slagle and Geneva Burnette, all of Franklin; 10 grandchildren, Vanessa, Meagan, Lance, Morgan, Matthew, Ashley, Ryan, Haylie, Chandler and Brie; nine great grandchildren, Sophia, Gunner, Adelaide, Jamison, Emerson, AnnieMae, Maverick, Parker and Malachi; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made Mt. Hope Baptist Church.

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



Thomas Crawford



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## Deaths & Funerals

### Janet Louise Riker Eve

Janet Louise Riker Eve, 90, passed away on July 18, 2021. She was born Aug. 21, 1930, to Thaddeus Weed Riker and Fannie Rhea Preston, both college professors. During her third year at University of Texas, while studying fine art, she met and later married Philip Henry Eve Jr. They moved around the southeast, had four children, and settled in Decatur, Ga., where she lived for the rest of her years.

As a teen, she taught swimming at Camp Tejas. As a mom, she spent summers watching her sons play baseball. She loved reading and watching the Atlanta Braves and tennis. She travelled the world, visiting 23 countries. She hiked, camped, canoed, swam, and kayaked until age 88. She loved the beach and gathering with her family and friends.

She retired from IRS after 30 years. Later, was a census taker and poll worker. She led and was a member of Saturday Happy Hikers, Roadrunners, and Splash dancers Synchronized Swim Team. She volunteered for many activities including the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, tennis portion; Red Cross, Peachtree Road Race; Fox and Alliance Theatres; was a council member, fire marshal, and librarian for Clairmont Crest Apartments (where she lived since 2003). She was a member of a bridge club, DAR, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

She is survived by her children, Philip III (Ellen) of Cumming, Diana (Allan) of Flowery Branch, John (Lynn) of Franklin, N.C., and David (Robin) of Hendersonville, NC; nine grandchildren: Philip IV (Tara), Rachel, Mark, Michael, Alex, Kyle (Lauren), Joel, Lange, and Max; five great grandchildren: Reagan, Caroline, Preston, Baylon and Arlen.

A private memorial service is planned for the near future. Memorial gifts may be sent to St. Bart's Episcopal Church, Atlanta.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

### Gary Allen Hill

Gary Allen Hill, 43, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

Born in Hollywood, Fla., he was the son of Catherine Foley Lequire and the late Gary L. Hill. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Daniel E. and Gertrude Foley.

He lived in Franklin most of his life; he attended Biltmore Church; loved to run, listen to music, and was an avid reader.

He is survived by his mother, Catherine Foley Lequire of Franklin; sister, Megan Keener (Jonathan); and brother, Jason Hill, all of Franklin; two nephews, several cousins and numerous friends.

Memorial service was held Monday, July 26, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Tully Griggs officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the charity of one's choice.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Janet Louise Riker Eve

### Kenneth (Ken) Alter

If humans can cross over the Rainbow Bridge on their way into Heaven, Kenneth (Ken) Alter crossed it on July 22, 2021, and had the most joyful reunion with all the dogs and cats that he had ever rescued, cared for, groomed and loved during his time on earth.

Born in Dallas, Texas, on July 15, 1957, he was the middle son of Scott and Marie Alter. When Scott passed away from cancer in the mid-1960s, Marie and her three Alter boys relocated back to her parent's hometown of Bradford, Pa.

In Pennsylvania, Ken and his brothers thrived and played in the beautiful hills and waters of the Allegheny National Forest. When he wasn't enjoying the wild outdoors, he attended St. Bernard Elementary School and graduated from Bradford Central Christian High School in 1976.

Carrying a strong work ethic throughout his life, he labored in the Pennsylvania oil fields and later served Witco/American Refining Group in its Bradford refinery.

He and his first wife, Denise Alter, were blessed with one daughter, Nicole, who inherited so many of his wonderful qualities: Love of dogs and cats, cars, outdoor fun, caring for others, a quick willingness to help anyone in need and a delightful, albeit quirky, sense of humor. One thing Nicole did not inherit was Ken's unsurpassed moustache. This became his trademark and stayed with him to the end of his valiant battle with carcinosarcoma.

