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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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For seven years, the first week in August in Franklin has seen 80s Flashback events to raise money for the Greenville Shriner's Hospital. A dress-up parade was held on Saturday featuring characters like KISS rock star impersonators Krash Gooder, Dwayne Cabe, Guy Gooder and Lee Cloer. For more on the parade, the 8K and other events, see page 12.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

BOC recognizes call center volunteers

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

When the COVID19 pandemic first swept the country in 2020, many organizations and agencies had to adjust operations quickly to meet the needs of citizens. In Macon County, one way that was quickly established was through the overnight — on a holiday weekend— establishment of the COVID-19 call center.

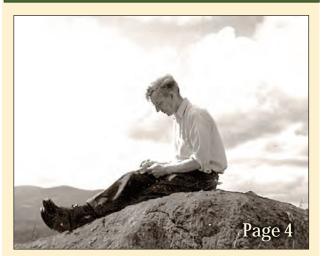
The call center, which was a partnership of local governments and private businesses, provided around the clock availability for citizens asking questions and needing services from the health department. Staffed by county employees and volunteers, the Macon County Board of Commissioners held a special recognition ceremony Tuesday night to thank the residents who made the call center possible

After presenting county employees and community volunteers with a special gift of appreciation, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland recognized one volunteer who went



Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland presented call center volunteer Frances Ledford with the Hero Award for going above and beyond and saving the life of an 82-year-old resident.

IN THIS ISSUE



Appalachian Trail an 'idea' of Benton MacKaye



Franklin General Store turned historic museum



'History of Highland dress' topic of lecture series

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VOLUNTEERS

Continued from page 1

above and beyond while volunteering by presenting her with the Macon County Hero Award.

On April 28, 2021, at approximately 10:45 a.m., call center volunteer Frances Ledford contacted an 82-year-old Macon County resident (Ms. Doe) who had missed their appointment for their second COVID-19 vaccination earlier that morning. The purpose of the call was to see if Ms. Doe was in route to the appointment or if she needed to reschedule.

Ms. D informed Ledford that she was not feeling well and was in bed. Ledford indicated that she was sorry to hear this and asked if Ms. D had someone to help her. Ms. D shared that she lives alone and had not contacted anyone.

Ledford quickly noticed that Ms. D did not seem to be speaking clearly and was complaining of numbness on her side. Ledford offered several times to call 911 for assistance and Ms. D refused. Upon ending the call, Ledford informed Zenobia Keezer, the Call Center Manager who then reached out to Macon County EMS Communications Supervisor, Todd Seagle asking if a wellness safety check could be conducted at Ms. D's residence. Seagle recognized the name and contacted a family member who authorized sending an ambulance to the residence.

Ms. D was taken to Angel Medical Center and at approximately 10 p.m. that evening, a family member posted on Facebook, "Thanks to whoever at Macon County Public Health had the wherewithal to realize that my mom was having a medical emergency while talking to her on the phone. You saved her life!"



Individuals recognized

County employees: Kristin Fox, Jody Brock, Nina Parrott, Christy Cabe, Jennifer Deal, Joe Breedlove, Tommy Allen, Kelly Gravitt, Michael Stacy, Lindsey Leopard, Kim Greene, Andy Muncey, Amanda Nicholson, Kaitlynn Roper, Katrina Stover, Hannah Anderson, Stephanie Robinson, Sheila Conley, Lori Smith, Nick Nicholayeff, Zayra Diaz-Arango, Nick Birchard, and Simon Hyatt.

Volunteers: Ellen Shope, Jean Pinkston, Jim Kauntz, Maria Green, Shawn Kisnad, Darlene Green, Kenny Murphy, Mandy Bewick, Jean Jordan, Regina Horner, Christopher Wallis, Adele Doering, Diane White, Keith White, Brenda Garner, Paul Garner, Gail Ashurst, Randy Ashurst, Karmen Mira-Knippel, Ann Nandria, Beverly Mason, Thomas Coley, Lee Berger, Tara Reeves, Laurel Martinez, Danielle Waldroop, Diane Day, Charles Motley, Zenobia Keezer, Wanda Clark, Bonnie Rung and Izabel Evans.

Two Drake employees: Terry Breedlove and Pat Davis.

MCSO responds to domestic resulting in murder-suicide

The Macon County Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic situation last Thursday night on Johnson Road after receiving a 911 call citing the involvement of a weapon.

Upon arrival, a deputy found two individuals suffering from gunshot wounds in the bedroom area of the home. Deputy found no other persons in the home. A family member arrived on the scene at the same time as the deputy and said that he had been on the phone with his brother when he heard his brother and his girlfriend arguing. He said that after hearing one shot his brother apologized to him for what he had done and then heard another gunshot.

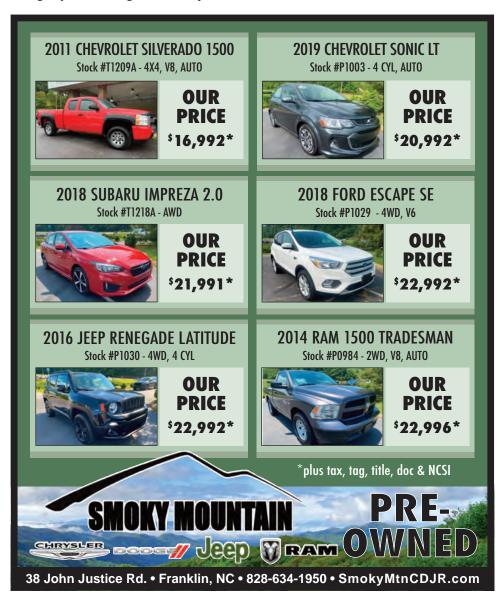
Once the deputy entered the residence, two gunshot victims were found with the female being found deceased. The other individual was critically injured and the deputy immediately requested assistance from medical personnel. EMS and members of West Macon Fire Department quickly arrived on scene, assessed the situation and initiated medical care. He was then transported to the hospital to receive additional medical care then later succumbed to his self-inflicted injuries.

Once the scene was secured by deputies, detectives with the MCSO Criminal Investigations Unit responded and began their investigation into the incident.

The MCSO did not identify either of these individuals until the appropriate next of kin were given the opportunity to notify other family and friends, however, MCSO is now identifying both individuals involved in the incident which is required by law when requested: Robert Dean Childers, 61, of Franklin; and Sandra Holder Reece, 61, of Franklin.

"We have continued to be in communication with family members throughout our investigation. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of both Mr. Childers and Ms. Reece," said Holland.

The investigation has officially concluded. No additional statements will be released according to Sheriff Holland.







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A.T. Community Council establishing future trail and hiker needs

Deena C. Bouknight - Contributing Writer

At an August 9 meeting at the Macon County Public Library, the Franklin Appalachian Trail (A.T.) Community Council met to discuss upcoming trail and hiker needs – and how to bring more awareness and education to residents and visitors regarding the popular trail that extends from Georgia to Maine.

At the meeting were representatives from the library, Mainspring Conservation Trust, the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Nantahala Hiking Club, and local businesses. Unable to

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

ROCK GAP SHELTER

STANDING INDIAN MTN. 18

G.A. LINE

SILER BALD

WAYAH BALD

WINDING STAIR GAI

BIG SPRING GAP

attend were representatives of county and city government as well as someone from the U.S. Forest Serv-

The group's main annual goal is planning, logistics, and funding of celebratory spring events for hikers of the A.T. since Franklin was officially designated an A.T. Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, located in Harpers Ferry, Va. Franklin is the first main resupply/resting point of the south-to-north hikers, and many are The Franklin A.T. Community Council met Aug. 9 to discuss future ways picked up before the trail to support Appalachian Trail endeavors crosses Highway 64 at

Winding Stair Gap 10 miles west of Franklin so they can come into town and stay, eat, and restock, before heading back out on the trail. From mid-to-late March until late May, thousands of hikers stop in Franklin.

For 2020 and 2021, typical celebrations involving food, music, giveaways have not occurred due to the pandemic, but the Council is moving forward with 2022 plans. The library's Kristina Moe said she will be focusing on securing grants to help pay for the event as well and moving forward with A.T.related lecture and event plans typically offered by the library each spring.

"It's so important for as many people and groups as possible to provide general education to Franklin citizens about the wonderful resource they have in the A.T. and how we as a

community can steward it," said Rachel Newcomb, Conservation Outreach Associate at Mainspring. She and others discussed the possibility of establishing a "one-stop" website about the local A.T. efforts to include all the different organizations, trail safety information, events and more.

Also discussed was how to link 18-34 year-olds with the Next Generation Advisory Council so that they will be informed on the A.T.'s needs in the community. The Next Generation Advisory Council provides young adults an opportunity to network, volunteer, speak, and lead.

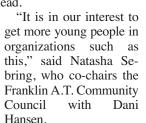
> Council with Hansen.

Victor Treuteo, who is the Nantahala Hiking

and to let the community know the value of the trail.'

Newcomb also shared with the group that Sept. 20-21 is when the National Trail of Tears Association will meet in the area for its annual conference. She added that attendees from all over the United States will come to Macon County and Cherokee and tour the Cherokee Cultural Corridor (a map of which is on the Nikwasi Initiative website) and stop in Franklin to view the Nikwasi Mound, part of the Corridor. The group discussed opportunities to bring attention to the A.T. while the association is visiting the area.

