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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Macon County Public Health conducted a drive-thru COVID-19 testing at Mountain View Intermediate last Thursday. As of Tuesday, Aug. 18, 497 cases have occurred in Macon County with 458 recovered, 35 active positive cases, four deaths and 131 pending. A Macon County Public Health employee has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is isolating at home and doing well. Close contacts of the employee have been notified and tested. The necessary steps to disinfect the affected area have been performed. Since March, Macon County has implemented strong infection control standards in all county facilities to protect employees and citizens.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Positive COVID-19 cases found; school goes on

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The first day of school began on Monday, Aug. 17, and although unconventional due to COVID-19 restrictions, Dr. Chris Baldwin, Macon County Schools Superintendent, said that there was a tremendous amount of cooperation from everyone.

That is not to say there weren't a few glitches. Parents were notified Wednesday afternoon that members of the Macon Middle School, Mountain View Intermediate School and South Macon Elementary School cafeteria teams have tested positive. These individuals have been in quarantine since the beginning of the week and have not been on campus to expose students. As a precaution, cafeteria teams have been sent home to quarantine according to contact tracing protocols. With the help of CareNet, bagged lunches were served on Thursday. There was also some exposure at one school on Monday, due to a parent coming to school who had tested positive. Dr. Baldwin urged parents to please stay home and call or email the school if they needed information. The district is working with the health department to conduct contact tracing. Anyone found to have been exposed will have to self quarantine for 14 days. Staff levels are adequate at this time.

Two students were found to have fevers, but had gone to the doctor and both brought doctor's notes that stated they tested positive for strep throat.

### In other business

John Hamlin, State Farm Agent, has donated 1,700 stylus pens to Macon County Schools. Because every student in Macon County Schools will be using an iPad for remote learning, these pens will aid in the use of their iPads, especially in younger unfamiliar users. The pens will be distributed to schools where teachers will give them out to students.

Iotla Valley Elementary School had a leak in one of their AC units. Dr. Baldwin explained that this normally would not have been a problem, but due to the fact that the air needs to circulate in school because children and staff are wearing masks, this was made a priority and they will try to get it repaired by the end of the week.

### GreenPower solar project update

Macon County School Stem Coordinator Jennifer Love gave an update on the N.C. GreenPower Solar Panel Array Project. At this time they have raised close to \$1,000 out of

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## Two-day forum scheduled for 11th Congressional District candidates

Republican Madison Cawthorn and Democrat Moe Davis, candidates for the North Carolina congressional seat left vacant by White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, have both agreed to appear at a two-day joint forum hosted by three of the district's media outlets.

On the evenings of Friday Sept. 4, and Saturday, Sept. 5, candidates will join moderator Cory Vaillancourt and a panel of guests for "Best in the West: North Carolina's 11th Congressional District forum."

The first event, to be held at Western Carolina University's Biltmore Park instructional site, will feature questions by Lenoir-Rhyne University Equity and Diversity Institute developer Aisha Adams, former *Asheville Citizen Times* political reporter and current *Mountain Xpress* contributor Mark Barrett and Pete Kaliner, longtime N.C. political reporter, radio host and podcaster. Topics will include international, national, state and urban issues.

The second event, to be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, will include WCU political science and public affairs department chair Chris Cooper, WCU professor of economics and director of WCU's Center for the Study of Free Enterprise Edward Lopez and Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Topics will include rural issues, native issues and education.

Due to venue capacity limits currently in place, events will not be open to the public, but will be livestreamed. Specific times and instructions on how to watch will be published in the coming days.

For more information, contact Cory Vaillancourt, 912.508.5640 or cory@smokymountainnews.com.



Moe Davis



Madison Cawthorn

## John Hamlin donates to Macon school children

Students in Macon County will be better equipped for remote learning thanks to a donation from John Hamlin State Farm in Franklin. John and the team donated 1,700 stylus pens to the school system for students to use this Fall.

Each student in Macon County will be equipped with an iPad this school year as they will be spend half the week in the classroom for in-person instruction and the other half doing remote learning. The stylus pens are designed to make using the iPad easier.

"This donation will really help students adapt to the new technology of the iPads, which they will be using frequently during remote learning," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "The stylus will help to encourage proper gripping, which students would normally perfect while using a pencil during their school work."

Hamlin said that his team was brainstorming ways to help local schools when he realized that his daughter, who will be entering second grade this Fall, used a stylus pen when working on her iPad. After some research, Hamlin decided to place a bulk order to donate to the school system.

"Teachers and parents have enough to worry about this school year so we wanted to do something to make things a little easier," said Hamlin. "Stylus pens are a great addition to have when students work on devices not just because they allow more control when drawing and writing, but they also help keep the screen cleaner and free of smudges."

Dr. Baldwin and Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove picked up the pens from Hamlin and will be distributing them to schools across the county who will be providing them to students.



Board of Education Chair Jim Breedlove and Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin collected 1,700 stylus pens donated by John Hamlin State Farm to be distributed to Macon County School students for use with their school-issued iPads. Pictured (L-R) are Chris Allen, Shelia McClure, Judy Jones, Breedlove, Baldwin, John Hamlin and Harper Hamlin.

## FIRST DAY

Continued from page 1

generate \$800 per year in electrical savings for the next 40 years, for a total of approximately \$32,000 in savings. Love says they have until the end of September to raise the remainder of the funds needed or they will forfeit the money already raised along with the project. If the goal is not met N.C. GreenPower will use the money toward other projects. Several businesses expressed an interest in wanting to participate but the deadline is approaching. To make a donation by check, make payable to "NC GreenPower" and be sure to note MVI in the "memo" section of the check. Mail to NC GreenPower, Attn: Solar Schools, 909 Capability Drive, Suite 2100, Raleigh, NC 27607. Donations to NC GreenPower on behalf of the school are tax deductible. For questions regarding this project, contact Jennifer Love at (828)524-3314.




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# Macon County 4-H Youth win in State Presentation Competition

Each year Macon County 4-H'ers test their presentation skills against 4-H'ers from across the state during West District competition called District Activity Day and during state competition called NC 4-H State Presentation Finals. This summer, due to Covid-19, youth had to prepare their presentations and then submit them by internet to their assigned judges.

"While this was a new method and experience, our 4-H youth did an outstanding job showing off their skills," said Tammara Talley, NC Cooperative Extension, Macon County chapter.

