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July 8, 2021 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 8

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Among the activities at the Town of Franklin's Independence Day Celebration was a Patriotic Pet Contest. Pictured (L-R) are the winners, (L-R) Alistrah and Ethel Dowdle with Starry; Rayne Szpara and Jaydan; Keegan and C.J McKinley and Brodie. Also on the agenda was the crowning of Mr. & Ms. Firecracker and a Patriotic Parade, followed at dusk by a spectacular fireworks display that could be viewed from atop Town Hill in downtown Franklin. For more photos, see page 12. Photo by Ellen Randall

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Two Macon County All Star teams head to state

CF&R in upheaval over policy changes

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After months of internal disputes, Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue held its annual business meeting last Thursday which resulted in policy changes that now prevent firefighters who do not live within the Cullasaja Gorge Fire district from volunteering on the department.

Over the years, volunteer fire departments have struggled to meet roster requirements due to a decline in people signing up to volunteer. To address this, it has become standard practice for individuals who do not live within a specific fire district to volunteer with neighboring departments, which was the case at Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue until Thurs-

day night.

Thursday's meeting was advertised in a local paper as allegedly required by the department's bylaws.

The vote to allow only individuals who live within the Cullasaja Gorge Fire district to be eligible to volunteer with the department was a change to existing bylaws. Despite multiple requests, the bylaws for the fire department have not been made available for review.

Interim Fire Chief Bobby Henry, who was appointed Thursday night, stated that a request to have a copy of the bylaws was made to the board and it would be up to them

See CULLASAJA page 2

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CULLASAJA

Continued from page 1

whether or not they would be provided. After speaking with Henry, Chairman Mark Lamb, who has since resigned, stated that at the guidance of outgoing Chairman Jack Baird, any request for the bylaws would need to be made through the fire department's legal counsel.

The fire department is considered a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, therefore bylaws and most operating documents are generally considered public record and available to members upon request.

The meeting at Cullasaja Fire Department began at 7:30 p.m. Board Chairman Jack Baird noted when calling the meeting to order that Thursday night was the first time during his 5 or 6 year tenure as chairman that a fire department business meeting had enough members of the community present for a quorum, meaning there were enough people present to vote on business or changes to the department.

As soon as Baird called the public meeting to order, a gentleman in the audience made a motion to close the meeting to any member of the public that did not reside within the Cullasaja Fire district. Baird then explained to the crowd that according to the department's bylaws, business being discussed that would be voted on could be held during a closed meeting where only property owners of the Cullasaja Fire District could be present and be allowed to vote.

Prior to Thursday night's meeting, the majority of the firefighter roster for the Cullasaja Fire Department was comprised of volunteers who resided outside of the fire district — including the top three ranking members of the



Volunteer firefighters with Cullasaja Fire & Rescue turned in their gear following their eviction from a business meeting in which a vote was taken to terminate their membership with the fire department.

fire department. Members of the Cullasaja Community in attendance for the meeting — although not members of the fire department — voted to close the meeting, which resulted in the majority of active volunteer members being forced to leave. Despite Baird stating that the bylaws allowed only property owners to be able to vote, no verification ensued on whether or not those that voted were actually property owners. Henry stated that verification of residency did not need to be completed Thursday night prior to the vote because he had verified everyone's residency prior to the meeting.

The ranking members of a volunteer fire department are elected and voted on by the volunteer firefighters within the department. During a recent internal election, firefighters voted to elect Tubby Zachary as the next chief of Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue. Zachary has served as assistant chief of the department for

the last two years and has volunteered with the department for the last eight years. Zachary is dually sworn and also serves on the Highlands Fire Department. While Zachary does not own property within the Cullasaja Fire District, he and his wife reside across the road from the fire department for more than half the year, coincidentally in the months with higher call volumes, arguably providing a better response time for calls.

About half an hour into the closed meeting, the individuals who were forced to leave at the beginning of the meeting decided that based on the conversation they knew was occurring during the closed meeting and the attempt to circumvent the newly elected department leaders, they were ready to resign from their posts. The 14 volunteers then entered the closed meeting and placed their fire department gear on the floor. David Dabney, who attended the meeting last Thursday, asked the volunteers twice to leave the meeting, at which point Baird called for law enforcement to intervene.

Henry, who previously served as a paid member of Cullasaja Gorge fire department before resigning to take another position on Squad 4 with the county, spoke to community members to inform them that the Cullasaja Gorge Fire Department exists to serve the community, therefore, the operations of the fire department is ultimately up to them. Henry also noted that the individuals on the fire department who had just turned in their gear would allegedly check into the fire department as if they responded to calls — which means they would be credited with the \$15 provided to volunteers for answering a call — but never actually responded to calls. Henry did not provide any evidence to the claim nor allowed the members to whom he was referring with an opportunity to address the claim. The accusation that volunteers were claiming to respond to calls was the center point for prohibiting people who live outside of the fire district from serving on the board, however, no such record exists in department minutes of there ever being an issue or claim that such actions were occurring.

Henry said that the county fire board responsible for overseeing volunteer fire departments was prepared to conduct an inspection on Tuesday to determine if the Cullasaja Fire Department could continue operating with the number of members on the board at that time. The Tuesday inspection was already anticipated prior to

Thursday night's meeting. County leaders had already been made aware that it was likely after Thursday night's meeting, there would be fewer active firefighters on the roster. The inspection had been arranged prior to Thursday's meeting.

Baird informed those in attendance that by Tuesday, if the fire department did not have at least 14 active members, on the roster, that the department would be placed on probation by the county. According to Macon County Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe, that probation would be due to falling below membership levels that are contractually required by the county.

A motion was then made by a member of the group to change the department policy to no longer allow volunteer firefighters to join the department if they do not reside within the Cullasaja Fire District. The motion passed with 43 votes in favor of the change — however no verification regarding the residency or property ownership of those who voted was requested.

On a motion made by Melissa Henry, Bobby Henry's wife, Bobby Henry was then appointed interim chief of the fire department due to Zachary no longer being eligible for the post he was elected to since he did not own property.

After the meeting, Zachary raised the question as to the validity of Henry being able to serve as Interim Chief of the Department because he does not own the home in which he lives. When Zachary posed the question addressing Henry's property ownership, Henry ordered Zachary and other members of the department removed from the premises by law enforcement. Several additional members of the fire department board allegedly do not meet the new requirements of being property owners as voted on Thursday night, however not only were they permitted to be present during Thursday's meeting, they were allowed to vote.

According to Cabe, the inspection was conducted on Tuesday and since 21 members of the fire department resigned last Thursday, 18 new members have completed applications to join the department, bringing the department's total roster to 32 people.

"We looked at the department's 32-member roster and determined that 22 of those individuals had sufficient enough training to be considered active members," said Cabe. "With the new members on the roster, Cullasaja was able to successfully pass the inspection and are in compliance with their contractual obligations to the county."

Cabe said although the department met the requirements of the inspection, the county intends to continue monitoring the department over the next three months to ensure they are able to maintain the required roster as well as monitor call responses to ensure the community is adequately covered in the case of an emergency.

Cabe said that over the weekend the department responded to three calls and was able to have five or six individuals respond to all three calls, which is average.

The internal disputes within the department remain in question — but Cabe said that is beyond the purview of the county as the department operates as its own corporation. Beyond the department's financials, roster levels, and charter, the county has limited oversight over volunteer departments.

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Officer runs to bring awareness to vet suicide

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Macon County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Nelson spent his Fourth of July running from the top of Cowee Mountain to Winding Stair Gap — 20 miles — to raise awareness and bring recognition to SSS, Stop Soldier Suicide, an organization near and dear to his heart.

Nelson's brother, Edward Nelson, who served tours in the United States Army in Iraq, Korea, and Bosnia, took his life in 2006. Having experienced the trauma of losing a loved one to suicide first hand, Nelson wanted to do something to bring attention to resources available for those in need.

"As a 23-year veteran myself and having experienced the devastating loss of my brother — I don't want any other family to ever have to go through this or have this feeling," said Nelson. "Sometimes serving in the military is too much pressure to withstand and they feel like they have no place to turn. We need to give our veterans a place to turn to support them and their families. I decided to do this to raise awareness about the available resources that can help them through those difficult times."

The idea to bring awareness to SSS stems from a commitment Nelson has previously made to complete 250 cycling miles during

the month of July. While he is already over 60 miles into that goal — he thought running from Cowee Mountain to Winding Stair gap, carrying an American Flag on the Fourth of July was the perfect way to kick off the 250-mile challenge.

"On average, 22 soldiers take their lives every day. We need to put a stop to this, we need to support them when there is no place to turn," said Nelson. "It is an honor to bring awareness to this cause."

With the support of his family, Nelson began his run at the Macon/Jackson line around 7:15 a.m. heading 20 miles to Winding Stair Gap. The route took him around 4 hours to complete, reaching the finish line at 12:15 p.m.

Along the 3,396 feet of elevation change of his run, Nelson was met with honks of support and cheers from people passing by, many of whom stopped to offer water and encouragement.

"Everything just really lined up and I was really surprised and grateful for the support," he said. "It was amazing."

The biggest challenge came in the last three miles of the journey. Nelson said exhaustion paired with four miles of a continuously uphill climb was extremely difficult.