An A.T. Community Summit is planned for November in Damascus, Va., and the group considered the feasibility of sending representatives to brainstorm and gain insight into how the A.T. can be better promoted and supported locally.





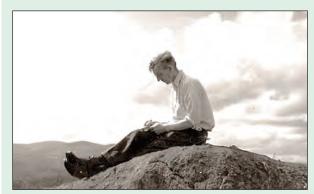
Appalachian Trail launched as 'idea' of Benton MacKaye

Deena C. Bouknight - Contributing Writer

At a local brewery on Aug. 8, historic figure Benton MacKaye was celebrated by patrons - some of whom represented local hiking clubs and councils - due to his 100year-old "idea" that sparked the creation of the Appalachian Trail.

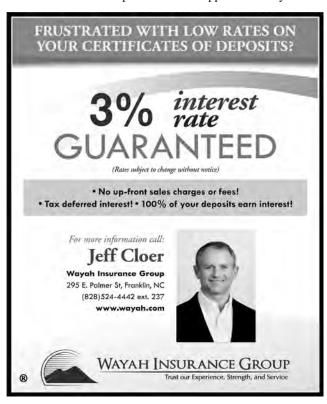
MacKaye, who lived from March 6, 1879 to Dec. 11, 1975, was a forester, planner, and conservationist living in Connecticut. A Harvard graduate, he joined a number of federal bureaus and agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U.S. Department of Labor. A co-founder of The Wilderness Society, he is considered a "father" of the Appalachian Trail due to an idea he presented in a 1921 article titled "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." The article motivated trail associations and community groups to begin the effort to blaze and build the more than 2,000mile trail along the crests of the Appalachian Mountains that eventually became known as the Appalachian Trail.

In fact, the Benton MacKaye Trail through parts of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, sometimes crosses and runs together with the Appalachian Trail.



Celebrated Aug. 8 in Franklin was the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's article that sparked the idea for the development of the Appalachian Trail.







MMS reno 20 percent complete

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Students at Macon Middle School will begin the school year in a partially renovated building, with work to be completed throughout the year.

Newly named principal Dr. Kevin Bailey said that the overall renovation project is currently 20 percent complete and includes renovations to the cafeteria dining area, kitchen main offices, media center, commons area and the entire roof of the school.

When middle school students return to school on Aug. 23, Dr. Bailey said they can expect to see new floors throughout the commons areas, media center and cafeteria.

"The school feels brighter with new lighting systems and color schemes," said Dr. Bailey. "Construction will occur only in isolated areas of the building when students return to minimize distractions."

The remaining construction will be completed in phases as to not disrupt the education process of the regular school year. As each phase is completed, some classrooms will be

"We are asking students, parents, and staff to be patient and flexible as we navigate the renovations this school year," said Dr. Bailey.

The renovation project will move to phases, which will slow down progress, but allows for work to continue around student schedules. The entire project is slated to be complete by November of next year, with the possibility of crews finishing earlier.

"We are very thankful that our school board and county commissioners are investing in MMS so that we can best serve the needs of our students," said Dr. Bailey.

The Macon Middle School project was awarded to New Atlanta out of Charlotte at a cost of \$8.1 million. The scope of work includes the addition of a 6,400 square foot locker room facility - which would be added to the facility's existing 100,477 square footage. Other major projects to be addressed include roof repairs, wall assembly, cabinet and window replacements, interior finishes such as paint and restroom partitions, HVAC replacement, and plumbing updates.



Macon Middle School students can look forward to new floors, brighter lighting systems and new color schemes. Classrooms will be moved around to accomodate projects still underway as the new school year begins Aug. 23. Photo by Vickie Carpenter



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Macon County Historical Museum a reminder of a bygone era

Deena C. Bouknight - Contributing Writer

Curator Robert Shook explained in his Summer 2021 edition of "Curator's Corner," part of the Macon County Historical Museum's Echoes newsletter, that while the pandemic meant that museum hours were sparse, he and other historians were able to focus on displays, preservation, and archiving. All the work inside the museum was a reminder of how the building has served the community for many years – and continues to do so.

In fact, the building that houses the museum was once the town's main general store. Pendergrass General Store was owned originally by J.R. Pendergrass and then passed onto his youngest son, J. Broadus (Broadie) Pendergrass. The elder Pendergrass started off as a minister relocating from Old Fort, N.C., to become the minister of First Baptist Church in Franklin.

He also served as principal at Franklin High School. But it was in September 1899 that he purchased the store property from another J.R. (Bell) and established himself as "one of the finest merchants in Franklin, holding that position for almost 40 years," said Shook.

After being in business only four years, Pendergrass's success was such that he tore down the wooden structure and broke ground for a three-story brick building - which is what stands today. Bricks were purchased from a local brickyard and when the structure was completed, the Pendergrass family lived

on the third floor, while the second floor mezzanine and the first main floor served as space for the general store.

"Oak and chestnut beams were reused from the old wooden building, and upstairs where they lived there were seven rooms and five coal burning fireplaces," Shook.

Today, the "store" features a stock of items from bygone eras – everything from store ledgers to Civil War mementos to period clothing to farm implements to countless photographs. But in the late 19th and early 20th century, Pendergrass General Store was the go-to place for dry goods, produce, eggs, gossip, checkers, and even marriage. Although he was a store owner, Pendergrass maintained his duties as a minister and would marry couples on the wide heart-pine staircase, still prominent today.

"Many people have fond memories of shopping there," said Shook, who noted that the

store remained in operation into the 1970s, even after a fire damaged the top floor in the early 1970s. "I came in here to buy tennis shoes in the early 1960s, so I remember it. It was considered a fancy store. People played





While the Macon County Historical Museum currently houses antiques and artifacts dating back to the town and county's beginnings, the building was once a successful general store. At right, one of two original cash drawers held the proceeds from the daily sales.

checkers every day either by the tree or inside in front of the pot-bellied stove. The original store was a general store, but then they tailored the store to sell mostly dry goods. Bolts and bolts of cloth because women sewed more ... needles, thread, cloth dyes, etc."

The current three-story structure that houses the historical museum was built in 1904 with the Pendergrass family residing on the third floor.

For a few years, the store was used as an art gallery, but then the building was established in 1988 as the Macon County Historical Society, which has not only retained the interior first and second floor, but also countless treasures donated by locals to help preserve the area's past. The third floor is still in the process of being restored and is used as

Shook shared that various items from town merchants are on exhibit at the museum, in-



The founder of Pendergrass General Store was also a minister and was known to marry couples on the heart-pine staircase in the middle of the store.

cluding a case full of "cherished" items from historic Rickman's Store, which is located in Cowee and operated as a general store throughout much of the 20th century; it is currently open on Saturdays from April to December each year as an antique store, museum, and music venue.

"There are also tons and tons of ledgers from the days when the building was the Pendergrass General Store," said Shook. "Those ledgers include locally recognized

> names, including Colonial Nathanial Rankin [who served in the Civil War], who ran a tab here."

Some of the most "intriguing" items on display in the museum are ones that belonged to the Pendergrass family. "They left behind college catalogs, some of [daughter] Marie's sheet music and perhaps the most precious of all, the letters sent to Broadie and Marie from doting parents."

While the Pendergrass General Store may have existed a few generations ago, Shook pointed out that residents and visitors alike can get a taste of what it might have been like to operate a business in another era. However, he also said, "The businesses on Main Street today are mostly in old buildings and while they may not sell necessities, like hats, shoes, and clothing for all ages, like the Pendergrass General Store did, they are focused on selling their specialty items just as intently as the Pendergrasses were back then."

Macon County Historical Museum is located across from the courthouse on Main Street in Franklin and it is open every day of the week except for Wednesdays and Sun-



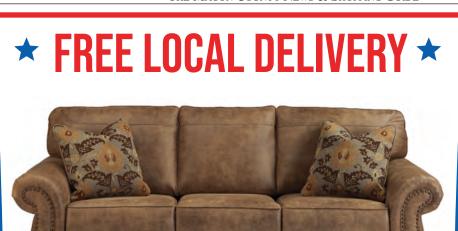
J.R. Pendergrass, proprietor of the Franklin General Store and his son, Broadus.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter and Deena Bouknight



J.R. Pendergrass acquired the West Main Street property in 1899, and opened a general store. In just four years, the business was doing so well, he tore the wooden structure down and built a three-story brick structure which stands today (pictured below).





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Many WNC leaders in favor of medicaid expansion

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners, comprised of four Republicans and one Democrat, voted 4-1 to approve a resolution in support of closing the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina through Medicaid Expansion on Tuesday night. Commissioner Paul Higdon (Republican) was the lone dissenting vote, saying he feels resolutions are "useless" and it is not the responsibility of the county to dictate decisions of the state.

Macon County joins the ranks of the Graham County Board of Commissioners, Swain County Board of Commissioners, Jackson County Board of Commissioners, Town of Franklin, and Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor in passing the resolution, calling on the state to act now to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina.

The resolution states "closing the health insurance coverage gap would extend insurance to approximately 1,322 uninsured individuals in Macon County and 750,000 across the entire state as well as drive new business and healthcare activity in Macon County and create 62 new jobs within the county.'

Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate said before considering voting in favor of the resolution, he had a lengthy conversation with Sen. Kevin Corbin, who assured him that he, too, supports the resolution. Corbin has been advocating for expanding the state's Medicaid program since he was a member of the House of Representatives and co-sponsored House Bill 655 which would have expanded the program for working families across the state. HB 655 passed the House, however the senate failed to hold a vote on it.