Six 4-H'ers competed at the District competition in June:

- Emma Baker placed gold in Entomology
- Alisa Campbell and Abby Young placed bronze in Environmental Science
- Shelby Cyphers placed silver in Egg Cookery
- Rose Mutz place gold in the Open category
- Sara Young placed gold in Environmental Science

In July, four youth went on to present at the state level where 312 youth competed:

- Emma Baker placed silver in Entomology
- Shelby Cyphers placed silver in Egg Cookery
- Rose Mutz placed silver in the Open category
- Sara Young placed gold in Environmental Science

4-H is North Carolina's largest youth development organization, equipping more



Sara Young placed gold for her Environmental Science presentation in both the District and State competition.

than 262,200 young people each year with the skills to succeed and improve the world around them. 4-H programs and camps encourage young people to "learn by doing," helping them to develop into active, contributing citizens. NC State Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University coordinate 4-H programs statewide.

For more information about the 4-H program in Macon County, call the Cooperative Extension office at (828)349-2046.

# Macon County 4-H'ers compete in virtual State 4-H Horse Show

While this year has been very different for Macon County 4-Hers, many have gone the extra mile to show off their show animals and projects. Natalie Owens and Courtney Weeks recently competed with equine youth from across the state in the first virtual NC 4-H State Horse Show. Competitors submitted a recorded competition riding pattern to be judged online. Owens and Weeks placed among 219 statewide competitors.

Natalie Owens placed 2nd in Senior Hunter Showmanship; 4th in Senior Western Horsemanship; 4th in Senior Western Showmanship; and 3rd in Senior Hunter Equitation.

Courtney Weeks placed 9th in Senior Hunter Hack; 10th in Senior Hunter Showmanship; and 10th in Senior Hunter Equitation.



Natalie Owens participated in the first virtual NC 4-H State Horse Show by submitting a recorded competition riding pattern to be judged online.



Courtney Weeks was among 219 competitors who submitted a recorded entry to the first ever virtual N.C. 4-H State Horse Show.



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# Macon Middle School renovations still on the back burner

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

During an update to the Board of Education Monday night, Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin cautioned board members that the bridge overpass at Macon Middle School was a cause for concern as students return to school for the first time since March.

“The overpass at Macon Middle School where buses drive over the tunnel where car rider students walk into the lower parking lot, the DOT has told us that we can no longer use that overpass for buses,” said Dr. Baldwin. “That has impacted traffic patterns at the middle school.”

Macon Middle School and Mountain View Intermediate see 40 buses through their campuses right now in addition to car riders. There is an increase in buses to these schools as shuttles from elementary schools are not permitted due to social distancing requirements on the school buses. To address the logistics surrounding transportation at the schools, the district is considering staggered times for bus riders and car riders moving forward.

The overpass at the middle school is one of the many repairs identified on the overall renovation project at Macon Middle School, which is expected to cost several million dollars over the next few years.

Last Fall, the district approved SGA NarmourWright



The overpass at Macon Middle School where both buses and cars would drop off students has been deemed unsafe and is barricaded from use of vehicular traffic.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Design as the architectural firm hired to develop renovation plans for the school. Last week, Macon County Commissioners approved an additional \$16,000 in project changes to the proposed plans to accommodate for technology needs at the school.

After commissioners agreed the renovations needed at Macon Middle School were more extensive than what could be accomplished within the annual capital outlay budget the project was separated and bids were solicited to address structural needs.

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. The work needing to be addressed includes roof repairs, wall assembly, cabinet and window replacements, interior finishes such as paint and restroom partitions, HVAC replacement, and plumbing updates.

Budget concerns stemming from the loss of tax revenue due to businesses being shut down because of COVID has slowed the process, however Macon County Manager Derek Roland said that after the final architectural plans are submitted and approved by the board, and a proposed cost is presented, the board has a certain amount of time to decide to move forward with the project or table it due to financial concerns.

As it stands, Roland said he expects the final plans to be presented to the board in September or October for approval and then a decision will be made as to how to continue.

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# County moves closer to expanding broadband

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

The Macon County Planning Board was tasked with reviewing the county's existing Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance in an attempt to ease restrictions involving broadband internet towers.

Last week, the planning board met and considered public comments before voting to recommend the county amend the ordinance to allow administrative review and approval of towers 50 to 125 feet in height used exclusively for broadband internet.

The planning board was charged with reviewing the ordinance to see if any changes could be made or needed to be made to streamline the approval process for broadband internet towers.

According to Macon County Assistant Planner Joe Allen, the board heard from two companies expressing interest in building towers in Macon County who said that the county's current procedure for approval is tedious and is a deterrent. A review of neighboring county ordinances in both Jackson County as well as Watauga County, showed that depending on tower height, approval of construction was given to county administration rather than having to submit plans and wait months for a public hearing process.

As it stands now, a company wishing to erect a tower for broadband in Macon County would first have to submit an application to the county's planning department. The request would be placed on the agenda for a meeting, which is only scheduled once a month for a public comment period to be held before final approval. For smaller companies, like the two who spoke to the Macon County Planning Board, they do not have the personnel or resources to submit to that process, only to be denied during the public comment period.

By removing the step of a public comment period, the process can be expedited and become more efficient.

"The recommended changes were sent to the county attorney so he could draft them into the existing ordinance," said Allen. "Once the county attorney is finished with the changes, the ordinance will go to the county commissioners for review and public hearing before being adopted."

The proposed changes will apply to broadband specific towers only. Macon County currently does not have any broadband specific towers. According to Allen, the towers are significantly smaller than phone towers and in the five or so years Jackson County has been utilizing them, they have had no issues. The environmental impact as well as the visible recognition of the towers is much less than that of cell phone towers.

By removing some of the barriers associated with applying for new towers, Macon County hopes to make it easier for companies to expand broadband capacity across the county.

Allen said that if approved by the county, the companies

who spoke to the planning board earlier this year, which are based out of Jackson and Swain counties, would be able to apply for grants that would allow them to expand to Macon County almost immediately.

**Commissioners approve RFP for internet expansion project**

The Macon County Board of Commissioners approved an RFP (Request For Proposal) for a high-speed internet access service expansion project.

"This RFP is the first step in what we hope will be a series of steps toward expanding high speed broadband internet access here in Macon County," said Macon County Manager Derek Roland.