"The last three miles before reaching Winding Stair Gap was the hardest part,"

Nelson said. "The extreme elevation change, the exhaustion, everything made those last miles tough. I managed to keep a pretty steady 9:15 pace for most of the way, but by the last three I ended up having to walk a lot, but I finished."

In addition to kicking off his 250-mile cycling challenge for this month, Nelson said his Fourth of July run was also good preparation for the Chattanooga Iron Man race he is registered for in May 2022. That race, too, will have a deeper meaning as Nelson will be running in honor of the Gold Star Initiative, transitionfromwar.com — an organization designed for families who have lost loved ones in service. Nelson will carry an American flag during that race as well and after crossing the finish



Scott Nelson ran 20 miles from Cowee Mountain to Winding Stair Gap to bring awareness to Stop Soldier Suicide.



line, the flag will be presented to a Gold Star family in honor of their lost loved one.

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Scott not running for mayor; Horton files

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Candidate filing for most 2021 city, town, and village elections in North Carolina kicked off at noon Friday, July 2, and will continue until noon Friday, July 16.

With several seats up for election in both Franklin and Highlands, many candidates have already submitted their names to the Macon County Board of Elections.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott announced over the holiday weekend that he would not be seeking re-election to a fifth term, leaving the Franklin Mayor seat up for grabs to a newcomer. Franklin Council member Jack Horton filed for the mayor seat on Friday afternoon.

While there are currently three town council board seats up for election, the seats currently held by David Culpeper, Dinah Mashburn, and the late Barbara McRae, as of noon on Wednesday, no one had yet filed for those positions.

In Highlands, incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor filed for re-election to another term and will face Highlands Commissioner Mark Hehn, who also filed to run for mayor.

The Highlands Town Board of Commissioners has two seats up for election — seats currently held by Donnie Callaway and Amy Patterson. As of noon on Wednesday neither incumbent had filed for office, however newcomer and local business owner Thomas Craig filed for one of the open seats.

Elections for about 30 N.C. municipalities that elect by district were delayed until 2022 because of delays in the receipt of U.S. Census data needed for redistricting, however the municipal elections in Macon County were not impacted.

During municipal elections, voters elect local officials, including mayors and town or city council members. Some municipalities may also conduct property tax levy, alcoholic beverage, or other referenda.

“Service at the municipal level often has the most direct impact on the communities in which we live. We hope many candidates sign up to run for local office this year,” said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. “We also encourage eligible individuals across the state to register and vote in their local elections.”

To file for municipal office, a candidate must:

- Be 21 years old by Election Day.
- Be a registered voter of the county and reside in the municipality at the time they file for office. If they are not already registered to vote, they can register at the time they file their notice of candidacy.
- Reside within the district or ward for an office that is elected by district or ward.
- File a Municipal Notice of Candidacy (fillable PDF) with their county board of elections office and pay a filing

fee set by the municipality or submit a petition in lieu of paying the fee.

– File an organizational report for the candidate committee with the county board of elections within 10 days of filing a notice of candidacy or within 10 days of organizing the candidate committee, whichever occurs first.

– For partisan elections, be affiliated with the same political party in which he or she intends to file for at least 90 days prior to the filing date.

– Disclose any felony convictions. A prior felony conviction does not preclude holding elective office if the candidate’s rights of citizenship have been restored.

– Candidates for partisan municipal offices who wish to run as unaffiliated should review N.C.G.S. § 163-296 and N.C.G.S. § 163-122 (a)(4), and the fact sheet on running as an unaffiliated candidate (PDF).

While the municipal election will be decided this November, candidates for other offices with elections a year away have already submitted their notice of candidacy to the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

Since Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland announced his retirement, three members of the Sheriff’s Office filed a notice of candidacy with the local elections office, kicking off their campaigns. Brent Holbrooks, Dereck Jones, and Clay Bryson are all longtime employees of the Sheriff’s Department and have each announced their intent to run. In addition to current Sheriff’s Department employees, two other Macon County residents launched their campaigns prior to the Sheriff’s retirement announcement. Robert Cook and Chris Browning have both also filed their notice of candidacy with the board of elections.

While filing does not officially open until December, candidates who have filed a notice of candidacy with the Board of Elections office are permitted to begin fundraising. State law requires individuals who officially announce a campaign to file a notice of candidacy within a specified time frame with the Board of Elections.

To date, all individuals running for Sheriff are registered Republicans. Filing for the Sheriff’s seat doesn’t officially open until December 2021 with the Primary election scheduled for March 2022. Despite an already crowded field of candidates, the next Sheriff of Macon County will not be elected until November 2022.

Two candidates have also already announced their intention to run for Clerk of Superior Court in Macon County. Retired law enforcement officer Mike Trammel as well as Macon County Magistrate Justin Stamey have also submitted their notice of candidacy to the board of elections. Like the Sheriff seat, filing for the Clerk of Superior Court does not officially open until December 2021.

Slow Spokes cycling club starting up in Franklin

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Susan Schlatter has lived in Macon County for 25 years, and she was involved in a cycling group when she resided in a different area. Although she has mostly biked alone for years on the Little Tennessee Greenway, she would like to again be part of a cycling group. Recently, the almost 80-year-old began spreading the word about Slow Spokes, a cycling and socializing opportunity.

Schlatter explained that no one has to have a “fancy” bike or a mountain bike. She cycles on her 40-year-old beach cruiser that she paid \$10 for and equipped with a \$40 bell. She would like to meet at least weekly – even though she bikes several times a week and is open to the idea of the group meeting more frequently.

“We are so blessed to have the Greenway, so it is an ideal

place to meet,” she said. “It’s a resource for those interested in seeing the beautiful scenery, networking, socializing, and just belonging to a casual group. Plus, there are people visiting here and moving here all the time, so this would give them a way to make connections.”

To goal is to ride for at least an hour.

“Just peddle casually, talk, and get some exercise – but not push ourselves,” she said. “It’s more of a social gathering than an exercise gathering. But we are getting fresh air and some exercise.”

The group got rained out the first time they tried to meet. The “new first scheduled ride” will be Tuesday, July 13. Gather at FROG headquarters at 6:30 p.m., ride at 6:45.

Schlatter would like to build the Slow Spokes group and noted that anyone interested can email her at: 4pawsandclaws@gmail.com.

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Macon All-Star teams competing in state championship this weekend

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Macon County youth league sports had distanced itself from the Little League organization a couple of years ago, but re-worked the program just before the pandemic hit. In the first full year the league has been operating, both the 8U Softball Team and 8U Baseball teams earned a spot to compete against other athletes in North Carolina in the state tournament.

“It is really exciting to see both of Macon County’s 8U little league teams, softball and baseball, heading to the State Tournament this weekend,” said Macon County Youth League Sports Director Nick Birchard. “We

just revamped the Little League program last year, and because of COVID we were unfortunately not able to have a Spring season. So to see these kids come out here and put in the work to earn a trip to the State Tournament to represent Macon County is really exciting.”

Macon County competes in District 5. North Carolina Little League District 5 is an extension of Little League International and covers most of Western North Carolina. Currently District 5 is comprised of eight local leagues from Franklin to Henderson County.

The Macon County 8U All Star team for both baseball and softball are comprised of the top young athletes from around the

county. Nominated to the team by coaches from every team after the regular season, the All Star team began practice in June, dedicating most of their summer to the sport.

The Franklin 8U All Star baseball team went undefeated in the District 5 Tournament, and was crowned District 5 machine pitch Champions after a 15-11 win over Henderson County. The baseball team will be competing in the State Championship in Wilson, N.C. Franklin is scheduled to take the field at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 9, against Rocky Mount in the Southern Bank Stadium. They will then face off against Wilson on Saturday, July 10, at 11 a.m. and East Chatham at 1 p.m. The winner of the pool in which

Franklin is competing and any team with a 2-1 record, will then advance to the state finals single elimination portion of the tournament.

The Franklin 8U All Star softball team was defeated 31 to 20 by Hominy valley in the District tournament, however the team still earned a spot at the North Carolina State Tournament of Champions on Lake Normal as the District 5 runner up on July 10.

Both teams received an outpouring of community support to raise funding to compete on the state level. Fundraisers held by both the softball team and baseball team combined with donations from the community raised enough funding to fully cover the travel expenses for the teams.



On the roster of the girls All Star softball team are Karter Pollock, Natalie Locklear, Harper Hamlin, Ava Penland, Sammi Teem, Emmy Moffitt, Palmer Tallent, Ava Perkins, Jadie Norton, Cora Rholetter, Blakeleigh Garrett, Leanne Foree. Coaches are John Hamlin, Adam Tallent, Kelsey Foree, Ethan Garrett and Stephanie Teem.



On the 8U All Star baseball team is (L-R) Cohen Wishon, Branton Shuler, Ryker Stiles, Easton Green, Jackson Blanton, Jase Raby, Nolan Estes, Coleman Patrick, Kaius Frady, Rowen Keener, Oscar DeWandeler, Jaden Letchworth. Coaches: Head Coach Dalton Shuler, Adam Wishon, Jamie Stiles and Chris Raby.