Prior to voting to approve the resolution, Casey Cooper, CEO of the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA) spoke to commissioners about the benefit closing the health insurance coverage gap would have for residents across Western North Carolina, particularly when it comes to mental health and substance abuse treatment availability.

In July 2018, Tribal leadership approved funding for a new psych/detox inpatient unit to build upon the old hospital structure located next to the new CIHA campus. Demolition began on part of the structure in February 2019 and the Crisis Stabilization Unit is set to open fall of 2020. Finally, in 2020 the CIHA opened a new crisis stabilization unity comprised of 18 inpatient rooms for behavioral health patients, four acute-care patient rooms that are equipped to support someone in a health crisis, and two large group therapy rooms.

While the original goal of the CIHA was to provide services to members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, hospital CEO Casey Cooper said that with additional funding sources, the CIHA would be able to open up services to residents needing care across Western North Carolina.

By closing the health insurance coverage gap in North Car-

olina through Medicaid Expansion, additional funding would become available for CIHA operations, which would allow the existing facility to expand services beyond tribal members and instead be open to care for anyone in need of mental health and substance abuse services.

"We want to make services available to non-natives, especially for behavioral health and substance use, but the challenge is federal regulations requires us to only do that if the service can't be reasonably available elsewhere in the area," Cooper said. "The second criteria is we have to charge the minimum of cost and finally we have to demonstrate that it doesn't result in a decline in services for natives. We feel comfortable we can meet those criteria if more people in the community had health coverage."

As it stands, Macon County spends between \$300,000 and \$500,000 a year to provide healthcare for inmates housed in the Macon County Detention Center. Expanding Medicaid would allow those individuals to be covered, saving taxpayers a significant amount each year. In Macon County, the jail employs a full time nurse and contracts with a doctor as a way to reduce costs, however one medical emergency could utilize the entire year's budget.

Cooper noted that while there may be questions as to how expansion would be funded, residents of North Carolina need to realize that they are already paying for expansion — which has been done in 38 states, however, since North Carolina is one of 12 states to not expand services, North Carolina residents are not benefiting from it.

Medicaid Expansion would be funded under the Affordable Care Act by the federal government covering 90 percent of the costs for states to close the health insurance coverage gap, with providers and hospitals paying for the state's required 10 percent match.

The federal incentives currently available for North Carolina to expand Medicaid would usher in unprecedented revenues into the state while increasing access to health care for rural

When ACA first passed, the federal government incentivized states to expand Medicaid by promising to pay 100 percent of the state's cost for the first three years and 90 percent of costs after that. Still, North Carolina and other states chose not to expand because they didn't trust the federal government to keep that promise in perpetuity.

"At the end of year three, expansion would cost North Carolina \$5 billion a year but because of ACA the cost will be matched by the feds at 90 percent, the state's match is \$500 million a year," Cooper said. "People say that's still too much but it's not a bad return for the match and the hospitals and insurance companies have agreed to fund 90 percent of the state match through assessments so now it's only \$100 million that's a \$350 million return on investment.'





Lecture series continues with 'Highland Dress'

The lecture series, "Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture" has resumed. The next program will be Monday, Aug. 16, at 6:30 p.m., at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center, and will continue the third Monday of each month thereafter.

Daniel Williamson, curator of the Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin, will present a program on "The History of Highland Dress and Much More." He will give a history of clothing that covers from the third century Picts (Picti - inhabitants of Pictland, before Scotland was called Scotland) to the 19th Century. He will bring lots of artifacts, including clothing, weapons, and armor, as well as illustrations.

Scottish heritage is important here. The Scots were among the earliest settlers in Western North Carolina.The Scottish Tartan museum not only highlights tartans and Highland dress but also Scottish American history and heritage.

December 2017 marked the completion of the Scottish Tartans Museum's first ever expansion. This expansion is a space of more than 725 square feet that increases the timeline narrative and the early history of Scotland. Daniel along with Jim Akins and Charles Coburn oversaw the expansion which was entirely volunteer orchestrated.

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 Road. Masks are required for those who are not fully vaccinated.

will be The Unusual Critters of Coweeta.



The September 20 program Scottish Tartan Museum curator Daniel Williamson will present a program on the history of Highland



4L Farm & Market is now open

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed 4L Farm and Market to the business community at 61 S. Patton Avenue (previously Frogtown Market). Owners Ben and Kimberly Ledford and Philip Lowe are excited to offer both a lunch menu and a retail meat market.

You can't get any fresher than 4L Farm and Market which opened in late spring, 2021. They serve lunch Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., offering a variety of menu items, fresh local burgers, smoked meat plates, sandwiches and salads. Orders can be called in for faster pick-up at (828)369-0001. Dine in seating is available, as well as, delivery in town.

The retail meat market is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., carrying local meat selection including beef, pork, lamb, chicken, eggs and milk.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our



4L Farm & Market is located at 61 S. Patton Avenue where Frogtown Market used to be. They have dine-in options as well as takeout and in-town delivery. Call (828)369-0001 to place your order.

customers and employees who are supportcommunity and would like to thank all our ing us. Come see us" said Ledford.





Letters to the Editor

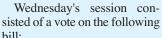
Opinion ———

News from the Legislature

From the office of N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie

The House held no-vote sessions on Monday, July 19, 2021 and Tuesday July 20, 2021.

Wednesday's legislative schedule consisted of the House Banking and House Rules committees meeting prior to the start of the 3:00 PM session.





Karl Gillespie

– HJR971, Honor Melanie Wade Goodwin, Former Member, is a joint resolution honoring the life and memory of Melanie Wade Goodwin, former Member of the General Assembly. The bill passed by a voice vote.

The House held no-vote sessions on Thursday and Friday. The House reconvened Monday evening to vote on the following legislation:

HB50, Calypso Annexation, would add a certain described property to the corporate limits of the Town of Calypso. The House voted via voice vote to concur with the Senate version

- HB791, Licensed Counselors Interstate Compact, would make North Carolina a member of the Counseling Compact, an interstate licensure compact for licensed professional counselors and appropriate \$20,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-22 fiscal year to assist with the administrative costs. The bill passed unanimously, 82-0.

The House and Senate held no-vote sessions the remainder of the week as work on the budget continues.

The week of August 2, 2021 began with continued work on the budget. No-vote sessions were held Monday and Tuesday evenings. On Wednesday, following an afternoon caucus, the House convened for a voting session. Various bills were considered, including:

- HB19, Remove Various Satellite Annexation Caps, would exempt the Towns of North Wilkesboro, Norwood, and Oakboro from the 10% area cap on voluntary satellite annexations. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 107-3.

– HB312, Qualifications for Sheriff/Expunction, would do the following: Clarify that an individual who has been convicted of a felony, regardless of any expunctions or restoration of rights of citizenship, is ineligible for the office of sheriff, in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution; Require a candidate or appointee for the office of sheriff to file a disclosure statement prepared by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission verifying that the candidate or appointee has no prior felony convictions or expungements of felony convictions. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 71-39.

Continued on page 11

Thought nuggets from a freedom lover

If someone is trying to violate my personal liberty and acts like a hysterical monkey because I do not believe their false system, then, NO, we are NOT "all in this together," and we are NOT "stronger together."

Why would I get a Big Pharma vaccine when vaccinated people are still catching COVID and vaccinated people are still spreading the virus to others as the CDC has admitted? I prefer anti-bodies from the actual virus to build my immune system.

Isn't it interesting how average people in the Communist Democrat camp simply regurgitate what their favorite talking heads are saying rather than think for themselves? A pure definition of "useful idiots."

There is no systemic racism in a country that elected a black man to be President. America has systemic ignorance and apathy.

If it is a man's "choice" to be identified as a woman even though he is still biologically a man, or it is a woman's "choice" to murder innocent babies in the womb, then why isn't it my choice to refuse an experimental vaccine that no one knows what the effects will be in 5 years?

Are people who trust in dubious masks afraid to die, or are they afraid to live?

Government funded Planned Parenthood did not get the memo that black lives matter, because they continue to kill 100s of thousands of black babies.

Isn't it sad that we are being lectured about our personal health by Communist Democrats who don't even know which bathroom to use and believe that men can become pregnant?

The shifting lies and chaos coming from mainstream media is proof positive of the existing false belief system. Many people are getting played by fearmongers while cheering the destruction of free speech. A prosperous nation cannot survive this trend.

Since dead bodies are not piling up in the street from a virus with 99.7% full recovery, why are we so afraid of "number of cases?" We were never afraid of flu cases before. At this point, COVID chaos is not about safety and everything about pure control by authoritarians and their minions.

So, it's a good idea to build a huge wall around the capital building and guard it from tourists, but it is a bad idea to secure our national border and prevent illegal activity? That's a special kind of stupid.

The only cure for COVID is to choose absolute freedom and ignore the lies and mandates coming from fear-driven groupthink because unvaccinated people in America in the 2020s are the new Jews of 1930s Germany. There must be freedom for all or there will be freedom for none.

Freedom is the only thing that can unite this country, but it is extremely difficult to free fools from the chains they revere. Dangerous freedom rather than peaceful slavery is what built this great republic.

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement on human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." – William Pitt

Jim Gaston - Franklin, N.C.

If culture is cancelled, what is the reset?