The RFP solicits bids and proposals from private providers to expand to unserved areas of Macon County. The project focuses on expansion to unserved areas over a three-year period within the areas of Addington Mill, Riverside,

McDonald Mill, Otto, Norton, Mulberry, Tennesse, and Scaly Mountain. The project would provide internet at a capacity geared toward the economic development of the specific areas.

The company awarded the RFP will then be eligible for partial grant funding from Macon County to complete the project in the amount not to exceed

\$580,000 of the total project cost. Any grants awarded as a result of the RFP will be on a technology neutral basis and will only be open to proposers which are unaffiliated qualified private providers. The RFP specifically states that as part of the application, the provider must address why and how much of a grant from Macon County would be needed in order to complete the requested scope of work to expand connectivity around Macon County.

"This will also allow Macon County to partner with broadband providers to expand broadband for our residents," said Roland. "The grants will offset the operational costs to make it financially feasible for a company to invest in the infrastructure needed to serve the county."

The RFP approved by Macon County Tuesday night was modeled after a 2016 RFP from Stokes County, North Carolina. The RFP was tweaked and reviewed by the North Carolina Infrastructure Broadband Committee.

The company that was ultimately awarded the 2016 RFP in Stokes County, Wilkes Communications, was awarded a \$1.8 million grant from the county to help offset the costs.

The grant funding made possible through the RFP has various revenue sources, however, a pool of \$30 million in state money would become available in October if approved by the state's General Assembly. The bill was approved by the House and is awaiting consideration in the Senate. The General Assembly is expected to reconvene in Raleigh after Labor Day.

The RFP will be advertised immediately and proposals will be considered by county leaders in the coming months.

"This will also allow Macon County to partner with broadband providers to expand broadband for our residents. The grants will offset the operational costs to make it financially feasible for a company to invest in the infrastructure needed to serve the county."

– Derek Roland, County Manager

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## Downtown merchants hand out school supplies

Gwen Taylor, president of the Street of Heritage Association, was on hand Saturday to decorate Main Street with balloons to greet the school children who came to Main Street to pick up school supplies. She also created bags in her shop at the Dusty Pallet for the students in which to put their collected supplies. "We at The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association would like to thank everyone who came out Saturday to Celebrate Back to School downtown. Thanks to all the merchants, who put this on by helping to give out supplies or who is a supporter by being a merchant member. Supplies were provided by the merchants of The Streets of Franklin Heritage Association. Thanks to Macon Co. TDC & TDA for your continued support and thank you to the Town for allowing us to place balloons downtown and your support. In this ever changing environment ... the merchants want to wish all the kids going back to school a happy school year. Our wish for our kids is that they see the light in the world, in themselves and in others. We hope this year brings joy and excitement to their future. We wanted our kids to remember that they are capable of amazing things. We are happy we could be a small part of this."



Photos by Teresa S. Tabor



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## Zonta Club of Franklin launches 2020 bra drive

The Zonta Club of Franklin, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women locally and worldwide has once again partnered with Free the Girls to launch their 2020 Bra Drive beginning Saturday, Aug. 15. Free the Girls, a nonprofit started in 2011 exists to help women rescued from sex trafficking reintegrate into their communities through self-employment.

The purpose of the Bra Drive is to collect new or gently used bras that are shipped overseas to Mozambique, El Salvador and Costa Rica for rescued women to sell to other women with no male interference, earning a living to support their family and themselves.

Free the Girls state, "The goal of our model is true and total freedom. Freedom is not simply distance from a brothel or a pimp. True freedom is nothing less than women walking in wholeness – physically (in sobriety and with access to healthcare), financially (able to provide for herself and her family without being vulnerable for future re-trafficking), emotionally (through trauma therapy and psychosocial support), mentally, and spiritually."

The Zonta Club has participated in the Bra Drive for the past several years, including last year when more than 150 bras were collected, and were sent overseas to recently res-

cued trafficked women. This year, the Zonta Club would like to get the community involved so more bras can be donated to help previously enslaved women lead vibrant, successful, integrated lives.

Bras are something that so many American women have in abundance – many women have at least one bra that just doesn't fit right and is kept in the back of the lingerie drawer. But for the women in this program, bras sell for top dollar. In the communities where the women live, bras are not manufactured locally so bras are a premium item.

If you don't have bras to donate you can donate money to cover international shipping and fees as well as education and support programs for these women and their children. Donations can be made to Zonta Club of Franklin PO Box 1492 Franklin Nc 28744.

To collect the bras for the Bra Drive, donation basket has been set up at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, located at 98 Hyatt Road, Franklin.

For more information about Free the Girls, their website is freethegirls.org. Zonta Club of Franklin's website is zontafranklinnc.org. Email us with any questions at ZontaBootsAndBling@gmail.com. To send monetary donations, Zonta Club, PO BOX 1492, Franklin, NC 28744.

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## Nursing student receives Judy Moore Scholarship

Anne Hyder, Scholarship Administrator for the Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment has announced a recipient has been selected for the Nursing Scholarship that was established in memory of Judy Moore RN. Moore was a nurse who practiced primarily in the field of Public Health in Macon County. A scholarship was established in her memory in 1997 by her friends and the Macon County Board of Health with affiliation with the NC Community Foundation. Moore, through her devotion to the nursing profession was an inspiration to fellow nurses, patients and leaders in the community.

The initial award was issued in 1998 and has awarded 36 candidates with 42 awards totaling \$43,900.

This year's scholarship for \$1,400 has been awarded to Delanghy Burke. Awards are issued for tuition, books, room



Delanghy Burke

and board and any other directly related educational expenses to candidates who qualify and are enrolled in Nursing Degree programs.

Delanghy is enrolled in the nursing program at Western Carolina University with a goal to obtain a Bachelor's of Science degree. In the future, she has an interest in continuing her education to pursue a degree as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and Nurse Educator. Delanghy is the daughter of Michael and Dawn Burke of Iron Station, N.C.

Some of Delanghy's many activities, honors and awards include being a WCU Honor's Student, a Gold Award recipient via Girl Scouts, and a leader in the WCU Nursing Community Garden.

Anyone needing additional information about the scholarship may contact Hyder at (828)524-6564.

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## Taking care of child's health during COVID-19

Pediatrician Nick Jernigan with Harris Pediatric Care provides some Q&A around children's health and COVID.

COVID-19 pandemic has changed how families think about and access healthcare these days including well and sick care for children. Dr. Jernigan was asked to talk about the importance of getting appropriate care for children and answer some questions regarding children's health during the current pandemic.