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Town council votes to build skate park at Franklin Memorial Park

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Working toward the goal of developing a new public skateboard park for the community, the Franklin Town Council unanimously voted to move forward with plans to build the park at the Franklin Memorial Park also known as the Jaycee Park. Representatives from JE Dunn Construction said after evaluating several potential locations for the new park, Franklin’s Veterans Memorial Park is best suited for the project.

JE Dunn Construction was originally hired by HCA Healthcare to build the new Angel Medical Center in Franklin, but after learning of the public’s desire to see a skate park developed in Franklin, Project Superintendent Steve Suttles told members of the town council in June that the company was willing to volunteer to make the park a reality.



“We can come and help raise money and help get our trade partners involved to volunteer their time and money,” Suttles said in June.

Suttles and his team reviewed several potential sites for the skate park, which is predicted to be about 8,000 square feet. Suttles said the county-owned property in Frog-town, referred to as the old drive-in movie theater by locals, would require significant dirt removal and shifting, tree and stump removal and significant grading that would cause the project to be both more expensive and longer to complete.

While portions of the park are located in the flood plain, Suttles said after evaluating

the site, there is a section in the far corner of the property, which is already owned by the town, that he considers ideal for the project. Without having to meet special requirements for building in a flood plain, and because the property already has public parking and restrooms, the town board agreed to move forward with that location.

“Ideally, I would like to see something done at the old drive-in property,” said Council member David Culpepper. “That location right beside the high school and by the dog park, I have always envisioned the potential to really expand the town’s recreation opportunity there. But if you are telling us that the Jaycee Park is the best fit, then I am not going to go against that.”



Suttles has estimated the cost of materials for the project to be around \$100,000, with much of

the time and labor for the project being donated from HCA and JE Dunn partners. A total price will depend on engineering and design services for the park, something Suttles said was necessary due to legal liability.

With a location identified, the next step will be to solicit design and engineering concepts to fit the designated space, which will then give town leaders a better idea of the costs associated with completing the project.

In his announcement that he would not be seeking a fifth term as Franklin’s Mayor, Bob Scott said that seeing the skate park through to fruition was one of his last goals before leaving office. Scott’s tenure with the board will end after a new mayor is elected in November.

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Mountain Valley Health Foods opens Wellness Center

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

Bill Abraham and Sandy Ochsner got their start in the health food industry at the Health Food Center in Winter Haven, Fla. They have both studied nutrition extensively for more than 30 years. After working at the Health Food Center for many years, they both realized they longed to be in the mountains. They moved to Franklin in 1996 and started Mountain Valley Health Foods in a little old house on a hill, on Church Street. They remained in this location for over a year, then relocated to a larger building on Highlands Road where they remained for 24 years. They were joined by employee Teena Glass in 2014, who remains employed by them to this day and who has been a very positive asset to their business.

During the years of owning their store, Bill and Sandy aspired to offer more to their customers in the way of healthcare, but knew their Highlands Road location wasn't conducive to achieving that goal. Their search for the right location ended when they found the two story red brick house on 150 Georgia Road and moved into it last March to start the first Wellness Center in Franklin.

Joining them in this endeavor is Dr. Tracey Dogan, Naturopath/Acupuncturist.

Dr. Dogan is board certified and licensed in both Naturopathic Medicine & Acupuncture from Natural University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), a top ranking college for Alternative Medicine in the U.S. Dr. Dogan went to college full time for 10 years to achieve her medical degrees. She has been practicing in Franklin, for 15 years. Some of Dr. Dogan's credentials include Electro-Acupuncture, Magnet Therapy, Hormone Therapy, Cupping, Chinese and Western Herbals, Iridology and Homeopathy. Dr. Dogan states,

"I like sharing new ideas or new healing modalities with like-minded professionals. It's good for us and good for the patients."

You can reach Dr. Dogan at (828)332-0259 or at www.onahealingmission.com.

Also joining them is, Chiropractor Dr. Eric Shapiro. Dr. Shapiro received a Doctor of Chiropractic in 1997. He started his first practice in Hickory, N.C., and eventually began a mobile clinic in Franklin in 2020. Throughout the span of his 24-year career, he has treated thousands of patients with a variety of conditions, however, he is known to be an especially successful practitioner when it comes to treating chronic headaches. Dr. Shapiro is also a certified personal trainer and often utilizes exercises

as an adjunct to his chiropractic care.

"I am so happy to be in Franklin and at Mountain Valley Health Foods," shared Dr. Shapiro. "The warmth and acceptance of everybody has been absolutely amazing. I look forward to serving the chiropractic needs of Franklin for years to come."

Dr. Shapiro is at this location on Tuesdays and Thursdays and accepts walk-ins. While he doesn't accept insurance, he does offer health care at affordable rates. He can be contacted at (828)808-9487.

Neuromuscular (NMT) therapist Dee Graham has also joined Bill and Sandy at the Wellness Center. Graham got her start in NMT after a major auto accident in 1997 led her on a path of natural healing. She utilizes a combination of techniques that include Trager, Acupressure, Manual Compression, Friction, Myofascial Release and much more to address and treat areas of



(front row, L-R) Staff members Emily Chambers and Teena Glass (employee MVHF), (second row) Dee Graham, Neuromuscular Therapist and Sandy Ochsner, co-owner Mtn. Valley Health Foods; (back row) Bill Abraham, co-owner Mtn. Valley Health Foods, and Dr. Eric Shapiro, Chiropractor.

reduced mobility, flexibility, and associated hypersensitivity due to prior injury, and



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typically associated with scar tissue and adhesions affecting surrounding connective and vascular and neurological areas.

"I feel as though I was sincerely guided to this position and feel extremely blessed to work with Sandy and Bill. They are so very dedicated to the health and welfare of the community. I've dedicated my own practice to the same principles for over 24 years and feel honored to network with a center and staff that truly care, and strive to provide the highest quality in alternative and holistic practices, remedies and nutrition to its customers. I truly look forward to many more years of assisting with the healing and wholeness of all who grace our doorways."

Bill and Sandy have strived over the years to offer supplements, groceries, cosmetics, pet products and more at discounted prices. They are very appreciative of the customers who continue to support local businesses and regularly take advantage of these discounts. They both feel very fortunate to have been able to open this Wellness Center and are extremely grateful for the incredible feedback they are getting from customers who have been treated by Dr. Dogan, Dr. Shapiro and Dee Graham.

When asked if they were apprehensive about taking on such an endeavor, Bill looks at Sandy with a smile and says that he had



Staff member Beatrice Bruckner-Sheppard (L) and Dr. Tracey Dogan (Naturopath/Acupuncture).

cold feet at times but Sandy responds "Bill, I don't understand it, but God has given me enough faith for the both of us that all will go well with this transition!"

Farmer earns social, emotional intelligence coaching certification

Betty Farmer, professor of communication at Western Carolina University and business consultant and trainer, has earned a Social and Emotional Intelligence Coaching Certification from the Institute for Social and Emotional Intelligence.

ISEI is an international learning and research organization that supports coaches, human resources professionals, and other organizational leaders to build social and emotional intelligence in the workplace and life beyond work. Farmer joins the ranks of approximately 1200 ISEI certified coaches worldwide.

"I'm thrilled to have completed this certification course. Emotional and social intelligence is absolutely essential in the workplace, and I enjoy helping people develop their skills in this area. It's work that makes a difference," said Farmer.

Emotional intelligence (EI or EQ) encompasses many skill sets, such as empathy, stress management, resilience, effective conflict management, catalyzing change, teamwork



Betty Farmer

and collaboration and inspirational leadership, and others.

"This certification also gives me access to the most up-to-date research, case studies, and tools, such as assessments and exercises, that I can use with clients. I feel well-equipped to now add social and emotional intelligence coaching to my consulting and training offerings," said Farmer.

Amy Sargent, executive director at the ISEI, and the certification course facilitator, said, "I don't know if there's ever been a time where emotional intelligence was needed more. It's exciting to watch our students take what they learned in class and help their clients develop skills which lead to successful relationships, both at work and at home."

Farmer provides workshops and training on a variety of managerial and leadership topics both as an independent consultant, as well as through WCU's Office of Professional Growth and Enrichment. Contact Farmer at bfarmer@wcu.edu or visit pdp.wcu.edu for upcoming workshops.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Sometimes I think something has been fixed only to realize more work is needed. That has been the case with the intersection on NC 28 at Satulah and South Street.

For years folks complained the intersection was too complicated, confusing and dangerous. The town was urged to take action and correct the situation. I even discussed with DOT the possibility of making a traffic circle at the intersection like the ones that blanket Franklin. Some staff, like our public works director, thought a traffic circle would be an overkill solution.

With the recent paving of NC 28, there was an opportunity to improve the intersection by simplifying the design. Town staff worked with DOT engineers to develop an improved road design that did not cost the town nor the state any significant money.

I thought the problem had been solved, but I continued to receive feedback about problems with the intersection. While the intersection had been simplified and improved, folks still told me there were remaining issues. Eric Pierson, who lives on Satulah, called me last week and asked me meet him at the intersection so he could show me his concerns. I met Eric at the intersection and realized he made some very good points about intersection problems.

The police chief and Leah McCall, our code enforcement officer, also joined us. Officer McCall is a 30 year veteran with the state patrol and is an expert in traffic safety. Josh Ward, our town manager became a part of the group as well. We all concluded that improvements should be made to the intersection.