Ken met his second wife, Paula Johnson Alter, in early 2001. It's likely that his late maternal grandfather and Paula's late paternal grandfather had a hand in steering destiny. Soon after they started dating, they learned their grandfathers had been best friends and shared a mutual love of raising horses.

On July 11, 2001, Ken asked Paula to marry him. After she said yes, he took her outside and pointed to the abundantly starry sky saying "Our parents had them turn on all the lights for us tonight." Ken and Paula married later that year on Nov. 23 and celebrated their love and commitment in the presence of God and family during a candlelit ceremony at their home.

Soon after their marriage, Ken, with part-time assistance from Paula, launched Alternative Expressions Studio specializing in photography and graphic design. His calm, friendly demeanor and creativity made him a popular portrait, pet, wedding and industrial photographer in the Bradford area.

When Paula accepted a healthcare leadership role in Franklin, Ken happily followed her to the Great Smoky Mountains. He later assisted Dan Andrews in opening Paula's Pet Paradise where he enjoyed grooming and playing with pets, along with scooping pet poop, until his retirement due to cancer in May of this year.

Along with enjoying their mountaintop scenic views, Ken and Paula spent many happy days on their pontoon boat, the "K-9 Cruiser," at Fontana Lake. Ken skillfully rebuilt their boat from the deck up, and enjoyed finding new coves for his beloved morning and afternoon naps. They were always accompanied by three or four canines and their lake escapades brought smiles to many. As his health declined in the final weeks, he was treated to a final pontoon boat ride and conversation with his special marina buddies at Almond Boat Dock & RV Park.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 20 years, Paula Johnson Alter; daughter, Nicole Alter (Katelyn Sherwin) of Bradford, Pa. brothers, Tom Alter (Kathy) of Independence, Ky., and Jim Alter (Marcia) of Willow Springs, N.C.; several nieces and nephews; first wife, Denise Alter, of Bradford; good friend and brother-in-law, Tom Johnson, of Franklin, N.C.; and his precious fur children. All who were blessed to know Ken will greatly miss him but also rejoice in his complete heavenly healing.

In accordance with his wishes, his family will privately remember him with love and laughter at his and Paula's mountaintop retreat and surrounded by their adoring fur children.

If you would like to honor Ken's love for pets, please consider a donation in his memory to one of these very deserving and "impawtant" pet charities: Advocates for Animals of WNC ([www.a4awnc.org](http://www.a4awnc.org)), Appalachian Animal Rescue Center (851 Lake Emory Rd., Franklin, NC 28734) or Noah's Ark Humane Society (1239 Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, NC 28734).

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Ken's family. Online condolences at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com)



Kenneth Alter

### Nancy Lee Fisher Patton

Nancy Lee Fisher Patton, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Athens, Ga., she was the daughter of the late James H. and Gladys Murray Fisher. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, Carey B. Patton Jr. in May 2019. She was a retired teacher in the Macon County School system. She volunteered in the D.A.'s office for seven years after retiring. She was a friend to many, and she loved working with stained glass, but what she cherished most was the time spent with her grandchildren and family.

She is survived by son, Carey Patton and wife, Brandi; sister, Frances Moore and husband, Tommy of Franklin; two grandchildren, Ruck Shaw Patton and Blake McCree Patton; and one nephew, Nathanael Moore of Franklin; and numerous friends.

A Time of Remembrance was held Saturday, July 24, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the VVA Scholarship Fund, 203 Sloan Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

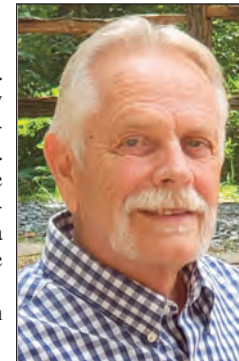


Nancy Lee Fisher Patton

### Stephen W. Anglin Sr.

A celebration of life for Stephen W. Anglin Sr. will be held Saturday, July 31, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Biltmore Baptist Church, Franklin Campus. Friends are invited to drop by anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. and share memories of Steve with us. If you have a classic car or motorcycle, please drive it in Steve's honor.

The church is located at 691 Sloan Rd. Franklin.