Our modern culture seems to be in a lost, just as in Peter Pan's Lost World of darkness, selfishness, and of not knowing just what it is or where we're going. The culture of canceling our memory's past of anything that was once built to carry us into the future, seems to be a dark effort of changing the realities of life itself. Monuments and historical places which give us a window view of the hardships and determination of many who struggled with a destiny of hope for all things in the future. And this betterment has come about by Whites, Blacks, Asians and every race which America is blessed with. Cancel Culture, Critical Race Theory, Black Lives Matter, White Supremacy, all look upon themselves as though they are the only ones who matter and are above others.

But if we are to cancel culture we need not stop here, we need to take this to the full extent, canceling everything, both the good and bad. Remove from our memories of those in hope of a land of freedom known as America, Removing all wars, all slavery, or anything of our past, even good can be offensive to some. Americans have strived in moving towards being a better people than we were in the past. Fighting for "We the People" and not for the powerful, instilling into our hearts and minds the values of human dignity and worth which finds no value if we have no idea where value comes from. If we are to reset our Culture, what is it we set it to?

If equality means we must all be the same and if you live in abundance and I in poverty, which is equal, must we all be abundant or all in poverty? Who says that either is equal? Or is equality as the founders saw it, that we each are equal in value, but not all have the same ability or talents, but to use those talents as a free and equal people. Being free and equal requires of us to strive for justice, peace, equality, forgiveness, and even true love, most seek this and would die for this, these goals Americans once strived to meet. Canceling the culture or history destroys the person's God-given identity within justice, peace, equality, forgiveness and love, all are distorted by not knowing where these values come from or where they lead to. Theses values are all in part the attributes of God and is instilled within each of us whether realized or not.

America's modern thinking is at a place where it's become a virtue or higher intellect to be in uncertainty about most everything. So being indecisive of issues seems as good, but anyone with certainty falls into judgment of being closed minded or looked upon as bigoted or evil. Many see this for

See next page

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Continued from previous page

what it is, but within media, journalism and political systems we are told differently, and should remain silent, yet modern thinking also states that "Silence is Violence," which creates a distinction between, "them and us." But within this fog asking for direction and clarity, you're belittled with indifference. Even a fool who keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent. (Proverbs 17: 28 ESV)

If all this isn't divisive please tell me just how this unifies anyone, let alone our nation in need of healing. I've stated this before, if you look to man or a political system to resolve the confusing problems of mankind the search will be never ending. Looking at someone who has told all that man is, all his faults, failures, hurts and joys. Christ has shown us who we are and what man is capable of, both in the good which comes from Him, but more so the evil which is against God and everything good. What do you follow? Why? You can cancel God but "God cancels no one." What do you think? Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

Time to toss out anti-American politicians

The fact that the two U.S. Senators from North Carolina, Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and 16 other RINOs (Republican in name only) just voted to push forward Joe Biden's \$556 billion so-called infrastructure bill tells us that the real illness that is sweeping through our country is people not coming to the realization that all too many of the people who were elected to national office are coming out of the closet as fellow-travelers of the American Marxist movement and have been lying about their intentions from the start.

Despite Comrade Joe's statements that he will not tax anyone who makes less that \$400,000 per year, the bill contains almost 30 new taxes that will be assessed middle and lower class Americans who make considerably less that \$400,000 annually.

For instance, the bill triples the gasoline tax from 18.3 cents per gallon to 53.3 cents per gallon, a three-fold increase. On top of that, the bill contains a provision to tax people on the basis of how many miles they drive and in order to bring the reporting for that to be done, all cars will be equipped with firmware in their on-board computers which will automatically report your VIN Number and milage to the government.

Next time you are riding down the road observe the coils embedded in the highways that are no where near an intersection or traffic light and ask yourself why they are there. The Infrastructure Bill, HR 227, allocates billions of dollars to ensure your cars will "communicate with infrastructure, buildings, and other road users." Now you will surreptitiously be electronically surveilled and records kept on every mile you travel. If they can do this surveillance electronically, can they shut down your car whenever they want to using this technology? The answer is "Yes!"

Instead of standing for American values and demanding Comrade Joe shut down the borders before even talking about Joe's Marxist agenda, these deceitful and corrupt politicians are selling out our nation by going along with Comrade Joe's efforts to wreck our country and kill our citizens

The current administration and its propaganda arm in the mainstream news media is screaming that we all need to bend our knee to their Imperial demands, take the jab and wear masks while at the same time allowing an ever growing number of illegal aliens to pour across the Southern border unchecked and untested for Covid and spending huge amounts of our money to bus and fly them secretly all over the country despite the fact that according to federal reporting, 18% of them are Covid carriers.

Last month Customs and Border Patrol reports that 220,000 illegal aliens were caught at the border. That is over 7,000 a day. Isn't this also a "Super Spreader Event" every day?

Eighteen percent of the 220,000 of illegal aliens is 39,600 infected law breakers that the Biden Administration is using to deliberately spread more Covid infections throughout this nation. That does not take into account all of the "getaways" that avoided capture.

The Lame Scream Media sycophants are bleating about "Super Spreader Events" like the motorcycle rally in Sturgis while Comrade Joe and his co-conspirators daily and intentionally violate federal law and allowing at least the same number of illegal aliens to come into our country EVERY MONTH and then callously, secretly, and deliberately spreading them throughout our communities to infect our citizens.

Oh, and let us not forget the fact that Comrade Barack Insane Obama invited many hundreds of elites with their hair dressers and makeup artists to fly their private jets to Martha's Vineyard this weekend to celebrate his 60th birthday while served by more hundreds of hired servants. Do you think they all were vaxxed and wore masks?

I guess that was not a "Super Spreader Event" since it was held by Emperor Obama who obviously thinks he and all of his elitist friends are better than the rest of us and do not have to follow the same rules.

Meanwhile the corrupt and despicable RINOs such as Burr and Tillis facilitate Comrade Joe's plan to destroy the very fabric of America instead of doing everything they can to stop the Biden Administration's open war on American values.

It is long past time that Burr and Tillis and all of their huckster fellow-traveler anti-American politicians are tossed out of office and we elect people who are Patriots, honest and care about the true meaning of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

Peter K. Stern USAF Retired – Franklin, N.C.

GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

Thursday morning I attended the Appropriations, Education Committee where we reviewed the education portion of the House budget proposal.

Session convened at 11:30 a.m. and among the bills we considered were:

- HB911, Regulatory Reform 2.0, would amend various State laws related to State and local government, utilities, education, occupational licenses, and other regulations. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 63-45.
- HB96, Allow Pharmacists to Administer Injectable Drugs, would expand the number of vaccines and medications that immunizing pharmacists are allowed to administer and require parents to provide written consent before a vaccine approved under an Emergency Use Authorization is administered to a minor. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 106-5.
- SB150, Various Local Act Changes, would amend the Charter of the City of Morganton to clarify the time period for filling vacancies in the Office of Mayor and to provide that the City Manager shall appoint the City Clerk to update fines for certain boating violations on Lake James; to provide that elections for the Town of Hildebran shall be held in even-numbered years; to establish office hours for the Registers of Deeds in Cleveland County, among other changes. The bill passed unanimously, 111-0.

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





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80s Flashback events raises funds for Greenville Shriner's Hospital

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

For the seventh year, residents in Franklin were treated to a blast from the past for the annual 80s Flashback Celebration benefiting the Greenville Shriner's Hospital. Hosted by community member Dave Linn, what started as an 8K race seven years ago has grown into a multi-day, weekend celebration of all things RAD to raise money for families who receive care at the Shriner's hospital.

"It has been so great to watch this event grow every year," said Linn. As a child, Linn received care at the Greenville Shriner's Hospital and has remained committed to helping them serve future generations. "We started with a race, then added some music, even an 80s beauty pageant, and for the last three years we have had multiple events including the fan-favorite 80s Flashback Parade."

In the 80s Flashback 8K race, 47 people paid the \$20 entry fee. Runners ranged in age from 11 years old to 74. Coming in first after 33:58 minutes, was 17-year-old Andrew Garrison of Franklin. Second with a time of 34:53 was 31-year-old Paul Anderson of Hayesville; and third was Danika Anderson, 26, with a time of 38:07. Rounding out the top 10 was James Sinclair, 39; Krash Gooder, 26; Stephen Drake, 38; David Henderson, 40; Greg Moberg, 38; David Evans, 46; and Charlie Ledford, 37.

Linn said that the total revenue raised for the weekend is still being tallied as of Tuesday morning. The charity events comprised of concerts at Lazy Hiker Brewing Company and Currahee Brewing, silent auctions, raffles, and event donations and sponsors have raised just under \$10,000.

"We are still waiting for final numbers to come in from some of the larger events we held and are really hopeful that this year we may raise a record amount for the Greenville Shriner's Hospital," said Linn. "In 2019 we raised \$14,500 and we are on track to pass \$15,000 this year and that would be totally awesome!"

























Travis LeDoyt appeared at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts last Friday with his uncanny tribute to Elvis Pressley. "Elvis" played to the adoring crowd with traditional Elvis songs. **Photos by Betsey Gooder**









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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests Dec. 1 - 10. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

August 2

Thomas Behringer, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Gregory Dylan O'Donahue, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury with minor present, assault on child under 12 years of age, injury to personal property. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

August 3

Joey Lee Chambers, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Brandon Lex Penland, was charged with probation violation. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Trance Lewis Stoudemire, was charged with assault on a female, interfere with emergency communication, probation violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Benjamin Gary Speed, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrests.