An additional stop sign will be added on South Street, as well as a stop bar. The stop bar at Satulah will be relocated few feet closer to the intersection. The stop sign at Satulah will be also be moved forward so drivers have better visibility. The stop sign that is located on the right lane coming off NC 28 will be relocated for better visibility. Our staff will work with DOT engineers to improve the manner in which motorists make a right turn off NC 28 onto the Satulah and South Street intersection. I have encouraged our staff to make the changes on our town streets as soon as possible.

Now here is another perspective. I and the town staff had two meetings at the intersection to review how these

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Gillespie's legislative updates appreciated

I appreciate the updates on the North Carolina Legislature provided by Rep. Karl Gillespie. The updates are informative and have the information needed to find and read bills and enacted laws. *The Macon County News* is providing helpful information for voters and residents of Macon County and Western North Carolina.

Avery Abernethy – Franklin, N.C.

Mayor, Town Council exist to conduct town business

It's time for me to pack up my bust of Harry Truman and my "No Sniveling" desk plaque and move on. I will not be seeking a fifth term as mayor.

Most politicians bow out saying "to spend more time with family." Which is code for getting out before an indictment or a scandal breaks. Not me. I am just too darn old. Franklin needs a new mayor.

I would have run again, but Council Member Jack Horton has filed to run for mayor. Jack is qualified and well known across the state. I can leave knowing that if elected, Franklin will be in good hands with Jack.

I will be gone in three months from Town Hall. I will leave knowing I had little support from some other politicians in trying to save our hospital from a for-profit company. A huge disappointment. There were other ideas I had which were blocked, for whatever reason, in the last two terms I have served.

I do hope to get the skate park in place. Turn the Sunnyside property into public use with recreation facilities, and use federal relief funds to improve our infrastructure.

I campaigned on open government. In my four terms, the town got away from being a "who you know" town. It is now a "what you know" town. We have professionalized Franklin's government. We are a town we can all be proud of. Our employees deserve the credit. Not me.

We have had very few closed meetings during my time as mayor. My philosophy has been one of instead of finding a reason to go behind closed doors, find a reason to keep the doors open. I always have believed the mayor and town council exists for only one reason. To conduct the public's business.

I hope the Town Council will keep working to preserve the fascination which makes Franklin a delightful place in which to live and work.

The toughest year of my service has been the year of the pandemic. Mayors across the nation became the lightning rod for anger and frustration. I certainly was. On social media I was called unique expletives I did not know existed. But on the other hand, I have had folks who understood town government. There was more support than anger. In looking back, I adopted the understanding that

people were angry, scared and facing hardships. As mayor, I was a convenient politician to jump on. I was accessible. I answer my phone. You can catch me ambling along our sidewalks.

I do have some future plans. I have hobbies I have neglected. I will return to writing and photography. America is in serious danger as Democracy is in peril. I will find some way to express my contempt of authoritarianism.

Please never allow Franklin to become partisan. We are just fine as a non-partisan unit. Please fight to keep it non-partisan from those who want to change it for political power.

Does anyone have a small backhoe I can borrow to clean out my office? I need it by the first Tuesday in November.

It has been a hoot to serve as mayor. My high school teachers would be astounded.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott

Questions and answers

Dear David Snell,

Question: Why do Americans falsely believe we are a democracy instead of a republic?

Answer: They are being spoon fed a bogus agenda that divides We the People who are supposed hold the power in a republic.

Question: What has history taught us about corrupt men's desire to rule over others?

Answer: Their lust for control will never be satisfied, thus the reason to question everything they are selling the public.

Question: Why do many Americans choose to ignore the obvious facts of a massive corrupted 2020 election?

Answer: Our worldview depends on which resources we receive information and not all resources are truthful.

Question: Why do many Americans hate Donald Trump?

Answer: They are being told to hate him while being told the lie that they are virtuous for doing so.

Question: Why do many Americans put their trust in the Democrat party and criminal bureaucrats? (Granted, the GOP is not much better these days!)

Answer: They do not properly interpret the Bible nor the U.S. Constitution because they are too lazy to understand those fundamentals.

I hope this elementary explanation increases your capability to understand these topics correctly. Best wishes.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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Deadline for display advertising is Friday at
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Thanks for support of Cherokee-Scottish festival

On behalf of the board of directors of The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc. I would like to thank Dave Linn for having the 9th annual Braveheart 5k and Rob Roy Fun Run. This event is the only continuous support we receive since the museum's founding in 1988 with all proceeds given to the museum after expenses. I would also like to thank Stacy Guffey and Dave Linn for the concept and implementation of the Cherokee-Scottish Heritage Festival as well as committee members Kathryn Sellers, Claire Suminski, and Daniel Williamson that worked so hard to make the festival the huge success it was to benefit the downtown merchants and the museum. This event would not have been successful without the support and participation of our Cherokee neighbors. Sales at the museum were the highest ever on Father's Day weekend. Support from The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association, Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center and the TDC is greatly appreciated. Outdoor 76 graciously gave us a place for lectures. Thanks to The Kitchen Sink for their support and participation by hosting the shortbread contest. My apologies if I have overlooked anyone.

Reports from attendees, demonstrators, merchants and musical groups praised the event and want the festival expanded next year. John Mohr MacIntosh Pipes and Drums pledged their continued support for Franklin town merchants and support of the museum as in the past.

Please note that any Scottish event after our closing at 2 p.m. was not in support of or affiliated with The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc. in any way.

Jim Akins – Franklin, N.C.

Grateful for help in this difficult time

Only God, my wife, my daughter, my son-in-law and me know the pain and suffering we've been through in the past seven-and-a-half years. I'm writing this letter to thank some and ask for help. I guess most people would be too proud to do what I'm doing today, but sometimes we have to swallow our pride, and ask for help.

In two days, my daughter will have a birthday. I want all who read this letter to know how wonderful they are, and I want them to know how great I know they are.

Since November of 2013, my wife has been tormented with cancer. On the first diagnosis, she had two surgeries and 34 radiation treatments. Then everything was okay for a few years. Her exams and tests turned out good. Then about three years ago, she was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer in the liver. It had spread from the breast to the inside of the liver. She was put on Ibrance and another drug, Letrosol. During this time, we had special prayers like James chapter 5 teaches. We had special prayer at three or four churches and our daughter had thousands praying from different churches in the U.S. About 17 months ago, she was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer in the urethra; that's the tube that leads from the kidney to the bladder and was called bladder cancer. In March 2020, our daughter Rosea brought us down to Cancer Center Treatment of America in Newnan, Ga. I'm a cancer patient also, and will tell more about myself later, but now I must finish about my wife, Darlene.

When we got to CCTOA God allowed her to get one of the best if not the best cancer doctor in America, Dr. Taha. She had six chemo treatments and then a kidney removed on July 8, 2020. Then she had 12 amino therapy treatments. We were going to Newnan, Ga., every three of four weeks and sometimes more often.

This week, we came down to Delray Beach, Fla. It's one of four places in the U.S. she can get the treatment she needs. The cancer has moved again to a rare spot. It takes a special kind of radiation to kill the cancer. Without my daughter Rosea and my son-in-law Carl, this could never happen. In

my opinion, they will have a great reward in heaven.

God willing, I will tell my friends and neighbors more about my cancer and hardships since the cancer busted in my chest in August 2014, but soon I must sign off. Many people know me and my wife and have prayed many a prayer for us. We're poor folks, but God loves us also. In fact, all lives matter to God, whether red, yellow, black or white, they are precious in his sight. God and his only begotten son Jesus loves us all.

Please pray as God leads you for us and if you feel led to do anything else, please contact our pastor, Rev. Terry Dixon or his wife, Sheila. We go to church at Wells Grove Baptist and our pastor works at Macon Middle School as a bus driver and custodian.

If you run into my daughter Rosea or my son-in-law Carl, give them a special handshake or hug, for they deserve it. Rosea has driven us thousands of miles and I guess spent thousands of dollars on us since November 2013. Her birthday will be over and maybe Carl's also by the time this letter is printed, but you can still shake their hand.

I'm the guy on Tell-It-And Sell It with windows and the rare '90 Ford Ranger, Monte Carlo and handicap van.

Jerry R. Holden – Franklin, N.C.

Jan. 6 incident was not an 'attempted coup'

A recent letter entitled "Trump Continues to Promote Violent Overthrow" was filled with false accusations and misinformation. The evidence cited for his attempt to overthrow the government was the Jan. 6th protest at the capitol during which the writer called a coup resulting in a military takeover. Not true. In fact there is video evidence of capitol police actually waving in the protestors past the barriers and the resulting military presence was brought in by Pelosi. The consensus is that this was done in order to blame Trump for an "attempted coup" who was giving a speech at the time in which he actually called for a peaceful protest. This was not covered by the fake news media, the writer's obvi-

TAYLOR

From previous page

improvements can be implemented. At the first meeting Officer McCall had the blue lights on her vehicle flashing as we walked and surveyed the site. To our surprise, several motorists didn't stop at the stop sign coming off NC 28 headed to South and Satulah. Those failures to stop might have been because of the current location of the stop sign. But, that was just one part of the problem. Several motorists didn't stop at the stop sign on Satulah or at the one where motorists pull out on NC 28. Simply put, many people failed to stop at stop signs regardless of their location at the intersection. One local motorist cruised through one of the stop signs and shouted at me that this was a dangerous intersection. Had the driver actually stopped, I would have responded that all intersections are dangerous if stop signs are not heeded.

ous source of information.