Stephen W. Anglin Sr.

### Yukie Sandra Picklesimer

Yukie Sandra Picklesimer, 91, died Dec. 6, 2020, at her home in Lemmon, S.D. She was born in Tokyo, Japan, on Jan. 1, 1929. She was the oldest of five children. She met her husband Ralph in Japan, got married and traveled all over the world with the military. She eventually came back to Franklin, N.C., which was her husband's birthplace. They retired to Sebastian, Fla., in the early 1990s.

She was an avid reader and enjoyed crocheting, painting, sewing, and multiple other crafts. She always enjoyed helping people and volunteered for many years at the Indian River Medical Center in Sebastian.

She is survived by sons, James Edward Picklesimer and wife Debbie and their children, Michael and Kyle, all of Fort Worth, Texas; Hiroaki Charles Picklesimer and wife Jennifer and their children, Kiyoko, Hana, and Hiroshi, all of Lemmon.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m., at Drymans Chapel Church.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Picklesimer family.



Yukie Sandra Picklesimer



# Brad Keselowski takes on leadership role as Roush Fenway Racing partner

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Brad Keselowski says he feels like an investor buying a stock that's about to go up.

That was the optimistic attitude all parties expressed Tuesday at the NASCAR Hall of Fame, where Keselowski was announced as the new minority partner and driver with Roush Fenway Racing (RFR), effective at the end of the 2021 season.

A former team owner in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, Keselowski is purchasing a piece of RFR, jointly owned by founder Jack Roush and the Fenway Sports Group. At the end of the season, he will leave the No. 2 Ford at Team Penske, where he has claimed 34 of his 35 career Cup wins, a NASCAR Cup Series championship and a NASCAR Xfinity Series championship.

In 2022, concurrent with the introduction of NASCAR's Next Gen Cup car, Keselowski will drive the No. 6 Roush Fenway Ford, replacing Ryan Newman in that ride. Chris Buescher will continue to drive the No. 17 Ford for the organization.

In the process, Keselowski will adopt a leadership role with the team as well as an ownership interest, cementing a succession plan for Roush, who turned 79 in April.

"It's an incredible opportunity," Keselowski said during the announcement. "There were four key components for me. To have a long-term driving contract was something I valued. I want to stay in one place and be there for a long time, hopefully for the rest of my career. That's the intent and the goal.

"The second position which was really important to me was to be in a leadership role... to be able to express myself creatively and be able to lead the company and team to be the best it can be. That was really critical to me.

"The third thing was of course the ownership position. That's quite a unique opportunity that really excites me... It represents growth for me, personally and professionally, which is very important. And that's really the fourth point, to have a role in the sport after I'm done driving."

Keselowski's entrance gives Roush an exit



Former NASCAR Cup Series Champion Brad Keselowski will depart Team Penske at the end of the 2021 season to pursue other opportunities within the sport including a partnership and driver with Roush Fenway Racing.

plan—but it's not one he's ready to exercise just yet.

"I welcome him as a partner, and I look forward to what we can do together," Roush said. "I've been asked to say that I'm passing the baton to him, which I am, but I still have one hand on the thing, so I'm not going to give it up completely for a while.

"There are no retirement plans for me in my immediate future. I intend to keep going to the race tracks and to be as much of a nuisance and a distraction to my drivers and my crew chiefs as I have been in the past."

As is the organization's custom, RFR president Steve Newmark declined to reveal the specific financial details of the partnership. Roush and the Fenway Sports Group have operated 50-50 partners before the addition of Keselowski to the mix.

"He's obviously purchased a minority interest," Newmark said, "but he's not technically buying from either Roush or Fenway... The way we look at it is we basically have three partners going forward."

Roush Fenway Racing has discussed with Newman the prospect of driving a third car on a part-time basis, pending available resources, but nothing has been decided on that front.

With the Fenway presence in the partnership, Keselowski, a Michigan native, was asked whether he would have to switch his allegiance from the Detroit Tigers to the Boston Red Sox.

"Well, we haven't had those discussions yet," Keselowski said. "Right now, there's a lot more to cheer for in Boston than there is in Detroit, so I think I'll remain a fair-weather fan for years to come."