August 4

Caleb Scott Tallent, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Alrxis Miles Bragg, was charged with violate domestic violence protect order, speeding, reckless driving with wanton disregard, larceny. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Biaggio Withers, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Angelo Ramos Jr., was charged with assault on a female. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Gregorio Flores-Gasca, was charged with flee/elude arrest, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, reckless driving. Denver I. Elliott made the arrest

August 5

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jiglau made the arrest.

Jamie Patrick Oneal, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a vehicle for controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. Tim Holland made the arrest.

Connor Christian Sim, was issued a governors warrant for a fugitive, child support enforcement contempt. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Ian Thomas Spies, was charged with failure to appear. Costin

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Jiglau made the arrest.

Caleb Scott Tallent, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods, possession of burglary tools, burglary/breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Joan Beck Hobbs, was charged with failure to appear. Anthony Zari made the arrest.

Kenith James Scott, was charged with fugitive for out of state felony. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

April Renee Burd, was charged with aid/abet breaking or entering. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

David Jason Lewis, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Ian Sloan Nixon, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

August 6

Kaleigh Wa-Le-La Jackson, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Samuel Stephen Nix, was charged with probation violation, failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Martin Emilio Cerino Marquez, was charged with possession with intent to sell marijuana, possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine, possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle or dwelling place for a controlled substances, flee/elude arrest, no operators license. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

August 7

William Pell Hodges Jr., was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

August 8

Michael Richard Ford, was charged with assault and battery. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Kimberly Marie Jenkins, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Wilburn Wesley Holt, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Matthew Lee Hurst, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

July 30

Virginia Reynolds, 82, was charged with damage to property. A \$500 bond was set.

August 1

Reginia Leigh Sanders, 37, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1.500 was set.

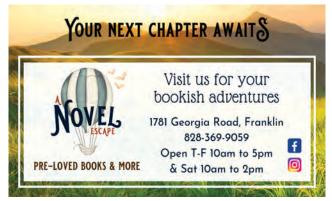
August 5

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with larceny. A \$600 bond was set

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

July 2

Courtney Diane Owen, 30, of Lost Ridge Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, felony possession of synthetic marijuana, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$7,500 was set.



Furman Anthony Smith, 47, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with fictitious/altered title/registration card/tag, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. No bond was set.

Bruce Eugene Ledford, 47, of Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

July 28

Matthew Douglas Rowe, 34, of Pumpkin Town Rd., was charged with failure to appear for simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Alexandrea Nicole Carpenter, 24, of Aurora Lane, was charged with misdemeanor conspiracy. No bond was set.

July 29

Missey Fern James, 49, of Althea Ridge Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Timothy Scott Lawrence, 52, of Valor Mountain Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with felony possession of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Hunter Alexander Morgan, 27, East Sylva Circle, was charged with misdemeanor conspiracy, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Michael Ray Guffey, 71, of Garland Buchanan Rd., was issued warrant for arrest for third degree sex exploit of a minor. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

July 30

Mitchell Nelson Jewell, 66, of Eagles Ridge Rd., was charged with assault by pointing a gun. No bond was set.

Brandi Nicole Johnson, 34, of Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. No bond was set.

Michael James Tullos, 31, of Orions Lane, Whittier, was charged with assault on a female, injury to personal property. No bond was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 40, of Cornis Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Eli Bronson Howard, 19, of Newport Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

July 31

Ronald Dennis Long, 74, of Independence Place, Cullowhee, was charged with interfering with emergency communication, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Joshua Lee Haney, 31, of Waynesville, was issued a parole warrant. No bond was set.

August 1

Anfeny Joshua Morales Vazquez, 25, of Manor Trace, was charged with interfering with emergency communications, assault on a female, assaut by strangulation. No bond was set.

David Jason Johnson, 39, of Laurel Knob Rd., Cashiers, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Tarrell Lawshawn Williams, 40, of Old Greenville Highway, Clemson, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine or cocaine. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Jonathan Matthew Jones, 35, of Palmer Pond Rd., Clyde, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meetings are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 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. To speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-

Nantahala Hiking Club will Hike Wilderness Falls, Frolictown Falls and Granny Burrell Falls in Panthertown Valley on Aug. 14, 10 a.m. Explore three waterfalls in the valley. One stream crossing. For more information and reservations, call leader is Laura Lauffert at (919)444-1478.

Holly Springs Community Development Association will meet on Monday, Aug. 16, 6 p.m., at the community building located at 2720 Cat Creek Road. A covered dish dinner in memory of Bernie Maki will be served at 6, followed by a short business meeting.

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Red Cross Blood Drives are being held in Franklin Friday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 6 p.m., at Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Drive; and in Highlands on Friday, Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Highlands School, 545 Pierson Drive; and Monday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Bible Church, 3645 Cashiers Rd. To donate blood, bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and others 18 years of age and younger must meet certain height and weight requirements.

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

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 about Macon County Art Association franklinuptowngallery.com.

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

Slow Spokes Franklin, a bicycle riding group, meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at FROG headquarters for a ride on the Greenway. Ride begins at 6:45 p.m., at an easy pace, with several options of starting and stopping according to riders' needs. Find them on Facebook at Slow Spokes, Franklin, NC, or call (828)371-4925.

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

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

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

Friends of the Rickman Store are looking for volunteers to be greeters and assist in Saturday activities. No amount of time is too small. The store is open Saturdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call Connie Reynolds (828)524-0359.

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volun**teers** to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Stop by for coffee, a soft drink and a snack, and free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church every Monday night, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Free childcare up to five years old for attending parents. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Dr. For more, email cr@discover.church with questions.

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CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church is holding Sunday services Aug.15, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) is at 9:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger, will continue his message as part of his series on Genesis. Special music will be presented by Becky Haas. The church is located in Franklin at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday in-person worship is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. COVID-19 health protocols are followed for in-person worship. Plan to arrive early for check in, masks are required. 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 us at http://www.firstumcfranklin.org

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-

Seventh Day Adventist Church meets on Saturday, with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Masks are optional. 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

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.

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

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Get Right Band plays Concerts on Creek Aug. 13

THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

The 11th season of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva continues on Friday, Aug. 13, with a performance by The Get Right Band from 7-9 p.m.

The Get Right Band has performed on the famed "World Cafe," a nationally syndicated NPR show, and have brought their unique sound to major festivals and venues such as FloydFest, The Orange Peel, Music City Roots TV Show, The Green Parrot, Arlene's Grocery, and Riverbend Fest. Combining catchy, clever, honest songwriting with musical expertise and fearless improvisation, the live show promises to move your head, heart, and hips.

The band is built on the musical brotherhood that guitarist/vocalist Silas Durocher and bassist Jesse Gentry have formed playing music together since middle school.

"Durocher has an impressive range and rich clarity to his vocals—think a more soulful Dan Auerbach" (Connect Savannah). Gentry's virtuosic bass playing "catapults from elastic to nasty" (The Mountain Xpress). With the addition of Jian-Claude Mears, a drummer with "precision, passion, and an inescapable momentum" (Live For Live Music), the group's sound has become an unstoppable force. They have been wowing audiences around the country and the Caribbean since their inception in 2011 with an unparalleled live show and a relentless tour schedule.

Concerts on the Creek are held most Friday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to 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. Everyone is urged to obey safe Covid-19..

For more information, call the Jackson chamber at (828)586-2155, visit www.mountainlovers.com or visit Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.

Journey tribute band returns to Franklin

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts welcomes the Journey tribute band Departure back to its stage on Friday, Aug. 13. Departure surpasses most tribute bands as they not only bring the sights and sounds of the original Journey band, but also add a special flair that makes for a great evening of classic rock music and show-stopping entertainment. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$18 each.

Departure is the longest running and most respected Journey tribute band in all the world. They have been performing together for more than 10 years and book more than 100 shows each year. They replicate the

look, sounds, and feel of the original 80s rock super group who are best known for hits such as, "Don't Stop Believin'," "Faithfully," and "Open Arms."

Their current tour has Departure making several stops throughout the south and up the east coast, but they have performed world-wide and recently opened for the classic softrock duo band Air Supply. Through that performance, they developed a strong relationship with lead singer Russell Hitch-



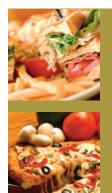
cock and plan to team up with the band again sometime soon.

Band members include Brian Williams on lead vocals, Joel Hayes on keyboard and vocals, Doug Ballard on bass and vocals, Jason Wilson on guitar and vocals, and Chris Stone on drums and vocals. This group of great musicians who engage with their audience throughout the show provide a fantastic concert experience. They bring the very best of Journey to the stage and are suitable for showgoers of all ages.

Departure is based out of Atlanta, Ga., and Gwinnett Magazine has named them Best Local Entertainer three different years. Concertgoers have often said their sounds are spot on to

the original Journey and if you close your eyes, you are immediately taken back to the '80s and would swear the original Journey band was performing in front of you.

To purchase tickets to see the high-energy show Departure delivers time after time, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (828) 273-4615.