*Q: Can I still contact my child's pediatrician to talk about a health issue?*

A. Definitely. It is always okay for you to contact us about any health or wellness issues your child may be experiencing, and/or questions you may have. Many of these include minor injuries to colds or more serious health conditions. Right now, it is especially important to stay alert to your child's health, and us if you think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or are exhibiting any symptoms you are worried about.

Depending on your child's issue and symptoms, we may want you to come in for a visit or – if deemed appropriate – we may schedule a virtual telehealth visit over the Zoom App.

*Q: Is it okay to schedule an appointment for my child's annual well visit?*

A. Yes. Well visits are essential. They provide pediatricians the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive examination, monitor your child's growth and developmental milestones, make sure they are up-to-date on immunizations and answer any questions you may have.

Now is a particularly good time to schedule your child's wellness check. Our offices are taking extra precautions to protect the health and safety of your family and ours. We even have a few more openings for these types of visits than usual. An annual physical will help your child be ready for the return of school sports and other activities that require an annual physical and immunization updates at any point in the next 6-9 months.

*Q: Should my child wear a mask or cloth face covering?*

A: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone two years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and

mouth when out in the community. Children do not need to wear a mask or cloth face covering if they are at home and not exposed to someone with COVID-19. Cloth face coverings can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn in addition to other measures like social distancing, frequent hand-cleaning and other preventive measures. It is important to remember that cloth face coverings are not intended to protect the person wearing the covering. Rather, they help prevent the spread of illness to others. They are especially helpful if the wearer is asymptomatic and thus unaware that they could be passing the illness on to others.

Based on these recommendations, you should use a mask or cloth face covering for your child if you are taking them into a public place. This is especially important where it can be difficult to maintain safe social distances, like grocery stores, Wal-Mart. Additionally, if you are visiting our office, we ask that your child be masked when they enter the office for their safety and the safety of others.

Children under two should not wear a mask due to the potential for suffocation. Those who have trouble breathing, are incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove their face covering without help are also exempted from this recommendation. If your child has special health needs and cannot wear a traditional mask or cloth face covering, you should talk to your pediatrician about other safety options. Face shields can be an excellent alternative.

*Q: How can I help my child cope with what is happening right now?*

A: Current events can be a scary and unsettling thing for children, but there are some things you can do to help them, including open discussions about what may be bothering them; answering their questions with simple but honest language; helping them stay connected with friends and family through video chats; and maintaining healthy routines at home that reinforce healthy eating, physical activity, learning, and regular bedtimes.

If your child needs a pediatrician, call 844.414.DOCS to get connected with care to help your child stay on the road to good health today and for years to come.

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## What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The August meeting of the Highlands Town Board will be held at 7 p.m. tonight. The town website has the ZOOM meeting access information.

I am adding an option to ZOOMING tonight, provided the technology works. I will be ZOOMING at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. If anyone wants to make a direct public comment, or make a statement at the two public hearings, they are welcome to join me, provided a mask is worn. I will simply turn my monitor to the person so the entire board will be able to hear their comment. Also, as in past ZOOM meetings, comments can be made using the ZOOM option and app. I advise calling town hall at 526-2118 and ask to be put on the public comment list. The list ensures we do not overlook someone.

The agenda has two public hearings. The first hearing pertains to the annexation of the OEI Farm on Arnold Road. The second hearing relates to zoning the annexed property to B-3.

Another agenda item will be a presentation by Tom Neal, the Chief Executive Officer for the HCA Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Tom will present a plan to the board on providing employee housing for hospital staff.

The board will also hear an update from Kaye McHan, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce director, concerning the status of the park concert series and the Labor Day Weekend fireworks. Kaye will also share the new chamber budget with the board.

Representatives of the Highland Food and Wine Festival will also provide an update. Their May concert and festival was cancelled. Their next event is scheduled for November.

The Performing Arts Center will present a drive-in theater plan for their parking lot. This plan is only temporary during the pandemic. The drive-in will be achieved by using an inflatable screen that can be taken down after each performance. This portable screen and projection system can be set up anywhere, like in Founders Park.

A draft of the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is on the agenda. Rose Bauguess of the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission will present the plan.

A request for a public hearing to rezone the new fire department property is an agenda item. Currently the property is zoned B-3. The request will be for it to be zoned Governmental/Institutional. The board will also be asked to approve the relocation of the septic field for the fire department substation on US 64.

Finally, Lamar Nix, our public works director, will be making a budget amendment request to fix the problem of water draining onto US 64 near the Wells Hotel. The water runs down the highway and creates a winter ice hazard on the curb before Foreman Road. Lamar has been working with DOT and property owners to address the problem. Like always, solving a problem can require money, about \$15,000 in this instance.

## Letters to the Editor

### Look at all sides of situation to make up your mind

It is reasonable to look at all sides of situations in order that each individual may make up his/her own mind. Here is one not published in the national media:

The New England Journal of Medicine, vol. 382, May 2020: "We know that wearing a mask outside of healthcare facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to COVID-19 as face-to-face contact within (six) feet with a patient with symptomatic COVID-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching COVID-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic."

And, "One may argue that fear and anxiety are better countered with data and education than with a marginally beneficial mask ..."

So, millions of people wear masks outside and inside because they are anxious? Do you like re-breathing your own waste? The bureaucrats on all levels and the bought and paid for national media are not interested in your freedom; they are interested in your subservience. They are certainly not interested in helping older people; older people are too expensive. The plutocracy needs worker bees. Criminal elites need more money and power; and want less people. These are not your friends.

Do your own research, for everybody's sake. There are thousands of articles and videos.

Stephen Crosby – Franklin, N.C.

### BLM must not apply to black people

Black Lives Matter – remember the old saying practice what you preach – they seem to only be talking to white people because 50% of blacks that are killed are killed by other blacks. So, BLM must not apply to black people. Then they want to defund the police, so if they do that, the number of blacks killed will sky rocket. Blacks commit about 60% of all homicides and robberies in the largest counties. Black America is suffering from internal crisis, with 70% of black children born out of wedlock. Many black men don't seem to want to marry. They have children but have no responsibilities toward the children. No child support, etc. Blacks make up only about 13% of the population. They account for over 50% of all the murders that occur; and 50% of the prison population is black. when they say Black Lives Matter, who are they talking about? Blacks themselves don't seem to matter about other blacks. The Black Lives Matter movement has never turned its focus to black-

on-black crime which is higher than any other grouping.