Austin Cindric set to drive No. 2 Mustang for Team Penske in 2022

MOORESVILLE, N.C. (July 15, 2021) – Team Penske has announced that Austin Cindric, the defending NASCAR Xfinity Series (NXS) Champion and the current series points leader, will drive the famed No. 2 Team Penske Ford Mustang in the NASCAR Cup Series starting in 2022. This comes after Cin-

dric was previously announced to transition to the Cup Series full-time next season driving the No. 21 for Wood Brothers Racing.

Concurrently, former NASCAR Cup Series Champion Brad Keselowski will depart Team Penske at the end of the 2021 season to pursue other opportunities within the sport.

"Austin is a champion and has proven his abilities both on and off the track," said Roger Penske. "The Cup Series is a big step for any rookie but making this move now makes sense. He has gained valuable experience this year competing in a handful of races at the Cup level and he has shown that he belongs out there."

Cindric has earned 12 Xfinity Series wins for Team Penske and currently leads the series point standings and tops in wins, top 10s, stage wins and laps led. He has also made six starts in the Cup Series in 2021, leading laps in three of those events. At COTA and Road America, Cindric qualified in the top-five and led laps in each race. He also led laps at the Daytona 500 while running in the top 10 for the majority of the race. Cindric will join teammates Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano to round out a strong NASCAR Cup Series lineup for Team Penske in 2022.

"Throughout my NASCAR career, I've grown a lot as a driver and an individual," said Cindric. "There are so many individuals within the walls of Team Penske that have elevated me to a level that matches this opportunity. The support towards my development from Roger, Team Penske, and all of our partners has been the leading factor towards race wins and a championship.

"The No. 2 car is iconic to this sport and is a number that represents the foundation of this team. It is a great honor and a great responsibility to continue that role. As 2022 gets closer, I am excited to embrace that. Until then, my focus remains on winning another Xfinity Series Championship."

Additionally, Team Penske announced that long-time partner Discount Tire will remain a key sponsor with the organization moving forward on both the No. 2 of Cindric and the No. 12 of Blaney in 2022. The remainder of Cindric's partner lineup will be announced later.

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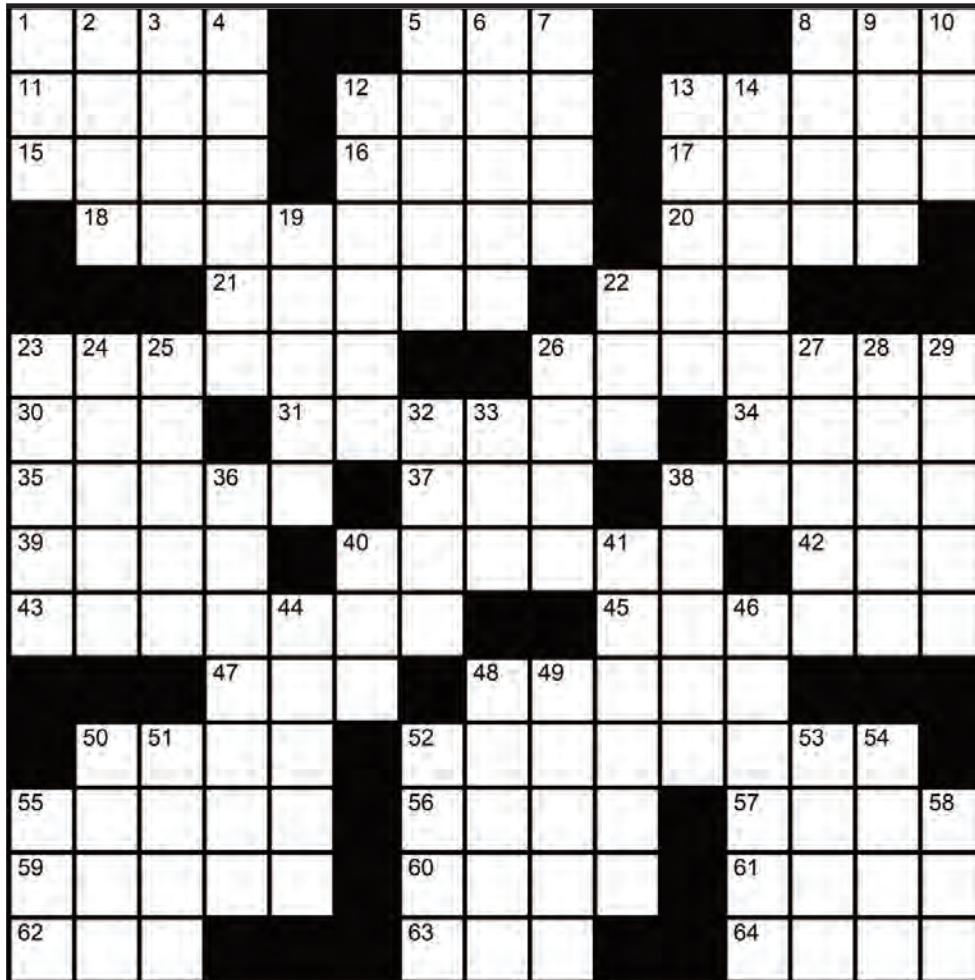
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### ACROSS