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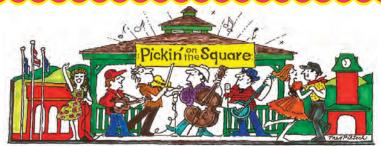


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This weekend we have the fantastic band, New Train. This is a big, popular band. They play all of our favorite music from the motown, Chicago band era. They are fantastic. You do not want to miss this classic group of musicians doing what they

So bring yourself a chair, come early, find a good spot and enjoy. This is to be one of our premier concerts of the season. It starts at 7:00 p.m. at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. We will see you there.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square





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John Morris 'Mo' Green

John Morris "Mo" Green, 53, went home to be with our Heavenly Father on Aug. 4, 2021. A native of Jackson County, he enjoyed time spent conversing with and checking in on folks in his community. He could often be found with a phone in his hand catching up with friends or engaging in a conversation with someone. He loved his wife, family, friends and church family; but, he loved his Lord and savior Jesus Christ above all. The absence of his presence will be felt through-John Morris 'Mo' Green out the East Fork Community and beyond.



Throughout his life, he worked for the State of North Carolina, Jackson County School System, and Caterpillar Precision Seals. He was a member of East Fork Baptist Church, where he was known for singing in the choir with a smile on his face. He was an avid fan of the outdoors, fishing, hunting, golfing, ginseng digging and yardwork. Likewise, he enjoyed wheeling and dealing, as he'd say, and collecting memorabilia.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Davis and Lillian Green.

He is survived by his wife, Heidi Green of Sylva, N.C.; daughters, Monica Green and Meagan Green of Asheville, N.C.; sister and brother-in-law, Donna and Don Schlagle of Sylva; brother and sister-in-law, Kim and Sondra Green of Rosman, N.C.; stepsons, James and wife Stephanie Croteau of Kingsport, Tenn., and Christopher and wife Susan Croteau of Elizabethton, Tenn.; eight step-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and cousins.

The homegoing celebration was held Saturday, Aug. 7, at East Fork Baptist Church. Pallbearers were James Croteau, Marvin Mashburn, William Cabe, Kyle Baldwin, Calvin Maye, and Ben Robinson. Honorable pallbearers were Andrew Cabe, Tanner Green, and Christopher Croteau.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Transplant Foundation in his memory.

Online condolences at www.appalachianfuneral services.com. Appalachian Funeral Services of Sylva is serving the family.

Logan Shane Anderson

Logan Shane Anderson, infant son of Joshua Shane and Lisa Marie Long Anderson, went home to be with Jesus, on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Logan is survived by his loving parents, Joshua Shane and Lisa Marie Long Anderson of Franklin, N.C.; brothers, Bryan Knepp and Bryson Anderson; sisters, Harmony Knepp, Elizabeth Anderson, and Arianna Knepp; grandparents, Christine Long, Robert Long, Deborah Anderson, and Brian Richards, all of Franklin; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins also survive.



Logan Shane Anderson

A memorial service will be held on Saturday Aug. 14, at 1 p.m., at the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Darian Cochran will officiate.

condolences Online be made www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Larry Dean Hollifield

Larry Dean Hollifield, 52, passed away Aug. 7, 2021. He was born Dec. 25, 1968, in Morganton, N.C., to Guy E. Hollifield (Joyce) and Glenda Murphy Buss (Wally). He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edward Hollifield, Dorothy Hollifield, and Otis Murphy.

He attended Western Carolina University, graduating with two Bachelors degrees. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, known as the oldest and largest business fraternity with its mission of developing its members



Larry Dean Hollifield

into principled business leaders. He was self-motivated, founding a successful business, American Computer Sales and Accounting in 1991, when he was only 22 years old. He maintained ownership of his business until his passing.

He was civic minded and was a member of the Macon County Planning Board for 17 years. He truly enjoyed helping others and was an member of Rotary for more than 20 years, serving a term as president. He was very active in the Rotary- sponsored RotoKids.

He was never just about work. He loved hunting and fishing whenever he could. Listening to '80s music and "BS-ing" with good friends were also perfect ways for him to pass time.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his spouse, Suzanne Lynn Harouff; his children, Tyler Hollifield and Thomas Hollifield, both of Franklin; his stepson, Sgt. First Class Christopher Holland (Brittany) of El Paso, Texas; his step-grandchildren, Benjamin Holland and Lucas Holland also of El Paso; his grandmother, Ruth L. Murphy, of Morganton; and a number of half brothers.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials in Larry's honor may be made to Rotary Club of Franklin, P.O. Box 375, Franklin, NC 28744 or CarePartners Hospice, 170 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

The family requests all condolences being sent via USPS to: Moffitt Family Funeral Care, c/o Hollifield Family, 668 Highlands Rd, Franklin, NC 28734

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Evelyn Faye Carpenter Hastings Dills

Evelyn Faye Carpenter Hastings Dills "Maw," 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday,

Aug. 3, 2021. Born in Franklin, N.C., on July 23, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Oscar and Omega Carpenter. She was a woman of faith and she was a life-long member of Tessentee Baptist Church.

Surviving are her five children, Linda Harbuck, Betty Reece, Lillian Hastings, Sandra Bradley and Ronald Carpenter; 14 grandchildren; 21 greatgrandchildren; and one greatgreat-grandchild; two sisters, Gladys VanPelt and Marie Anderson; and several nieces and nephews



Evelyn Faye Dills

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by two husbands, Bill Hastings and J.B. Dills; two sisters, Dorothy Justice and Lois Curtis; and one brother, Arnold Carpenter.

Funeral services were held Friday, Aug. 6, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Barry Bowman and Preacher Robert Dryman officiating. Interment followed in Wright Cemetery. Pallbearers were Travis Gregg, Keith Reece, William Ledbetter, Bill Bowman, Steven Bowman and Tyler

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

Leah Tolz Abbott Miller

Leah Tolz Abbott Miller, 95, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1926, to the late Harry Aaron and Netty Bialick Tolz. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Hank Miller; and brother, Avram Tolz.

She attended Mountain Synagogue, was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and enjoyed tutoring in math and reading. She worked her last job at the Wal-Mart snack bar in Franklin and re- Leah Tolz Abbott Miller tired at 75.



She is survived by her children, Sandra R Williams of Franklin, Jeanice Riles (Ernie) of Sylva, and Larry Abbott (Cary) of Minneola, Fla.; sister, Estelle Joseph of Sunrise, Fla.; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Sunday, August 22, from 12 to 1 p.m., at Franklin Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 71 Brendel Rd, Franklin followed by a memorial service at 1:15 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Children's Cancer Center at Duke, https://giving.dukechildrens.org/

Or the Wounded Warrior Project at https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Frances Keener Sorrells

Frances (Keener) Sorrells joined her heavenly family in her eternal home on Monday Aug. 9, 2021. She was born on Dec. 18, 1932. She is preceded in death by husband, Grover Sorrells and , Judy Fuller. Her siblings and parents await her in paradise along with her first grandson.

She was a Keener matriarch, and she loved her family. She was a lover of travel, gardening, and the outdoors in general.

She was a wandering soul. She lived in many different places in Frances Keener Sorrells several parts of the country. Often,



she would gather up her children and head to a new area. She owned and operated several local restaurants, The Downtowner being the most well-known. Frances lives on in each of us, our smiles, our laughter, our silliness, and our love for each other along with a good dose of Keener stubbornness and a lead foot while driving. One of the family's favorite memories is her love of mowing, even when she wasn't supposed to be.

She is survived by daughter June Haire (Bud), Nancy Braun (Keith), John Fuller, Alex Koletsos (Lynn), Robert Sorrells (Rochelle) and Robin Sorrells; numerous grandchildren, and great

A service was held Wednesday, Aug. 11, at Bible Baptist Church. The family received friends following the interment in the fellowship hall at Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church.

Her earthly body will rest at Ellijay Missionary Baptist church and cemetery, near her daughter. Rev. Bud Haire and Steve Webb will lead her services at Bible Baptist church (she was a member of Bible Baptist her whole life). Pallbearers were Brandon Braun, Michael Koletsos, Jim Keener, James Keener, Joe Keener and Tim Pippio. Her honorary pallbearers were Dom Sorrells, John Pippio, Brian Pippio, Bill Bell, Wade Keener and Howard Keener.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



View obituaries online at themaconcountynews.com



Dan Andrew Wilson

Dan Andrew Wilson, 58, of Clayton, Ga., passed away on July 28, 2021.

He was born in Jackson County to Bonnell Carver Wilson and the late Andrew M. Wil-

He was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. He enjoyed flying and had a pilot's license and loved working with fireworks as a pyrotechnician. Some of his other hobbies include playing the guitar, reading the Bible, and taking walks.

He is survived by his wife, Renay Wilson of Clayton; mother, Bonnell Wilson of Sylva, N.C.; sister, Charlene Wilson Hooks (Tom) of Sylva; and nephews, Drew Hooks, and Matthew Hooks (Emily).



Dan Wilson

Services were held at Sunday, Aug. 1, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Eddie Stillwell officiating. Burial was at Zion

Pallbearers were Ronnie Ledford, Drew Hooks, Matthew Hooks, Tom Hooks, Gage Ledford, and Michael Leatherwood. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Gideons interna-

tional at https://www.gideons.org/donate. Online condolences he made at

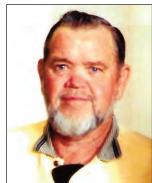
www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

R.L. Cunningham

R.L. Cunningham, 89, of Alexander, N.C., died Aug. 1,

He was predeceased by his wife of 17 years, Mildred Childers Cunningham; his parents, Walter Cunningham and Virginia Burris Cunningham; his brother, Rev. Jessie Cunningham; and his granddaughter, Marilyn Fullbright.