In another letter of the same date the writer falsely claims that six people died during that protest. The only person who died during that protest was an unarmed lady by the name of Ashli Babbitt who was shot and killed by a guard while presenting no threat warranting such action.

The tone of this letter would indicate that the writer is a member of the Democrat party, now called the Socialist Democrat party, This is where the letter becomes confusing because the writer states that she "cannot imagine a country like the United States living under Communism..." Then goes on to explain exactly what that would be like without understanding that Socialism is the first step toward Communism and if the Socialist Democrats' succeed in accomplishing their Socialist agenda her greatest fears and mine will be realized.

Marshall "Buck" Miller – Franklin, N.C.



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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN FRANKLIN



Downtown Franklin was abuzz on Saturday, July 3, for an Independence Day Celebration. Folks wear their best patriotic gear, waved American flags, marched in parades and celebrated the 245th birthday of these United States of America.

Photos by Ellen Randall



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests June 16 - July 5. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

June 27

Bobby J. Hicks, was charged with violation of court order. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

June 28

Michael Brandon Brown, was charged with domestic physical. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Michael Aaron Chavis, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Angel Marie Brown, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Anthony Christopher Beaver, was charged with domestic verbal. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

June 29

Danella Kay Jimenez, was charged with failure to appear for offense committed in jurisdiction. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was charged with child support contempt.

June 30

Michael Adam Crisp, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

April Renee Burd, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Dustin Ty Daves, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, defrauding an innkeeper. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

April Renee Burd, was charged with simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny, injury to personal property, breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods/property, uttering a forged instrument, obtain property by false pretense, identify theft, defrauding an innkeeper, failure to appear, trespass. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

July 1

Efrain Gallardo Guzman, was charged with failure to appear, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of firearm by a convicted felon, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a place for controlled substances, sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Gabriel Leighton Webb, was charged with assault on a female, assault on a child under 12 years of age, assault on another person with a minor present, larceny. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Jeremy Cole Sanders, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

July 2

Danelle Kay Jimenez, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

July 3

Jessica Sheryl Henderson, was charged with assault. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Charles Daniel Medlock, was charged with probation violation, interfere with electronic monitor device. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Kimberly Marie Cates, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

July 4

Jason Robert Wall, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Sergeant Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

July 5

Andrew Joseph Cook, was issued warrant service for an indictment. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Rebecca Denise Frady, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Sherri Johnson, was charged with trespass, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

June 24

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with shoplifting. No bond was set.

June 28

Melissa Chennault Bames, 38, was issued a probation warrant. A bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

June 16

Brayden James Stimers, 18, of Mount Eire Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Isaiah Thomas Frady, 27, of Dillard Orr Rd., Robbinsville, was charged with failure to maintain lane control, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Colby Taylor Price, 29, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was issued a warrant for second degree trespass. An unsecured bond of \$100 was set.

June 17

Savanna Morgan Sistare, 26, of Lee Bumgarner Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

June 18

Marlene Cecille Osorio, 31, of Honor Court, Glenville, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Ronnie Steven Swisher, 24, of Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for injury to real property, conspire to commit felony larceny, break or enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

June 19

Dustin Lyle Jones, 39, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by a

felon. A secured bond of \$10,000 bond was set.

Amber Nicole Franks, 24, of Manor Trace, was charged with give fortified wine/liquor/mix beverage to someone under 21. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

June 20

Travis Wayne Fisher, 35, of Norman Dr., was charged with domestic criminal trespass, communicating threats. No bond was set.

June 21

Michelle Lee Ann Bryson, 29, of Tigerlily Court, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Sonia Irene Hooper, 51, of Thornhill Dr., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

June 22

Gary Lawrence Grantham, 52, of University Heights Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault, failure to appear for communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,250 was set.

Thomas Michael Detolve, 54, of Crane Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for breaking and entering, failure to appear for conspire to commit felony larceny, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, first degree trespass. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Lori Jane Cantrell, 49, of Wren Lane, Dover, Tenn., was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

June 23

Trudy Louise Taylor, 27, of Toolnia Branch, Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Lanil Roberto, 20, of First Rate Dr., Cashiers, was charged with larceny after break/enter, breaking and/or entering. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

June 24

Cody Shay Brady, 42, of Betty Brady Rd., Cherokee, was charged with felony shoplifting, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

June 25

Lamarus Deshaun Miller, 35, of Fisher Branch, Cherokee, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. No bond was set.

June 27

David Charles Roberts, 41, of Jim Sellers Rd., was issued an order for arrest for child support purge. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Gualberto Cantu, 41, of Old Cullowhee Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with injury to personal property, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

June 28

Andre Johannes Rostenberg, 79, of Penny Lane, Whittier, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Briana Jilpas, 34, of Elm St., was charged with failure to appear for assault with a deadly weapon, simple assault. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

Justice Lee Littlejohn, 26, of Jessie Littlejohn Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Shane Christopher Holder, 30, of Amber Trail, Duluth, Ga., was charged with first degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

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 are held Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; and Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 5:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Serving Spoon will be Serving a Free Meal on Thursday, July 8, 6 to 7 p.m. in the Jaycee building at the Franklin Memorial Park. The plan is to continue serving meals the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Franklin Women's Club will meet on Friday, July 9, noon, at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza. Speaker will be Laurel Radley, Occupational Therapist. Radley has spent two decades in administration, but since retiring now enjoys teaching groups in the prevention of falls and managing chronic conditions. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at (828)421-0411. For more about the club, call Joy Wood at (828)349-4440.

Macon County Art Association Encaustic Painting Classes will be held on Fridays, July 9 and 23, Aug. 3 and 27, Sept. 3 and 17, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery 30 E Main St., Franklin. For more information, contact Karen Smith, at karen@programservices.org

Early Farm Days Antique Engine and Tractor Show will be held on Friday, July 9, and Saturday, July 10, 8 a.m., at the Macon County Fairgrounds. A tractor parade will be held on Saturday, at 11 a.m. Admission is free.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Elbow and Red Butt Falls in the northeast corner of Panthertown Valley, on Saturday, July 10, 10 a.m. This hike is mostly downhill with several creek crossings and on old logging roads with two beautiful falls. Red Butt is about 1/4 mile past Elbow Falls dropping 80 feet into a pool. For reservations and more information, call Mike Kettles (828)743-1079.

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Jones Creek in the Cartoogechaye Community, on Sunday, July 11, 2 p.m. Hike up this lovely creek to a stream crossing. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. For reservations and more information, call Kathy Ratcliff (828)526-6480.

Macon County Writer's Group will meet on Tuesday, July 13, 1 p.m., in the Large Meeting Room in the Macon County Library. All writers are welcome. Bring your stories. For more information contact, Jim at jsteely@dnet.net

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet for a light dinner on Tuesday, July 13, 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. at the Post Home located at 614 W, Main St. All members and all military veterans are encouraged to attend this meeting as final

planning for the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Slow Spokes Cycling Group First Ride will be held on Tuesday, July 13. Gather at FROG headquarters at 6:30 p.m., ride at 6:45. For more information, email Susan Schlatter at 4pawsandclaws@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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. See more about Macon County Art Association at franklinuptowngallery.com.

Macon County Art Association Veteran's Portrait Project will be held this year. Macon County veterans or their family members can apply to have the veteran's portrait painted by a local artist at the gallery between Memorial Day and July 4. There is no cost to apply or for the portraits. The only requirement is that the veteran or their family member be present to receive the portrait on Veterans Day. Community members who wish to help support the costs for this program are also welcome. For more information, email at karen@programservices.org.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, July 11, 11 a.m. Melody Cooper will speak on "Balance: Creating Balance in the Ever-Shifting Landscape of Our Lives." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

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

Email church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

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Author Ron Rash at City Lights Saturday

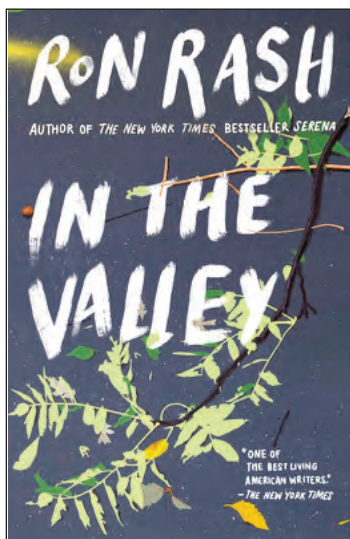
Ron Rash will visit City Lights Bookstore on Saturday, July 17, at 3:30 p.m. He will read passages of his work and sign copies of his books along with celebrating the paperback release of his novella and short-story collection "In the Valley."

Publisher's Weekly said of "In the Valley," "The 10 stories in Rash's revelatory collection range from contemporary slices of life to period character studies, and from quiet closet dramas to miniature epics."

The reading will be in our Appalachian Regional Room and masks will be required while folks are gathered in the small event space.