1. \*Baseball's "The Say Hey Kid"
5. TV tube in days of yore
8. Proof of age, pl.
11. Medicinal succulent
12. Toward shelter, nautically
13. White heron
15. Poet \_\_\_\_ Angelou
16. Where a bib is tied
17. Taste like grapes
18. \*First African American to play in MLB
20. Chap or fella
21. Do like Etna
22. Auction set
23. Property defacer
26. Italian vermouth brand
30. 2nd largest bird in world
31. Informal wear
34. "The Man Who \_\_\_\_ Too Much"
35. Relating to Scandinavia
37. Chicken \_\_\_\_ king
38. Nearsited one
39. Bear in the sky
40. The largest Asian antelope
42. \*Dolphin great \_\_\_\_ Marino
43. Reusable painting pattern
45. Stands out
47. Cotillion V.I.P.
48. Deli item
50. Cain's brother
52. \*a.k.a. The Great Bambino
55. Oyster gem
56. Dwarf buffalo
57. Algonquian people
59. Body trunk
60. Hay spot
61. \*"Battle of the Sexes" champion



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62. A in FANBOYS
63. Altitude, for short
64. "Comme ci, comme Ça"

### DOWN

1. Mom in Scotland
2. Wing-shaped
3. Walk-the-dog toy
4. Bottom of the ocean
5. Fastener
6. Move a plant
7. \*Pele or Bob Feller when they debuted
8. Armenia's neighbor
9. Cabinet div.
10. Dirty dwelling
12. Declares invalid
13. Encourage, two words
14. \*NHL's "The Great One"
19. Very angry
22. Type of English course, for short
23. Where women are from?
24. "To death" in France
25. Florence Nightingale, e.g.
26. Mountain goat terrain
27. Opposite of cathode
28. Himalayan country
29. \*Track and field star of 1936 Olympics
32. Frozen rain
33. "\_\_\_\_ at ease"
36. \*He simultaneously played in MLB and NFL
38. Ginger beer in a cocktail, e.g.
40. Pen point
41. Sea in the Mediterranean

44. Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
46. Talks like a chicken
48. Overfamiliar from overuse
49. Terminate, as in mission
50. Same as eon
51. Shakespeare, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ of Avon
52. "Ali \_\_\_\_ and the 40 Thieves"
53. \*Tinker, Evers and Chance, e.g.
54. Egg-layers
55. Parent volunteer organization
58. Id's partner

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**GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT** Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. (828)524-5475.

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**FREE LAWN CARE** Estimates, \$5. Off With Ad, Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch/Fertilizer, Pressure Washing, Gutters Cleaned. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

**SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR & Service**, 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

**CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling**, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. Cell (828)371-9754.

**LAWNS MOWED** in Macon County Area, 25 Years Mowing Experience. Starting at \$35. Call (828)524-0114.

**GIBSON'S PAINTING & Home Repairs**, 30 Years Experience, Insured, Satisfaction Guaranteed, Interior and Exterior Painting, Pressure Washing. Free Estimates, Beat Any Price. (828)200-7549.