He was a graduate of Franklin High School, class of 1950, and a 1958 graduate of Western Carolina University with a degree in chemistry. He had a long career in



R.L. Cunningham

clean water and waste water management, first with the State of North Carolina and then with the Metropolitan Sewerage District

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean War.

He enjoyed baseball and softball, having played in college and in industrial league ball, and he coached multiple Little League teams. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter, with many grand adventures. He was a member of Elkwood Methodist Church.

R.L. lived life every day, finding joy in all things. He loved well and unconditionally, and was much loved in return. He was a great supporter of his children and grandchildren in all their pursuits.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Marilyn Penland Cunningham; children, Sandra Young (Steve), Richard Lance, and James Barry (Amie); others he considered as his children, Tamara Byrd (Rick), Tonya Davis (Mark), Scott Franklin, and Jason Franklin; grandchildren, Megan O'Kelley, Ryan Cunningham, Magan Hicks, Matt, Monica and Marcus Byrd, and Kelsey Fullbright; and a host of others whose lives he touched.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Aug. 4, in the Patton Avenue chapel of Groce Funeral Home, with Rev. Clark Henderson officiating. Burial followed at Ashelawn Gardens of Memory.

Jeffrey P. Kenaston

Jeffrey P. Kenaston, 74, of the Nantahala Lake community and formerly of Chattanooga, Tenn., passed away on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

He was born in Atlanta, Ga., the son of the late Herbert Harold and Jane Taylor King Kenaston. In addition to his parents, he was preceded by the "love of his life," his wife of 40 years, Linda Bosewell Kenaston on July 9, 2021; and sister, Barbara Kenaston Harris, of Woodstock, Ga.

He was a retired pharmacist, who served the Chattanooga area



Jeffrey P. Kenaston

for over 40 years and was the lead pharmacist for several stores in Chattanooga and North Carolina. He graduated from Mercer University School of Pharmacy, in Atlanta with a Pharmacy Degree. He went on to receive his doctorates in Pharmacy at the University of Georgia. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran, serving during Vietnam. He was past president of the Chattanooga/Hamilton County Pharmacist Association, and past president of the Tennessee Pharmaceutical Association.

He is survived by one sister, Nancy K. Elkins of Lutz, Fla.: nephews, Baron Elkins of Westville, N.J., Denton Elkins (Tammy) of Auburn, Ga., William White, of Stockbridge, Ga., and Brian White (SueLynn) of Velva, N.D.

A Celebration of Life will be Thursday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2, one hour prior to the service.

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

condolences Online made can at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Simon Charles Phillips

Simon Charles Phillip, 78, of Naples, Fla., passed away on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. He was born on Aug. 15, 1942, in Miami, Fla., to the late David Phillips Sr. and Myrtle (Pendland) Phillips.

Simon "Capt. Sy" owned and operated "The Silver Bullet" Charter Boat in Islamorada, Fla., for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Loyal Fraternity of Eagles, Eagle Riders and the Harley Owners group. He loved riding motorcycles and enjoyed golf.

He is survived by a brother, Simon Charles Phillips David Phillips Jr.; and sisters,



Joanne Farentine, Wanda Steolarski, Linda Miyares Covington and Colleen Saeldon; children, Debra Phillips, Jerry Phillips and Susan Phillips; five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Aug. 14, at 1 p.m., at The Oceanview Inn & Sports Pub in Islamorada. Friends and family will be gathering to share favorite memories, stories, to laugh, to cry and remember a brother, dad, grandad, and friend who will be greatly missed.



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The family would like to thank our community for the thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We gratefully appreciate the kindness, care and comforting words of all who graciously extended their hand to us. Thank you to Four Seasons Hospice and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for the excellent care of our Mimi. Thank you to Ronnie Beale for being the shoulder we all needed. Thank you to Pine Grove Bantist Church - to all the members that prayed for us, provided a meal, the special music and song and to Pastor Greg Rogers for his kind words and encouragement, and most importantly the time he spent with her during the last days. Thank you to Ronnie Evans for the beautiful songs he played in tribute to his sister. Thank you to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for the care and assistance you gave to us during this difficult time, and to the Macon County Sheriffs Office and the Franklin Police Department for the funeral procession. To all of you who sent cards, meals, flowers and kind expressions, we are so grateful for you, Thank You. As we mourn and grieve, we find comfort in your kindness and we know that Judy/Mama/Mimi has found her heavenly home

The Family of Judith Evans Houston

an ode to m i m i - from Hannah Houston Covington July 1944 – July 2021

the one I got to name; mimi. the one who picked me up at birth, surrounded me, engulfed me with her love; mimi.

the one who I got to share with the world; mimi

the one whose heart grew two sizes when two babies, lola & sloan,

the one who sat in hundreds of doctors visits with me, doodling in the one who are mindred or decrease with the document in highlights and magazines with no fret; mimi. the one who ran out the door in her red high heels, with a garden

hoe when I screamed bloody murder that a snake was after the one who taught me what it means to be a lady; mimi.

the one who taught me to play in the dirt; mimi.

the one that ensured every vacation was filled with exploration and learning opportunities; mimi.

the one who encouraged me to travel the world and immerse myself

the one who I spent every day. in awe of; mimi. the one who could set me straight with a single look; mimi. the one who knew me better than I knew myself; mimi.

the one who knew the value of a smile and a good laugh; mimi. the one who taught me true leadership as I played in her shadow at cartoogechaye; mimi.

the one who taught me the delicate dance of minding my. p's and q's balanced with speaking my mind; mimi.
and, about the workplace political waltz of yes ma'am, yes sir, no, yes sir, yes ma'am, no; mimi.

the one who taught me to have a strong work ethic but that also didn't mean you couldn't have fun; mimi. the one who helped us get lost in our imaginations; mimi. the one who. made everyday tasks an adventure; mimi.

the one who spent her last years moving from pillar to post; mimi-

the one who despite all odds travelled to texas to meet her great grandson; mimi.

and, while in texas said to not let her carry clay but, it took no time until we watched her carry him through the house and to her room;

mimi. the one who was the familial glue and taught us the value of family;

the one who was our matriarch, our queen; mimi. my. dearest friend; mimi.

the one who was the perfect example of infinite love; mimi. the one who found her heavenly home; mimi.

the one we will honor by spreading love and light; mimi

Kyle Larson continues his winning ways at Watkins Glen

Holly Cain - NASCAR Wire Service

Kyle Larson had to navigate lapped traffic in the closing laps and hold off his hard-charging Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott - the track's most prolific winner of late – to earn the victory in Sunday's Go Bowling at the Glen.

But the 28-year old Californian has been a driver to count on this season, finishing either first or second 10 times through the 23 races to date. And Sunday's trophy at the historic Watkins Glen International road course is Larson's NASCAR Cup Series-best fifth of the year; 11th of his career.

His 2.430-second victory over Elliott was good enough to move him into a tie with Denny Hamlin for the regular season championship with only three races remaining before the Playoffs.

It marked the eighth Hendrick Motorsports victory in the last 11 races and the fourth time Larson and Elliott have finished 1-2 – the third time at a road course event.

Larson led the final 27 laps of the 90-lap event, taking the lead for good from Joe Gibbs Racing driver Martin Truex Jr., who had paced the field for a race best 34 laps. Elliott got around Truex with nine laps remaining to claim second place.

Truex finished third, followed by his JGR teammates Kyle Busch and Hamlin. Hendrick driver William Byron was sixth with JGR's Christopher Bell, Stewart-Haas teammates Kevin Harvick and Chase Briscoe and Richard Childress Racing's Tyler Reddick rounding out the Top-10.

"Chase was already catching me pretty quick, even with me being in open track so when I caught those, I think four (lapped) cars and got into the 38 (Anthony Alfredo) right here, I thought I would look at my mirror and the 9 (Elliott) would be right on me, but thankfully had a comfortable enough gap to where I could make a mistake like that," said Larson, who apologized to his friend Bell during his post-race interview. The two made contact racing door-to-door for second place late in the race.

Although Elliott, 25, had to settle for a runner-up showing, it was an incredible drive for the reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion and two-time Watkins Glen winner. He started the race from the last row – and his crew chief Alan Gustafson was suspended - after his car failed pre-race technical inspection. Elliott steadily made his way forward, picking off cars with each turn. And as with Larson, he had to navigate that lapped traffic in the closing laps, which essentially cost him any shot at getting close enough to his teammate to challenge for the lead.

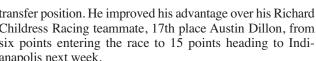
"I made too many mistakes to get the win unfortunately, and made it too late in the race," Elliott said. "Super proud of our team. Been kind of an uphill battle all day, but everybody was just super prepared coming into the day and our NAPA team just did a really good job of fighting it."

With three races remaining to set the Playoff field, Reddick gave himself a little more cushion room in that 16th and final transfer position. He improved his advantage over his Richard course and at the Charlotte oval. Childress Racing teammate, 17th place Austin Dillon, from six points entering the race to 15 points heading to Indi-

course debut next Sunday with the Verizon 200 at the Brickyard (1 p.m. ET, NBC, IMS Radio, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). It will mark the first time the NASCAR Cup Series has raced on the famed track's road course since it began racing at Indianapolis in 1994.