The killing of George Floyd only sparked the nationwide protests. The only thing to come out of it was looting, arson, vandalism and killings. What did that accomplish? Defunding the police – was that going to stop all of that? They want the whole country to be more like Chicago. In some of the big cities, police aren't responding to 9-1-1 calls. They don't have the man power. Can you believe this and 4,300 people were shot in Chicago – one every two hours and virtually all were black and many were innocent children. That's just one city.

The movement claims to be nonviolent. They chant "pigs in a blanket - fry them like bacon" that's what they call non-violent? I pray that we never see them become violent.

They're cutting back police protection and want to cut funds for police. Some people are saying that we need to completely dismantle the police department. What is that telling us - you must be able to defend yourself? You need to buy a gun, you need to know how to use that gun, you need to have that gun very accessible but locked up from children.

You need to vote for Trump. Biden, if elected, will run this country into the ground and will run it from his basement. If you vote for Biden, God help us! The markets will tank, people will be afraid to leave their house. Where are the parents of these rioters?

Pete Young – Franklin, N.C.

### Thanks, paramedics for prompt response

Oh well, when you reach my age group, meaning 90 very soon, and you slip and fall and couldn't get up, I called 9-1-1. God bless you for sending me two big strong guys. They were here at my house in minutes, picked me up, put me on my two feet and all is well.

As a senior here in Macon, it's wonderful to know help is minutes away. To the two gentlemen who helped me, God bless you both and yours. Thank you both.

With respect,

Wm. Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

*The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected on the basis of the opinions expressed. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses. Letters are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of the publisher, editor or staff of The Macon County News.*

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## Antifa, BLM groups not affiliated with a political party

In the August 6 edition of the paper, two letters to the editor were so replete with such egregiously false allegations, I feel the need to respond.

The first letter listed out 10 reasons the writer thinks America is going to be destroyed. I will not answer these specious and patently false allegations point by point. These 10 items are totally unfounded in the truth, and as such, do not deserve the dignity of any rebuttal. I suggest the author of that letter provide some shred of proof for any one of these items, and the response, "prove these are not true" is a circular argument that simply means that the writer has no evidence to speak of.

The second letter is also replete with hysterics, but the writer's points are simpler to address.

First, Antifa is not an organization with an agenda supported by any legitimate political organization. Antifa is cabal of anarchists that attempts to hijack legitimate protest movements, to create havoc and sow division. There is no connection between Antifa and ANY political organization, and claims that Antifa is somehow sponsored by any political party are intended to cast doubt and mistrust in our government. BTW, [by the way] anarchy is not about how they can "live comfortably without a government at all, no police to maintain order and no laws that we must obey." Anarchists' only intention is to destroy the existing social contact between our government and our citizens. Anarchists have no agenda beyond creating such mayhem so that government as we know it cannot function.

The Black Lives Matter movement is also not associated with any political party. It is a protest movement, not an organization. There is no BLM national or state headquarters, because there is no multilayer hierarchy in the movement. BLM protests are not orchestrated by any central organization or political party. BLM protests are organized by local followers of the BLM ideals, which simply put, are that black Americans should not be looked on or treated as sub-humans.

Next, the writer claims "a Republican politician has called for Left leaning Democrats to be banned from Congress." Which politician is that? Such a claim is outrageous, yet there is no mention of it anywhere, in any legitimate news outlet.

Finally the writer's claims about the graduation rate of black students in public schools are not substantiated by any legitimate educational organization. In fact, the National Organization for Educational Statistics published in May 2020 that "... in school year 2017-18, the national adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for public high school students was 85 percent, the highest it has been since the rate was first measured in 2010-11. Asian/Pacific Islander students had the highest ACGR (92 percent), followed by White (89 percent), Hispanic (81 percent), Black (79 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (74 percent) students."

If we want to have a legitimate discussion about our political differences, we need to stick to substantiated facts, not hearsay.

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

## Trump or Biden in '20? You decide

Think back three years ago and where America was under Obama and Biden:

- Economic stagnation
- Millions of Americans forced on food stamps and other welfare programs
- Weak border security and massive illegal immigration, ushering in hardened criminals and drug cartels
- The advent of "sanctuary cities" that harbor illegal alien

criminals including murderers, allowing them to strike again on an unsuspecting public

- ISIS savage terrorism
- A weakened military and national defense
- Skyrocketing health insurance premiums
- The war on America's police and law enforcement and riots in the streets
- Attacks on religious liberty and traditional values
- Scandals at the IRS and the VA leaving our vets to die on "waiting lists" for treatment
- Our country becoming sharply divided on racial, ethnic and gender lines. The list goes on ...

And then look where President Trump has taken us in just three short years – despite the mess he inherited:

- Completed middle-class tax cuts, while making filling out our tax returns easier and faster
- Cut staggering government over-regulation and red tape, resulting in economic growth, employment growth, and wage growth – including record Black, Hispanic and women's employment.
- Historical judicial reform, appointing nearly 200 pro-Constitution federal judges, including two Supreme Court Justices, to uphold our Constitution as written by our founders
- Started dismantling the worst parts of Obamacare and provided affordable alternatives to reduce premiums by as much as 60% for millions of Americans
- Began and continues construction of a secure border wall to stem the tide of illegal immigration that is costing billions every year in taxpayer-funded benefits
- Stopped taxpayer funding of sanctuary cities that harbor illegal aliens
- Defeated ISIS and eliminated the top radical Islamist terrorist masterminds
- Rebuilt our US military and restored America's defenses to the strongest they've been in years
- Brought back to America manufacturing jobs that had gone overseas
- Energy independence: We are not the No. 1 producer of oil in the world and no longer dependent on Middle East oil
- Massive overhaul in the Veteran's Administration and enacting the Veterans Choice Act to ensure our vets can get medical treatment swiftly instead of dying on waiting lists ... and so much more.

Do we continue moving our nation forward with the steady, proven leadership of President Trump and Republicans so we can once again make our economy the strongest in the world, keep our borders secure and our military strong, persist in standing up to China and ensure we always put America first ... or do we follow Joe Biden and the radical Democrats to ruin America with the Big Government Socialist schemes that would raise your taxes, take away your right to private health insurance, open our borders, strip away your freedoms and lead to government control of every aspect of your life?