**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.

**GARY'S SMALL ENGINE** Repair & Service, Repair to all brands of Outdoor Equipment at reasonable rates. Call (828)349-4623.

**NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC.** 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.

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

**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.

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

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

**DIESCHER ELECTRIC** Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

### Real Estate

**2 ADJOINING 1 ACRE LOTS** Gated Community, Close to Town, Paved Roads, Underground Utilities, Shared Well, Mountain Views. (727)510-1482.

### Commercial Rentals

**TIMES SQUARE PROPERTIES** Multiple professional office, spaces available within city limits ranging from \$250-\$595 monthly. Residential units coming soon! (828)200-7019.

**OFFICE/RETAIL** Available 8/15, Franklin Business Center Suite 201-Great for professional office or light retail. 860 sq ft w/ up to four offices/three entrances; fronts on Palmer Street with off-street parking. (828)634-7939.

### Rentals

**HOUSING NEEDED:** I need a long term rental (not vacation) in the Franklin/Bryson City/Sylva/Cherokee area. 1-2 bedroom, 1+ bath. For 2 adults (male/female) and our medium-sized dog. I'm relocating and will be here the months of Sept/Oct to view properties. (727)494-5435

**RV/CAMPER LOT** Short distance to town. \$325/month. 6-month minimum. Includes water, sewer, and trash. Text your email address to (828)346-1200 for all the details.

**CUSTOM BUILT HOME** 2BD/1.5BA Country Living at Its Best. Great Views, Cowee Community, Central Heat/Air, No Pets. \$975/monthly, First/Last/Security, with References. Lease Agreement Required. (828)371-7760.

### Notices

**MACON COUNTY FAIR** seeking bids for operating the concession stand during the 2021 County Fair for the week of September 21-25, 2019. Bids must be submitted to PO Box 446, Franklin, NC, 28744, by August 16, 2021. For any questions call (828)369-3523.

### Auctions

**SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO.** online bidding, SmokeyMountainAuctionCo.hibid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat NCAL 10389 (828)634-4271.

### Help Wanted

**FULL-TIME PARALEGAL/LEGAL Assistant:** Real estate experience and some bookkeeping skills preferred. Commitment to client's needs and confidentiality required; dependability and professionalism are essential. Professional office located in Franklin, NC. Send resume to 61 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

**ZAXBY'S OF FRANKLIN** Now Hiring Full-time, Cooks, Cashiers. Apply at www.zaxjobs.com. Come grow with us!

**THE SUMMER HOUSE** by Reeves is hiring professional-appearing warehouse and delivery team members who can lift at least 60lbs and are interested in excellent starting pay as well as full benefits for full-time employees. Come by in person to 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands and ask for Sam or Janice.

**THE SUMMER HOUSE** by Reeves is looking to add a motivated and hard-working team member to our staff for shipping and receiving responsibilities that include checking in and price-tagging merchandise and working close with other departments such as sales and delivery. We offer excellent starting pay and full benefits for full-time staff. Must be able to lift 40lbs and have basic computer skills. Come by in person to 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands and ask for Sam or Janice.

### Misc. For Sale

(1) **WOOD SPLITTER** \$800 (7) Gutters, Used \$200 each. (1) 21 inch Mower, Troy Built \$75. (1) String Trimmer, Push Model \$40 (828)421-0058.

**POWER PLATE MY3** New \$1,500. Slim Cycle New \$150. Call After 6 p.m. (828)524-5845.

**NEW HP DESKJET PLUS 4100** All-in-one series Printer. Bought in July 2021. Made under 20 copies, Paid \$106.00 for Printer; Paid \$10.00 for CD ROM. Call (828)369-9914 Reasonable offers only.

**FARMERS MARKET** Spring Season 8-12, every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Winter Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Large Assortment of Cookies. Blueberry & Blackberry Bushes, Peonies. 200 Block East Palmer.

**SHARP'S BERRY FARM** U-Pick Blueberries and thornless Blackberries. Very good crop this year. Bring the children, have fun. (828)371-0190, (828)342-4250.