Ron Rash is the author of the PEN/Faulkner finalist and New York Times best-selling novel "Serena," in addition to the critically acclaimed novels "The Risen," "Above the Waterfall," "The Cove," "One Foot in Eden," "Saints at the River", and "The World Made Straight"; four collections of poems; and six collections of stories, among them "Burning Bright," which won the 2010 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, "Nothing Gold Can Stay," a *New York Times* bestseller, and "Chemistry and Other Stories," which was a finalist for the 2007 PEN/Faulkner Award. Twice the recipient of the O. Henry Prize and winner of the 2019 Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature, he is the Paris Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University and lives in Clemson, S.C.

To reserve copies of Ron's books, call City Lights Bookstore in Sylva, at (828)586-9499.



Darren Nicholson returns to Concerts on Creek

The 11th season of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva continues on Friday, July 9, with a special performance by the Darren Nicholson Band from 7-9 p.m.

Nicholson is a Jackson County native and founding member of the nationally-known, award-winning WNC bluegrass group Balsam Range. He is a Grammy award nominee (2006) and a recipient of eight International Bluegrass Music Association awards with Balsam Range including Album of the Year (2017) Vocal Group of the Year (2015), Song of the Year (2015), Entertainer of the Year (2014), Vocal Group of the Year (2014), Album of the Year (2013), Song of the Year (2011), and Album of the Year (2006, with the Alecia Nugent Band). He has appeared countless times on WSM's Grand Ole Opry, at the Ryman Auditorium, and many of the world's most famous venues and networks.

Currently, he records and tours as a full-time, founding member of Balsam Range and with all sorts of collaborative efforts each year. He's taken his blend of Country, Bluegrass, Americana to 49 states, as well as across Canada, Mexico, Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti, Australia, and all over Europe.

Though Nicholson (mandolin/guitar/vocals) is still a full-time member of Balsam Range, he joins Kevin Sluder (bass/vocals), Griff Martin (guitar/vocals) and Richard



Darren Nicholson Band

Fouk (drums) to form the Darren Nicholson Band during his free time off the road with Balsam Range.

Concerts on the Creek are typically held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No alcohol, smoking or coolers are allowed in the park. For more information, call the chamber at (828)586-2155, visit www.mountainlovers.com or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.

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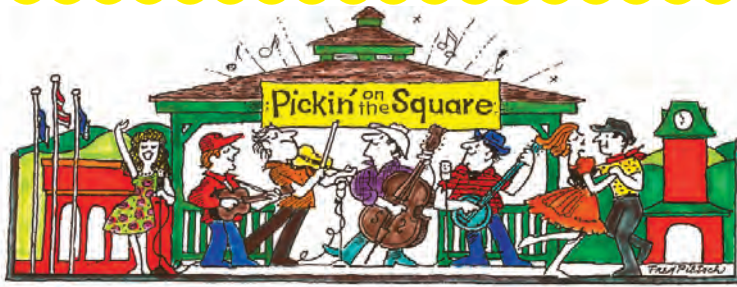
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So bring yourself a chair, kick back, relax and enjoy. The concert will start at 7:00 p.m. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. Hope to see you this Saturday, July 10.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Zonta installs new officers, members

At the June meeting, Zonta Franklin members welcomed new officers, board members and members. From left to right are Michelle Masta (board member), Dorothy Mitchell (member), Amy Szpara (member), Shirley Speed (member) and Deb Williams (vice-president). Zonta Franklin is the only Zonta club in North Carolina and the state's representative of Zonta International, an organization dedicated to securing the rights of women throughout the world. Some of Zonta's work is advocacy for ending violence against women, ending child marriage and supporting ERA continuation. Zonta promotes the means to gain education for girls and the rights of women in the workplace, amongst other causes. For more information, visit <https://www.zontafranklinnc.org/>

Where We Live series continues with 'The Archaeology of Watauga Town'

The lecture series, "Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture" next program "The Archaeology of Watauga Town" is Monday, July 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

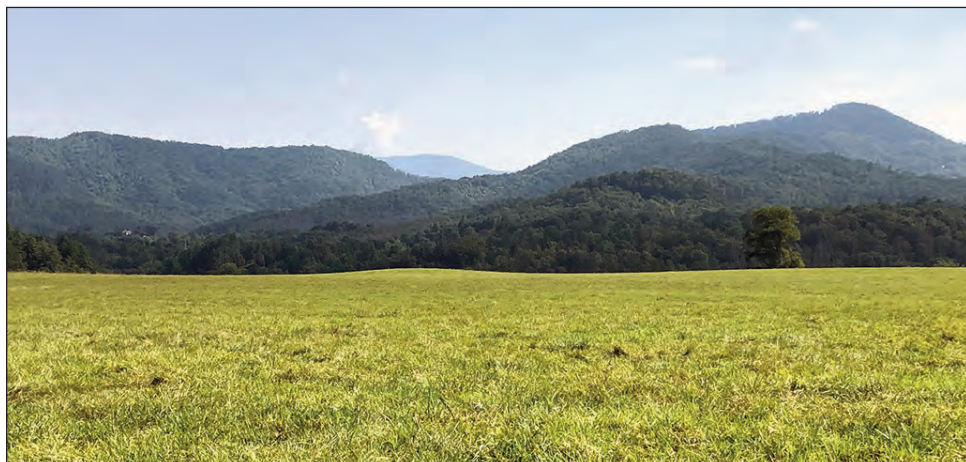
Located between the Cherokee towns of Cowee and Nikwasi, the Cherokee town of Watauga is an important place in the cultural landscape of the Cherokee heartland. In July 2020, Mainspring Conservation Trust conserved 40 acres of this site, including the mound and portions of the adjacent village. Archaeological and historical research indicate that Cherokee and their ancestors have lived near this site for thousands of years. This presentation, by Dr. Ben Steere, will draw on the rich historical and archaeological record of Watauga Town to explain how this place fits into the broader cultural landscape of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Dr. Ben Steere is the director of the Cherokee Studies program and assistant

professor of anthropology at Western Carolina University. Dr. Steere has worked on a collaborative study of ancestral Cherokee mound and town sites with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI THPO) since 2011. He is the author of *The Archaeology of Houses and Households in the Native Southeast* (University of Alabama Press) and the recipient of the 2016 Principal Chief Leon D. Jones Award for Archaeological Excellence, presented by the EBCI THPO.

The program will last approximately one hour. It will be held at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center in Franklin, at 51 Cowee School Rd. "Where We Live" lectures are held the third Monday of each month.

Next up, on Aug. 16, is *The History of Highland Dress—and Much More!* by Daniel Williamson, curator of the Scottish Tartans Museum.



Burningtown Baptist welcomes new pastor; new vision, mission statement

Burningtown Baptist Church, Franklin welcomes new pastor Pastor Manny Hernandez and his wife Gerry. The couple moved from Florida to Franklin on Dec. 12.

A new Mission Statement for Burningtown Church: "We love God, we love people, and we love making disciples for Jesus Christ," and a new Vision Statement: "We want to be a loving place where people can belong, and discover Jesus as their Savior; grow in their personal relationship with God; and find a place of service in His kingdom," have been launched in order to better define the church's mission and vision for the community of Burningtown and the Greater Franklin area.

Currently the Sunday Worship Services are at 10 a.m., in the main sanctuary. On Sunday, Aug. 1, the church will begin their Sunday School Ministry at 10 a.m., and the Worship Services will then begin at 11 a.m. On Wednesday, Sept. 1, the church will begin a new Prayer and Bible Study Ministry at 6:30 p.m. A children and youth ministry will also be available as well as an ongoing Women's Bible Study.

A Homecoming Celebration will take place on Sunday, July 25, beginning at 10:30



Gerry and Manny Hernandez

a.m. It will be a time of fellowship, music and food. The church is celebrating 182 years of ministry and is still going strong. If you would like more information, contact Pastor Manny at burningtownchurch@gmail.com or call 941-993-8744. The church is located at 446 Burningtown Baptist Church Road (Located just off of Middle Burningtown Road, and west of the Burningtown and Lower Burningtown Roads intersection.

Harris Regional Hospital to provide free sports physicals to area student athletes

Harris Regional Hospital will provide free sports physicals 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27th for student athletes from around the region. Registration will occur in the hospital's main lobby. No appointments are needed.

The annual sports physicals event is led by Harris Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in partnership with outpatient physical therapists and athletic trainers with PT Solutions at Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. Other members of the Medical Staff volunteer their time to serve student athletes in providing the pre-participation physicals which are required yearly by the North Carolina Athletic Association.

"It is our privilege to care for thousands of student athletes in our region throughout the year. The sports physicals ensure that each athlete gets a safe start to the season, and we are excited to help individuals and teams succeed on the field and on the court," said Steve Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "Additionally, we are proud to

demonstrate our commitment to the community by holding our annual sports physicals events."

Harris Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, along with outpatient therapy staff and athletic trainers from PT Solutions at Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital, provide sports medicine coverage to nine local high schools. The hospitals are the exclusive healthcare provider for Cata-mount Athletics at Western Carolina University through The Ascent Partnership formed in 2015.

The outpatient therapy and sports medicine department offer highly trained, compassionate staff committed to helping those living in western North Carolina reach their health and activity goals and improve our community's quality of life. Services available include vestibular rehab, lymphedema maintenance, speech therapy, orthopedics, pediatric rehab and physical therapy, geriatrics, occupational therapy, and hand specialists.