The choice is clear. We must restore America's greatness by re-electing a Republican president and electing a GOP-controlled Congress.

Robert Yates, USMC – Franklin, N.C.

## Thieves in the act caught on camera

You were captured on camera taking an irrigation pump and nut cracker that was attached to a two-foot piece of log.

Later, pictures were taken of tree stands being taken. You will be given two weeks to return all items and nothing else will be said or done. Deadline is Aug. 31.

Pam Battles – Franklin, N.C.

## Many places to 'take a knee' all over the world

This is a very good reason to not watch any sporting event that promotes "taking a knee." I don't think I've ever read anything more powerful than this piece.

It was [posted] by Ted Nugent.

"Take a little trip to Valley Forge in January. Hold a musket ball in your fingers and imagine it piercing your flesh and breaking a bone or two. There won't be a doctor or trainer to assist you until after the battle, so just wait your turn. Take your cleats and socks off to get a real experience.

"Then, take a knee on the beach in Normandy where man after American man stormed the beach, even as the one in front of him was shot to pieces, the very sea stained with American blood. The only blockers most had were the dead bodies in front of them, riddled with bullets from enemy fire.

"Take a knee in the sweat soaked jungles of Vietnam. From Khe Sanh to Saigon, anywhere will do. Americans died in all those jungles. There was no playbook that told them what was next, but they knew what flag they represented. When they came home, they were protested as well, and spit on for reasons only cowards know.

"Take another knee in the blood drenched sands of Fallujah in 110 degree heat. Wear your Kevlar helmet and battle dress. Your number won't be printed on it unless your number is up! You'll need to stay hydrated but there won't be anyone to squirt Gatorade into your mouth. You're on your own.

"There are a lot of places to take a knee where Americans have given their lives all over the world. When you use the banner under which they fought as a source for your displeasure, you dishonor the memories of those who bled for the very freedoms you have. That's what the red stripes mean. It represents the blood of those who spilled a sea of it defending your liberty.

"While you're on your knee, pray for those that came before you, not on a manicured lawn striped and printed with numbers to announce every inch of ground taken, but on nameless hills and bloodied beaches and sweltering forests and bitter cold mountains, every inch marked by an American life lost serving that flag you protest.

"No cheerleaders, no announcers, no coaches, no fans, just American men and women, delivering the real fight against those who chose to harm us, blazing a path so you would have the right to "take a knee." You haven't any inkling of what it took to get you where you are, but your "protest" is duly noted. Not only is it disgraceful to a nation of real heroes, it serves the purpose of pointing to your ingratitude for those who chose to defend you under that banner that will still wave long after your jersey is retired.

"If you really feel the need to take a knee, come with me to your synagogue on Saturday or your church on Sunday and we'll both kneel before Almighty God. We'll thank Him for preserving this country for as long as He has, We'll beg forgiveness for our ingratitude for all He has provided us. We'll appeal to Him for understanding and wisdom. We'll pray for liberty and justice for all, because He is the one who provides those things. But there will be no protest. There will only be gratitude for His provision and a plea for His continued grace and mercy on the land of the free and the home of the brave. It goes like this, God bless America."

Donald C. Lanson – Franklin, N.C.

See more LETTERS page 12

*What's on your mind?*  
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# LETTERS

Continued  
from page 11

## Lockdown measures based on fraud

In the July 24th issue of *Children's Health Defence*, there was an article titled, "If COVID Fatalities Were 90.2% Lower, How Would You Feel About Schools Reopening?"

The seven authors are: H. Ealy, M. McEvoy, M. Sava, S. Gupta, D. Chong, D. White, J. Nowicki, P. Anderson. Quoting, "Had the CDC used its industry standard, Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting Revision 2003, as it has for all other causes of death for the last 17 years, the COVID-19 fatality count would be approximately 90.2% lower than it currently is." The current fatality total at the time of this writing, for the U.S., is 154,944. Subtract 90.2% and you get 15,184.

CDC estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9 million – 45 million illnesses, between 140,000 – 810,000 hospitalizations and between 12,000 – 61,000 deaths ANNUALLY since 2010. We have never seen any special precautions taken for the flu, even though it kills more children and adults every year, than COVID has this year.

The authors say, "The special CDC guidelines for labeling patients "COVID" are absurd. These rules open the door to falsely inflating case and death numbers. This is more than fiddling with statistics. It's an institutional and official invitation to create fake cases. Gigantic numbers of them."

The *Children's Health Defense* article presents the April 2020 CDC guidelines for diagnosing COVID. There are 5 sets of criteria presented. Grit your teeth and study this CDC web of deceit:

### Case Definition for Case Classification

1. Narrative: Description of criteria to determine how a case should be classified.

A1. *Clinical Criteria At least two of the following symptoms:*

\* fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder(s) OR

\* At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing OR

\* Severe respiratory illness with at least one of the following:

- Clinical or radiographic evidence of pneumonia, or
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). AND
- No alternative more likely diagnosis

A2. *Laboratory Criteria evidence using a method approved or authorized by the FDA or designated authority:*

Confirmatory laboratory evidence:

\* Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in a clinical specimen using a molecular amplification detection test

Presumptive laboratory evidence:

\* Detection of specific antigen in a clinical specimen  
\* Detection of specific antibody in serum, plasma, or whole blood indicative of a new or recent infection (*note*) serologic methods for diagnosis are currently being defined

A3. *Epidemiologic Linkage One or more of the following exposures in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:*

\* Close contact (*note 2*) with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease; or

\* Close contact (*note 2*) with a person with:

- clinically compatible illness AND
- linkage to a confirmed case of COVID-19 disease.

\* Travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV2.

\* Member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak.

(*Note 2*) Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for at least a period of 10 minutes to 30 minutes or more depending upon the exposure. In healthcare settings, this may

be defined as exposures of greater than a few minutes or more. Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of exposure that constitutes prolonged exposure and thus a close contact.

### A4. *Vital Records Criteria*

A death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

### A5. *Case Classifications*

Confirmed:

\* Meets confirmatory laboratory evidence.

Probable:

\* Meets clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

\* Meets presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence.

\* Meets vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID19.

1. Criteria to distinguish a new case of this disease or condition from reports or notifications which should not be enumerated as a new case for surveillance

\* N/A until more virologic data are available"

If you waded through that CDC ball of fraud, you see how easy it is to work a deception in COVID case-counting and death-number counting.