### Motor Vehicles

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

**COMPANION HEALTH CARE** is looking for compassionate and caring individuals to work in homes. CNAs and PCAs part-time, flexible hours. If you enjoy caring for others, contact Heather (828)524-6444.

**THRIFT STORE STOCKER** Part-time, Must be Able to Lift 60lbs. Apply in Person for Details at AARC Thrift Store, 1507 Old Murphy Rd. Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-2pm.

**THRIFT STORE CASHIER** Part-time, Apply in Person, AARC Thrift Store, 1507 Old Murphy Rd., Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-2pm for Details.

### Position Wanted

**JOB WANTED:** Seeking office administration position. 2.5 years experience in a busy municipal town hall (includes building department permitting). I have an AS in Office Administration & a BS in Management. I'm relocating to this area and bringing my conservative values with me. I will work in Franklin/Bryson City/Sylva/Cherokee. I would love to work for a General Contractor or other type of contractors as a permit coordinator. (727)494-5435.

### Garage & Yard Sales

**5-FAMILY** Saturday, July 31, 8am-? Highlands Rd. to River Rd. to Bryson Branch. Items for Everyone.

### Animals

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

### Community Fundraisers

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

**Musical Instruments Repaired**  
**REASONABLE!**



**Buy, Trade & Sales Lessons**  
Call Peter (828)524-1010



## COMMERCIAL CAPS



**Anglin** RV • TRUCK & TRAILER  
In Otto since 1998

**9957 Georgia Rd. Otto, NC**  
**828-349-4500**

## Felix's Tree Expert, LLC

For All Your Tree Needs!

- Complete Tree Removal
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Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Insured & Reliable • Call Us Today for FREE ESTIMATES  
**(828) 200-1052**

**TreeServiceFranklinNC.com**

## Franklin Flea Market, LLC

**UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP**

We have over 16 vendor's, everything from A to Z...

Lombard's Antiques and collectables is having a mid summer clearance sale.

Fresh fruits and vegetables sold on Saturday.

*We have several stores & tables available for rent.*

**867 Highlands Rd in Franklin**  
Hours: Friday and Saturday 8 till 6  
Sunday and Thursday 11 till 5  
Clean Restrooms.

## SHOP LOCAL



# CHEVROLET. AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING FULL-LINE BRAND.

BASED ON RETAIL SEGMENT SHARE GAINS, 2020.



## NEW BLAZERS

FROM \$43,900



## NEW SILVERADOS

FROM \$37,900



## NEW SUBURBANS

FROM \$56,900



## NEW BOLTS

FROM \$25,900



## NEW TRAILBLAZERS

FROM \$24,000



## NEW EQUINOXS

FROM \$24,900



PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

### 2017 F-250 PLATINUM



Crew cab, 4X4, Diesel 6.7 lt. Every conceivable option on this beast, including leather, panoramic roof, navigation, retractable running boards and only 14,979 miles on this 1 owner local truck!!! \$74,995

### 2019 GMC YUKON DENALI



Local 1 owner with only 10,809 miles! Includes navigation, sunroof, memory heated/cooled seats, wireless cellphone charging and so much more for ONLY \$69,995

### 2018 JEEP WRANGLER UNLTD. SPORT



V6, automatic, 4X4 and only 34,460 miles! Ready to explore our beautiful state with the top down!!! \$38,900

### 2019 HONDA RIDGELINE



AWD, fully loaded, 1 owner, clean CARFAX. Heated leather seats, sunroof, remote start and so much more for ONLY \$36,995

### 2018.5 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT



AWD, only 18,401 miles on this fully equipped SUV with power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt and cruise. ONLY \$25,995

### 2013 GMC SIERRA 1500



Crew cab, 4X4, V8, automatic transmission, power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, keyless entry and ice cold air conditioning with 134,883 miles. ONLY \$21,995

### 2019 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE



3.6 lt. V6, power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, keyless entry. Third row seat, 1 owner, local trade in. ONLY \$35,995

### 2019 FORD EDGE SE



1 owner, new car trade in, clean CARFAX with only 23,273 miles. Power windows, locks, mirrors and so much more for ONLY \$26,995



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