For information call (828) 586-7235. To find a physician call 844.414.DOCS (3627)



Deaths & Funerals

Edward 'Ed' Lynn Nixon

Edward "Ed" Lynn Nixon, 67, passed away Sunday, July 4, 2021, after a brief bout with lung cancer. He was a resident of Franklin, N.C., having relocated from the Charlotte area 17 years ago.

He was born in Ohio and moved to Florida as a young man, before making his home in North Carolina. He enjoyed bass fishing, working in his garden, and was a master at remodeling homes. He recently completed the building of his and his wife's mountain dream home in Franklin. He was the owner of Ed Nixon Construction and enjoyed working with his many loyal customers over the years.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Evelyn Lastition, father, Richard Nixon, and brother, Bruce Nixon.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Kathy Nixon; son, Ed Nixon Jr., his wife Nancy, and their two sons, Drew and Grey; son, Ben Nixon, and his two daughters, Kendall and Taylor.

At Ed's request, no service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation at 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.

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

Johnny Harold Enfinger

Johnny Harold Enfinger, 74, entered fully into the presence of the Lord on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at his mountain home in Franklin, N.C., surrounded by his beloved girls.

He was born March 8, 1947, to Hewell Clyde and Ethel Mavis Enfinger in Leesburg, Fla., he was one of four children. He graduated from Tavares High School in 1967 and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Louise Daniels, his beautiful bride of 52 wonderful years.

He served in the U.S. Navy as a Tug Boatsman and graduated Law Enforcement in 1973, serving on the Umatilla Police Force for four years. He was a business owner before he set out as a truck driver and then retiring as security officer.

Johnny was known to his trucker friends as "Grease Monkey," to his sisters as "Little Brother," and to so many others, as a good friend. He was a loving husband and father, dedicated to his family. He was a member of Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church in Franklin where he attended with his family.

He is survived by his twin daughters, Sherri (John) Smith of Grand Island, Fla., and Teri Sanders of Franklin, Patti Enfinger of Franklin, and Faun Kendall of Wildwood, Fla.; grandchildren, Mathew and Jeremy Smith, Hunter Sanders, Logan, Mallori, Landon and Lauren Sobkowski and Cheyenne Kendall; great granddaughter, Ava Grace Sobkowski; sisters, Gail (Ronnie) Phillips of Grand Island, Fla., and Lounette (Billy) Powell of Tavares, Fla. He was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother, Hewell Enfinger and his wife, Mary Enfinger.

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

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



Edward Lynn Nixon



Johnny Enfinger

Judith Y. Brinson

Judith Y. Brinson was delivered from this life on July 3, 2021. Born to Sue and Neil Young, she was intelligent, generous, kind, charming, determined and loved by everyone she met.

A role model to her entire family, she worked tirelessly to both advance her career and cultivate a healthy, supportive family culture. At the time of her death, she was chairman of the family-owned business, Apparel Brands, Inc.

In contrast to the cultural norms of her generation, she did not subscribe to the belief that women had to choose between a career and motherhood. With two young twin girls, she excelled in college and obtained her business degree from UNCG.

Shortly after graduating from UNCG, she married the love of her life, Jack Brinson, on Aug. 24, 1977. Together, they blended their families seamlessly and made a home in Lake Wylie, S.C., Highlands, N.C., and Hilton-Head, S.C.

Her enviable spirit and drive would continue to forge a new path for women, quickly ascending the corporate ladder to become the first female Senior Vice President for First Union Bank.

She was a trailblazer, constantly portraying equal parts grace, equal parts fortitude for her three daughters, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren. But her incredible impact was not limited to those closest to her. Her vast philanthropic efforts consisted of funding the Brinson Honors College at Western Carolina University, providing hundreds of students in the state of North Carolina with scholarships, and the opportunity to pursue their aspirations as fervently as she did. She also made significant contributions to the Duke Eye Center, resulting in considerable resources for ophthalmological research and treatment at Duke University Medical Center.

Her wide-spread influence on health care and education access within the state of North Carolina is immeasurable. Equally so is the love and support she provided and instilled within her friends and family members. She was a truly exceptional woman, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, always giving of herself wholly. She was a beacon of light to her family, with a spirit of kindness that everyone should aspire to impart upon the world.

Although we leave her here, we take her spirit with us.

She is survived by her husband, Jack Brinson; her children, Fonda Haight, Freda Philbeck, and Karyn Brinson; her grandchildren, Justin Shook, Savanna Poole, Kris Shook, Josh Shook, Nick Haight; great-grandchildren, Zoe Shook, Madeline Poole, and Ryder Shook; brother, Phil Young; sister, Pat Wilkins; and the golden retrievers she loved so much, Willy, Roadie, and Twinkle.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a memorial be made to the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society, 200 Gable Drive, Sapphire, NC 28774

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Brinson family.

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



Judith Y. Brinson

Herbert Allan Ross

Herbert Allan Ross, 98, of Cashiers, N.C., passed away Thursday, June 24, 2021. He was born May 10, 1923 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He graduated in 1941 from Brooklyn Tech High School and then graduated in 1947 from City College of New York School of Engineering. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific and in WWII. He was a builder for 50 years. He was president of HBA of Mid Fla from 1970-1971 and president of FHBA in 1979. He began the First Annual SE Builders Conference in 1980 and initiated the Florida approval of gray water disposal systems in 1982. He was inducted into the Florida Housing Hall of Fame in 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Florence D'Agostino Ross; son, Edward Stuart Ross; step-daughter, Cheryl Jorjorian; step-sons, Bradford and David Cox; nieces, Nancy Meyers Rothbeind, Marcy Meyers Grannick, Stephanie Ross, Eileen Ross and many other nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, June 30, at Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Fla. Arrangements entrusted to Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home, Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Services is serving the Ross family. Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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would like to extend our appreciation for the many prayers, visits, calls and gifts during his illness and his passing.

Our special thanks go out to our many friends and relatives, including:

Danny Cannon, Dennis Ledford, and Dr. Eddie Seagle,
Bryant Grant Funeral Home, Newman Chapel Baptist Church, Junaluskee Masonic Lodge #145, EMS, Otto Fire Department, Doctors, nurses, and staff at:
Angel Medical Center, Greenville Memorial Hospital, NE Georgia Medical Center, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center.

With our heartfelt gratitude,
Dorothy, Scott, and Mib

Chase Elliott reasserts road course mastery with win at Road America

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

PLYMOUTH, Wis. – After one event in “exile,” Chase Elliott once again is King of the Road.

The reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion passed Kyle Busch for the lead on Lap 46 of 62 and cruised to victory in Sunday’s Jockey Made in America 250 Presented by Kwik Trip, the first Cup race at the 4.048-mile road course in 65 years.

The win was Elliott’s second of the season and the 13th of his career. Seven of those victories have come on road courses, including this year’s debut race at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Elliott had to settle for second to teammate Kyle Larson in last month’s event at Sonoma Raceway.

Unable to complete a flying lap because of two ill-timed cautions during qualifying, Elliott started Sunday’s race 34th in a field of 40. By the end of Stage 1, he was 10th, and by pitting three laps before the end of Stage 2, he positioned himself for a front-row restart for then final stage.

“Just really proud of our team for overcoming some adversity early and having to start in the back, having good pit stops,” said Elliott, who restarted fifth on Lap 46 after the final caution of the race for Anthony Alfredo’s spin into a gravel trap.

“Had a really fast NAPA Chevrolet. Just so proud. We’ve had a rough few weeks, so it feels really good.”

Less than a lap after that final restart, Elliott pulled alongside Busch entering the Kink (Turn 11) on the backstretch and cleared him through Turn 12. Sixteen laps later, Elliott finished 5.705 seconds ahead of runner-up Christopher Bell, who passed Busch for the second position on Lap 58.

Elliott, who clinched a spot in the Cup Series Playoff with the win, finally got a feel for the mammoth road course after frustrating practice and qualifying sessions.

“Yeah, I never felt like I got in a real good rhythm all of yesterday (in practice),” Elliott said. “For whatever reason there, after about halfway through the race, I started finding some of that rhythm, was able to put it together, piece different parts of the track.”

“Finally I felt like I was able to piece most of it together. Yeah, stayed with it and glad it worked out.”

Hendrick Motorsports has won 10 of 20 races this season and seven of the last eight. Elliott has the most road course victories among active drivers, is third all-time behind Jeff Gordon (nine wins) and Tony Stewart (eight) and has won at more different road courses (five) than any other driver in Cup history.

Bell overcame a tail-end-of-the-field penalty for driving through more than three pit boxes on Lap 15.

“Here the last couple weeks, I’ve been really proud of the progress we’ve made,” said Bell, who picked up his first Cup win in the second race of the season at the Daytona Road Course. “I’m just proud to drive for everybody on this 20 group at Joe Gibbs Racing.”

“Excited for the future. I know there’s more to come. Like I said, there’s no reason why we can’t run up front every week.”

Kyle Busch started from the rear of the field and finished third in a backup car after wrecking his primary No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota in the Kink during Saturday’s practice.

Brother Kurt Busch came home fourth and increased his lead



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Jockey Made in America 250 Presented by Kwik Trip at Road America on July 04, 2021 in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

Kyle Busch wins again in NASCAR Xfinity Series debut at Road America

PLYMOUTH, Wis.— Taking advantage of a late wreck that foiled other contenders—not to mention fresher tires for the final six-lap green-flag run—Kyle Busch won Saturday’s Henry 180 at Road America, claiming his fourth NASCAR Xfinity Series victory in four starts this season.