For example: chills and fever, or cough, are sufficient to label a patient a probable case of "COVID, if he was also in contact with a "risk cohort," as defined by public health authorities.

This means an elderly person living in a nursing home — the whole home would be a "risk cohort" — who coughs, or who has chills and fever, could be diagnosed, with no test, as a probable case of COVID.

The reason for the hoax is obvious. Medical dictators must squeeze out every possible number they can, by any means, to justify their rampant economic and, thus, human destruction.

The lockdowns and shutdowns have nothing to do with disease.

Also — case numbers sell vaccines, and selling vaccines is the CDC's main business activity.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

## FOX doesn't make Top 10 journalism brands

Forbes magazine caters to the millionaires, billionaires, and Wall Street types, whose fortunes depend on accurate information. On Feb. 1, 2017, Forbes published an article called "10 Journalism Brands Where You Find Real Facts Rather Than Alternative Facts."

The author of the article, Paul Glader, states "One key question for any publication is this: If a reporter gets facts in a story wrong, will the news outlet investigate a complaint and publish a correction? Does the publication have its own code of ethics? Or does it subscribe to and endorse the Society of Professional Journalist's code of ethics? And if a reporter or editor seriously violates ethical codes - such as being a blatant or serial plagiarizer, fabulist or exaggerator - will they be fired at a given news outlet? While some may criticize mainstream media outlets for a variety of sins, top outlets such as the Washington Post, the New York Times, NBC News and the New Republic have fired journalists for such ethics violations."

The article then goes on to list the top reliable news sources, and why each was chosen. In order, they are: 1) The New York Times, 2) *The Wall Street Journal*, 3) *The Washington Post*, 4) BBC, 5) *The Economist*, 6) *The New Yorker*, 7) *Wire Services: The Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg News*, 8) *Foreign Affairs*, 9) *The Atlantic*, and 10) *Politico*.

For runners up, he listed National Public Radio, TIME magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, The Los Angeles Times (and many other regional, metropolitan daily newspapers), USA Today, CNN, NBC News, CBS News, and ABC News.

Notice anything missing? How about the #1 watched source of information in the US, Fox News?

In January of this year, Fox delivered "an average total prime time audience of 2.9 million viewers," and FNC shows "Hannity, Tucker Carlson Tonight, The Ingraham Angle and Fox News at Night all had their best January ratings in history," according to Forbes article 'We Passed CNN...And Never Looked Back': Fox News Hits 18 Years At #1.

What does it say about this country when the most popular news source doesn't make it into the top 29 reliable news sources? That tells me that millions of Americans are misinformed. Our democratic republic relies on informed citizen voters, and Fox is leading us astray.

If you want to actually know what is going on in the world, read news articles from reliable sources. If you want to continue to have your biases confirmed and be manipulated, watch Fox and the other biased sources. They are spoon-feeding their audience cherry-picked stories with cherry-picked facts, often out of context, denying the audience the full story. If you rely on Fox or similar sources, you aren't getting all the facts, and often getting a lot of spin.

If you want to be credible, cite sources that are reliable, not propaganda machines. 'Rumor has it' may be a great band name, but it is lousy for persuading intelligent people. When in doubt, check it on Snopes.

Dan Kowal – Franklin, N.C.

## Many outlets are influenced on what we are told

It is surprising, concerning, and sad to see the lack of an interest in doing one's own research by many people. Have you wondered why media coverage of COVID-19 doesn't include ways that we can each build our own immunity to protect ourselves from any disease to which we may be exposed? Could that have anything to do with influence of pharmaceutical industry over the media through billions from advertising? Do you know that the CDC in 2003 patented "Corona Virus Isolated from Humans," Pat. no. 7776521. I put it in a search and it came right up. The CDC also patented the test. How and why would they do that? It is illegal to patent anything that exists in nature. Dr. David E. Martin has researched all the U.S. laws and parts of the Constitution that have been violated.

Dr. David E. Martin Exposes Anthony Fauci & the CDC for Domestic Terrorism Under the Patriotic Act - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=QI5IaILWaXs&fbclid=IwAR0W-8Mqww8F0uDWGos-bkMiQupELcHjrw>

"YGIJcJ02C9smM119XLHJW33Nmg&app=desktop.

Those are serious charges. Was that covered in the main stream media? Former CIA Director William Casey (9/1973 to 1/1976) said "The CIA owns everyone of any significance in the major media." That was 45 years ago. I've read that in the 1980s many companies (I think around 50) owned the majority of the media. Today six huge corporations own over 90 percent of the media. Have you wondered why social media has removed many videos of doctors who share how they have cured patients who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, especially with early treatment? Shouldn't everyone want people worldwide to be well? As challenging as it may be to find the truth, our freedom and health depend on our being informed, taking personal responsibility for our own wellness, and participating in government peacefully by asking questions and letting our voices be heard by our elected officials.

Panthea Crawford – Franklin, N.C.

# Nantahala Hiking Club experiences leadership changes and adjustments

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Despite the rain, dozens showed up to attend a Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) meeting honoring long-time member Kay Coriell and past president Mary Stone at a picnic Friday, Aug. 14, at Tassee Shelter on the Little Tennessee River Greenway. Catherine Brown, the new president, spoke and shared about new board members as well as various adjustments to the board in terms of positions and responsibilities.

After some members participated in a two-hour orientation class, Brown, a retired teacher, said she has “visions to make the club even more efficient in how we communicate and operate.” She added that while the volunteer organization that maintains segments of the Appalachian Trail as well as hosts hikes and provides education and more has been paper-focused, she wants to utilize more technology.

“And we always want more people to become involved and to volunteer,” she said, “... to take on projects and programs that fit skill levels and interests.”

Brown would like to see the NHC become more diverse in its membership in terms of age range, backgrounds, etc.

“I want to bring people together.”

Mary Stone, 75, who was a vice president for two years and who has been involved in the NHC since 2005, said, “It’s been a highlight for me to work with so many wonderful people.” An avid hiker, Stone has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and hiked the Inka Trail to Machu Picchu. “My greatest joy is to see the next generation of leadership leaping forward to strengthen the NHC and make it an even better organization. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that I’m leaving the club in outstanding hands and that it is heading toward a bright future.”



Catherine Brown (left) is the new Nantahala Hiking Club president, while this past year’s president, Mary Stone, steps down.