Phenom Ty Gibbs continues to impress with third Xfinity Series win in 10 races

Even the very drivers he beat offered congratulations to 18year old Ty Gibbs for the teenager's victory in Saturday afternoon's Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey 200 at the renowned Watkins Glen International road course.



anapolis next week.

The series makes its Indianapolis Motor Speedway road

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Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Go Bowling at The Glen at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 8, 2021 in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Photos by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

No matter which side of the track Gibbs re-started from, no matter the occasional hiccup getting up to speed, the grandson of NASCAR Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs proved he was up for the task – leading a race best (and career best) 43 of 82 laps to claim his third NASCAR Xfinity Series victory in 10 assorted starts this season. He also won at the Daytona road

Gibbs beat one of the track's all-time best, A.J. Allmendinger by .938-seconds to take the victory, passing him with two laps remaining to seal his fate and raise his third trophy of the year.

Ty did a great job, he was clean, made a great move on me and I couldn't really do anything to defend it," Allmendinger said, noting that although he initially took the lead on the race's final restart with four laps remaining, he knew he would have to deal with Gibbs for the win. "I knew how good he was, especially in the carousel and going through the last couple corners," Allmendinger said. "That car had a lot of rear grip and he used it. Congratulations. Fantastic job by him."

For his part, Gibbs was all smiles and few words after climbing out of his No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. The fans gave him a huge ovation. He is the youngest driver in Watkins Glen's storied history to win an Xfinity Series race.





THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

"Probably the most fun racing with A.J. (Allmendinger), the 7 (Justin Allgaier), and the 22 (Austin Cindric); those guys are very experienced veterans in this racing series and being able to race and beat them means a lot," Gibbs said. "I learned a lot too."

Cindric, the 2019 Watkins Glen winner and Xfinity Series championship leader finished third, followed by Allgaier and Harrison Burton. Brandon Jones, Noah Gragson, Jeb Burton, Justin Haley and Sam Mayer rounded out the top 10. Cindric won Stage 1 - for his series best eighth stage win and Allmendinger won Stage 2.

Gibbs wasn't even among the top 10 in the opening stage, but a different pit strategy moved him forward and he ran among the top five for the remainder of the race, battling forward at each restart figuring out a way to pass whoever held the lead - Cindric, Jones or Allmendinger. He passed them all.

'This is just a dream come true to win at Watkins Glen," Gibbs said, adding "This is just wonderful, I can't even believe it. ... Just a great race. I'm at a loss for words."

With their impressive showings Saturday, Penske Racing's Cindric – a four-race winner already this season and two-race winner Allmendinger maintain their places atop the NASCAR Xfinity Series championship standings. Six races remain to set the 12-driver Playoff field. JR Motorsports driver Michael Annett is currently 12th in the standings with a 30-point advantage over Stewart-Haas Racing's Riley Herbst and a 45-point edge over Brandon Brown.

The series' next race is the Pennzoil 150 at the Brickyard, next Saturday at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course at 4 p.m.

Austin Hill wins rain-shortened race in NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Return to Watkins Glen

Race leader Austin Hill was declared the winner of Saturday's United Rentals 176 at the famed Watkins Glen International road course after lightning in the immediate area forced



Austin Hill, driver of the #16 United Rentals Toyota, celebrates after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series United Rentals 176 at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 7, 2021.





NASCAR Hall of Famer and team owner Joe Gibbs (L) congratulates his grandson, Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey at Watkins Glen International on Aug. 7, 2021, in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

the field to stop on pit road 11 laps from the scheduled race

Hill had taken a 1.023-second lead over John Hunter Nemechek before the trucks headed to pit road where they waited under red flag conditions for nearly an hour before the race was officially called.

The race marked the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series regular season finale, officially setting the 10-driver 2021 Playoff field. And while there were no impactful moves in the standings as far as Playoff eligibility, it certainly wasn't for a lack of trying in the truck series' first race at the 2.45-mile vintage road course in 21 years.

Hill, who had previously only led two laps in his career on road courses, led a race best 36 of the 61 laps in the No. 16 Hattori Racing Enterprises Toyota to take his second win of the season – and second straight after claiming the trophy in the previous race, July 9 on the Knoxville, Iowa dirt track.

"It was nerve-wracking that's for sure, I didn't know if we were going to go back to green or not," said Hill, 27, of Winston, Ga. "It feels so good to win on a road course.

"I was really biting my nails a little bit when that rain came, I didn't know what was going to happen with the lightning and all that," he continued. "But they gave me a really great piece today and we were able to go out there and get it done. It's really special to get a win at Watkins Glen."

Nemechek's runner-up effort was his series-best ninth top five. His five wins in the No. 4 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota are most in the series this season and a personal high mark for the 23-year old second-generation star who also receives a 15-point bonus for winning the regular season title.

The victory was especially big for Hill, moving him into second place in the standings, 18 points behind Nemechek to start the Playoff run. Another two-race winner Ben Rhodes, who finished 15th on Saturday, is ranked third.

The remainder of the 10-driver Playoff field includes Todd

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Gilliland, 2020 series champion Sheldon Creed, Zane Smith, three-time series champion Matt Crafton, first-time Playoff contenders, rookies Carson Hocevar and Chandler Smith and veteran Stewart Friesen.

21

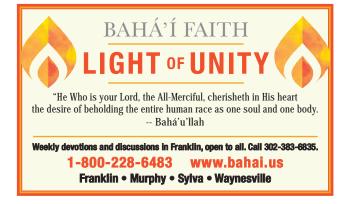
Derek Kraus, the popular 19-year old Wisconsin driver, was officially eliminated from Playoff contention after spinning out with 19 laps remaining. Kraus had run in the Top-5 early in the race, placing third in Stage 1. He started the race ranked 11th - 40 points from the Playoff cutline line. But he and Tyler Ankrum, who started the race 12th in points, essentially needed a victory to secure that Playoff position. Ankrum finished seventh.

In many ways, Saturday's race was a Playoff preview. Gilliland won Stage 1 and Hill took the Stage 2 victory, both fending off runs by fellow championship eligible drivers.

Creed, who boasts the series all-time best road course average finish (3.0), finished third. Gilliland was fourth and Parker Kligerman rounded out the Top-5 – his first top five showing of the season.

The first three-race round of the 2021 Playoffs begins Aug. 20 with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Gateway 200 (9 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) at World Wide Technology Park at Gateway. The following two races of the round are are at Darlington Raceway on Sept. 5 and then Bristol Motor Speedway on Sept. 16.







12

10

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THEME: TV THEME SONGS

ACROSS

- 's razor
- Credit card-related
- acronym
- 9. Goes with rave
- 13. Garlic mayo
- 14. "Jack and the Beanstalk" exclamation
- 15. Echo sounder
- 16. Beauty shop
- 17. European Economic Community
- 18. Falstaffian in body
- 19. *"Scooby-Dooby-Doo, where are you? We got some work _
- 21. *"So no one told you life was gonna be __
- 23. Pocket watch chain
- 24. Uncouth one
- 25. Place to get a massage
- 28. Boozer
- 30. Pie nuts
- 35. Sharpen
- 37. Orange powder drink mix
- 39. Tennis-affected joint
- 40. Bright thought
- Reputation-damaging gossip
- 43. Symphony member
- 44. Famous Beethoven symphony
- 46. Microsoft browser
- 47. "Young Frankenstein" leading actor
- 48. Dines at home
- 50. Telephoned
- 52. Up to present time
- 53. Neat
- 55. Diamond stat
- 57. *"Gee, our old great, those were the days" 61. *"Let's ride with the fam-
- ily down the street through the courtesy of Fred's _
- 65. Loosen laces
- 66. Opposite of vend
- 68. Kind of artery
- 69. One Beatle
- 70. Recipe amt.
- 71. Opposite of atonal



CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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72. *"Where the kisses are hers and ____ and his, Three's company too"

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- 73. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- 74. Rosetta Stone, e.g.

Down

- 1. Brewer's kiln
- 2. "Ta-ta!" in Italy
- 3. *"If you're out on the road
- feeling lonely, and so _
- 4. Remote in manner 5. S.S. ____ of "Gilligan's Is-
- land" 6. Not many (2 words)
- 7. *"Movin' on up to the east side, we finally got a piece of
- 8. Right-hand page
- 9. Schneider and Reiner
- 10. Afresh 11. Astronaut's insignia

12. Three pointer

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- 15. Evening party
- 20. Sad newspaper notices
- 22. Goes with skip and a jump 24. Without a trace of moisture
- (2 words) 25. *"Everybody's got a spe-
- cial kind of story, everybody finds a way to
- 26. Podium, pl.
- 27. Concerning, archaic
- 29. *"Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your
- 31. Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- 32. The Beatles' " Road" 33. Not a soul (2 words)
- 34. *"Sunny day, sweepin' the clouds away on my way to where the air is _____" cooking

- 38. Lady nèe Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta
- 42. Extend subscription
- 45. Infamous German leader
- 49. Naught
- 51. Barley kernels
- 54. Financial woes
- 56. Where there's trouble?
- 57. Verdant
- 58. Initial stake
- 59. Hollywood Walk of Fame
- 60. A snob puts them on
- 61. Use a keyboard
- 62. Marine eagle
- 63. Bibliographical abbr.
- 64. *"Just sit right back and you'll hear a ____
- 67. *"Oh boy it's swell to say, Good morning _

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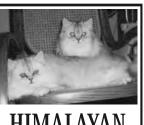
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