On Lap 41 of 45, Busch took the lead from AJ Allmendinger, whose No. 16 Chevrolet was struggling on older tires.

Over the next four laps, the driver of the No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota widened his lead to 3.522 seconds at the finish over teammate Daniel Hemric, who ran second after passing Allmendinger for the runner-up spot.

Busch who won in his Road America debut and for the 101st time in his career, extending his own series record. The victory came after Busch experienced several off-track excursions that luckily didn’t deprive his car of the speed necessary to win.

“Obviously, tires—that was the saving grace for us,” said Busch, who got four new tires under caution on Lap 36. “We had a set of tires left over and (Allmendinger) didn’t.”

“When we did put our last set of tires on, I wasn’t sure we’d be able to get through that many cars. I don’t know what happened on those last couple of restarts. I couldn’t really see what was happening. We were fortunate to get by that stuff and get through that stuff without any damage to our race car.”

Busch restarted seventh on Lap 40 after the final caution for the multicar wreck. He made up four positions almost immediately and passed Allmendinger for the lead in Turn 3 on the following circuit.

Michael Annett overtook Allmendinger on the next-to-last lap and finished third. The winner of the first two stages, Allmendinger held fourth, with Harrison Burton completing the top five.

An 11-car wreck between Turns 2 and 3 after a restart on Lap 37 damaged the contending cars of Austin Cindric and

to 25 points over Chris Buescher in the race for the final Playoff position. Denny Hamlin came home fifth, giving Joe Gibbs Racing three cars in the top five.

Chase Briscoe was the top-finishing Ford driver in sixth, matching his best result of the season. Ross Chastain, Tyler Reddick, Martin Truex Jr. and Matt DiBenedetto completed the top 10.

For the second straight day Austin Cindric had an excellent run spoiled by unfortunate circumstances.

Cindric, who qualified fifth, had just retaken the lead from Matt DiBenedetto on Lap 24 when a mechanical issue thwarted his hopes for a maiden Cup victory. Cindric ran wide in Turn 5 with a broken axle and spun shortly thereafter.

“I only had one-wheel drive, and when you only have two other ones spinning with 750 horsepower, it’s a bit challenging,” said Cindric, who salvaged an eighth-place finish in Saturday’s NASCAR Xfinity Series race after a late chain-reaction wreck. “It was quite dramatic taking the lead and then immediately losing everything. Not a weekend I’m necessarily happy about.”

Pole winner William Byron led the first 15 laps and won Stage 1 but finished 33rd after spinning off course in the final stage. Reddick earned the Playoff point for winning Stage 2 after Elliott, Kyle Busch and Truex made strategic pit stops ahead of him.



Kyle Busch, driver of the #54 M&M's Ice Cream Toyota, signs autographs for fans after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Henry 180 at Road America on July 03, 2021 in Elkhart Lake, Wisc. Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images

Justin Allgaier and set Busch up for his run to victory. Cindric appeared in control of the race until he pitted for tires after the No. 81 Toyota of Ty Gibbs stalled on the track with transmission issues on Lap 35 and caused the sixth caution of the race.

Cindric's No. 22 Ford sustained damaged to the right rear in the melee that followed the restart, and he was forced to pit for repairs. Nevertheless, he charged to eighth place at the finish and holds an 89-point lead over second-place Allmendinger in the series standings.

"Sometimes it works out for you, and sometimes it doesn't," Cindric said philosophically. "Today was one of those days. It just wasn't meant to be. If they gave out an award for cars passed, we would handily have that."

"I'm not sure there's a corner on this car that doesn't have damage. I appreciate the hard work by everybody. We had a decent points day, and we will move on."

Gibbs, who edged Cindric for the pole position during Saturday morning's time trials, was running second when his car stopped because of the broken transmission at the top of the hill in Turn 6. His 31st-place result was his worst in a part-time campaign that has produced two victories and seven top fives in nine starts.

New for '22: Speedway Motorsports to Create Next Generation Atlanta Motor Speedway with Historic Track Reprofile

HAMPTON, Ga. (July 6, 2021) – Following the July 11 Quaker State 400 presented by Walmart, AMS will break ground on a historic project to create the next generation of Atlanta Motor Speedway and a first-of-its-kind, all-new race experience in 2022.

Following 10 months of confidential research, development, testing and simulation with engineers and iRacing, the reprofile will increase the current 24-degree banking in Atlanta's turns to 28-degrees – higher than any other intermediate track on the current NASCAR circuit. Straightaway banking will remain five degrees. In addition to the new high banks, the racing surface will become narrower with an overall decrease in width from 55 feet to 40 feet. New widths will be 52 feet on the front stretch, 42 feet on the back stretch and 40 feet in the turns.

The project will pave the way for a bold new era of NASCAR racing in Atlanta.

"As Atlanta's racing surface has aged, we've challenged our-

selves to reimagine what NASCAR racing at an intermediate track can be," said Speedway Motorsports President and CEO Marcus Smith. "With high banks in the turns, narrower width and new pavement technology, Atlanta will be unlike any other mile-and-a-half track on the circuit. It's all new for '22 and this will be specifically designed for close, competitive racing."

The reconfiguration of Atlanta Motor Speedway is the latest innovative first from Speedway Motorsports, which has repeatedly redefined what's possible in NASCAR. From the debut of the ROVAL™ at Charlotte Motor Speedway, to the first NASCAR Cup Series race held on dirt since 1970 at Bristol Motor Speedway and NASCAR's first trip to Circuit of The Americas earlier this year, Speedway Motorsports has been a driving force behind many of NASCAR's most highly-anticipated events.

Construction is slated to begin the week following the July 11 Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart, with the next generation Atlanta Motor Speedway making its debut in 2022 in conjunction with NASCAR's Next Gen car.

Throughout the development process, Speedway Motorsports has partnered with iRacing to test and verify concepts for the future Atlanta Motor Speedway. The world-renowned motorsports simulator not only provided a virtual rendering of each concept, but also provided key data on how NASCAR's Next Gen car will perform on the reconfigured 1.54-mile oval.

"Flexing the muscles of our virtual track-building capabilities to prototype Speedway Motorsport's vision for Atlanta Motor Speedway has been a fun and exciting process," said iRacing Executive Vice President and Executive Producer Steve Myers. "From one concept to the next, we've seen the future of AMS take shape; all without moving a shovel of dirt in the real world."

The current asphalt at AMS is the oldest racing surface the NASCAR Cup Series will visit in 2021. Since its last repave in 1997, the speedway has hosted 38 NASCAR Cup Series races, 24 NASCAR Xfinity Series races, 20 Camping World Truck Series races, 10 ARCA Series races, and four IndyCar Series races on its 1.54-mile oval plus countless U.S. Legends and Bandolero car races on its frontstretch quarter-mile "Thunder Ring."

For more information or to purchase tickets to the July 10-11 Quaker State 400 Presented by Walmart weekend, visit www.AtlantaMotorSpeedway.com.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
 SUMMER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

1. Welsh dog breed
6. With juice, or au ____
9. Pirate's yes, pl.
13. What a subordinate does
14. Cigarette residue
15. Chimney cleaner
16. Coffin holders
17. "Sheep be true! ____-ram-ewe!"
18. Poisonous Christmas berry
19. *First U.S. city to host Summer Olympics
21. *Swimmer with most Olympic medals
23. Part of a min.
24. *Field hockey's stick and ball, e.g.
25. Gayle King's network
28. Capital of Latvia
30. *Canoeing: slalom and ____
35. Rhine tributary
37. Building annexes
39. A in AV
40. Three-ply cookie
41. *Madison cycling, e.g.
43. *Light ball tap, in volleyball or tennis
44. What hoarders do
46. Not happening (2 words)
47. Half-rotten
48. *Martial art debuting in Olympics in 2021
50. Make a plaintive cry
52. Short for although
53. Luau instruments
55. Street in Paris
57. * ____ horse in gymnastics
60. *One of pentathlon events
64. Kentucky Derby drink
65. Rock in a glass

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67. Small Asian ungulate
68. Spy's cover
69. Not a win nor a loss
70. Run off to marry
71. Pat dry
72. Eastern Standard Time
73. Between shampoo and repeat
9. Military no-show
10. Crowd-sourced review platform
11. Mature elvers
12. I do this with my little eye
15. Tibetan mountaineer
20. Slipperier
22. ____-been
24. London's Tyburn Tree, e.g.
25. Kick the bucket
26. Thailand's neighbor
27. Give sheep a haircut
29. A valley in Scotland
31. "Ant-Man" leading actor
32. Dostoevsky's "The ____"
33. Beethoven's famous symphony
34. *2021 Olympic host
36. Civil Rights icon
38. Long adventure story
42. ____ welcome!
45. Tree cutters' leftovers
49. ____ out, as in victory
51. One suffering from tuberculosis
54. Chosen few
56. Food safety threat
57. *Threat to muscles
58. Mixture
59. Source of protein
60. Pedal pushers
61. Golf club
62. Midday slumbers
63. High school club
64. #6 Down, sing.
66. Post-Soviet Union union

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