Dozens gathered at a Nantahala Hiking Club picnic held Friday, Aug. 14, to honor longtime member Kay Coriell, and past president Mary Stone.

Does your parenting agreement or court order include an exchange at school? Remember to notify the school and provide a copy of the document if asked.

Have a safe and great school year!



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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 August 6 - 16. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

August 10

Ronald Paul Slagle, was charged with purchase of vehicle for purpose of sale of parts only, deliver/accept blank open title. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Lauren Greenwood, was charged with injury to personal property, communicating threats, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, assault on law enforcement office inflicting serious injury, assault physically injuring law enforcement/probation/parole officer. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

August 12

Juanita Marie Cleveland, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

August 13

Richard Dewight Collins, was charged with violate domestic violence protective order. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Kayla Nicole Woods, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear.

Jesse Johnson, was charged with failure to appear. James

E. Crawford III made the arrest.

August 14

Robert Shane Laws, was charged with domestic protective order violation, domestic criminal trespass. Brent C. Ledford made the arrest.

Joshua Ray Fitch, was charged with probation violation. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Stephen Anthony Higbee, was charged with failure to appear for breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

August 16

Travis James Gregg, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

August 6

Stephanie Larson, 27, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for assault inflicting serious injury. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

August 7

Luis Angel Molina Robles, 33, of Cherry St., was charged with driving while license revoked, driving under the influence. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Officer Ashe made the arrest.

August 8

Brett Daniel Willard, 26, of Country Rd., was charged with interfering with emergency communication, violating domestic violence protective order violence. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

August 11

Ellen L. Wigmore, 83, of Oak Grove Church Rd., was charged with bad checks. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Ashe made the arrest.

Robert Larry Sawyer, 50, of Lazy Bear Ridge, Sylva, was charged with unauthorize use. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set.

John Russel Sanfilippo, 54, of Sparrow Dr., was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

August 10

Jesse Lonnie Harkin, 19, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle, obtain property by false pretense, uttering a forged instrument, forgery of instrument. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Justin James Wikle, 34, of Nannys Lane, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond was set.

Jesse Lonnie Harkin, 33, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession

of a stolen motor vehicle, obtain property by false pretense, uttering a forged instrument, forgery of instrument. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Karl Stuart Sachsenheimer, 42, of Cactus Loop, was charged with drug equipment violations, drug/narcotic violations. A \$15,000 bond was set.

August 11

Craig Alan Hambrick, 39, of Webster Rd., was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Mark Anthony Buchanan, 22, of Rocky Branch Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Mallory Gayosso Littlejohn, 33, of Comfort Rd., was charged with financial card fraud, obtaining property by false pretenses, possession of stolen vehicle. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Ariel Marie Lassiter Fisher, 28, of Olivine Place, was charged with defrauding innkeeper. No bond was set.

August 12

Joseph Daniel Jacobs, 27, of River Bend St., Waynesville, was charged with probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Joshua Craig Cook, 29, was charged with larceny from the person. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

MacKenzie Lee Mathis, 28, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense, defrauding innkeeper, possession of stolen goods, financial card theft, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying concealed weapon, resist/obstruct/delay, possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Lacy Alexis Normand, 25, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with felony larceny, possession of stolen goods. No bond was set.

August 13

Allan Joseph Felton, 49, of Cricket Lane, was charged with fugitive warrant for arrest. A secured bond of \$100,000 bond was set.

Anthony Jovohn Greene, 33, of Patroit Dr., was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. An unsecured bond was set.

August 14

Ashley Savannah Frady, 33, of Old Post Office Rd., Glenville, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Dustin Scott Dillard, 39, of Skyland Dr., was charged with probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by a felon. No bond was set.

Stephanie Amber Sanford, 29, of Hayes Mill Rd., Franklin, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. No bond was set.

August 15

Thomas Glen Mancini, 40, of Sylva, was charged with child abuse, assault on a female, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

Angela Greer Shelton, 41, of Red Bank Rd., Waynesville, was charged with reckless driving, fleeing to elude, open container, driving wrong way on dual lane road, unsafe movement, resist/obstruct and delay. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Errika Leah Arkansas, 42, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

August 16

Patrick Allen McChesney, 35, of Marion Forest, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 24, of Pyramid Place, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

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# WNC proven to be ideal for growing and foraging for mushrooms

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Mushrooms need moisture, and Western North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains are considered a temperate rain forest with the average annual rain fall of anywhere between 30 and 100 inches. Thus, plenty of people in Macon County either forage for mushrooms or grow their own. In fact, many Saturday mornings at the Franklin Farmers Market, local growers display recent mushroom harvests – and plenty of outdoor educational classes from Macon County to Asheville teach safe mushroom foraging.

Joey Kyle, farm manager at Many Hands Peace Farm at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center in Highlands, said the area's environment is ideal for growing mushrooms because, "we clocked in at over 100 inches of rain in the last few years." The farm primarily grows shitakes, wine cap, and oyster mushrooms.

Kyle is a certified permaculture designer and wild mushroom harvester. The Many Hands Peace Farm created a mushroom laboratory, partly funded by a 2017 Rotary Club of Highlands grant, as part of the farm's overall food production and education programming.

"The edible mushrooms are used by our Mountain kitchen staff in meal preparation for guests and campers," said Kyle, "with additional mushrooms sold locally to markets (in Cashiers and Highlands) and restaurants, depending on supply and demand.

"Mushrooms are fun to watch grow ... beautiful and interesting," said Kyle.

He explained that the educational aspect of the mushroom laboratory project involves teaching guests, campers, local visitors, farm apprentices, and staff about mushrooms and how they grow and reproduce.

"Visitors and staff can learn about the nutritional and health benefits mushrooms provide, other medicinal uses for mushrooms, how mushroom cultivation fosters environmental sustainability, recycling, and waste management," he shared. "This is being done by reusing waste materials generated by The Mountain – cardboard boxes, paper, coffee grounds, paper filters, and plastic and wood containers to feed and grow the mushrooms."

Each mushroom variety requires some nuances to grow. Christine Bredenkamp, Macon County Extension director, said three main "must" supplies for someone considering growing shitakes include:

- oak logs that are 3-8 inches in diameter and 4 feet long
- drill and bit
- wax

"Harvest your logs during the dormant season (November-February) to ensure the bark stays on the log," she instructed. "When selecting logs make sure there are no chunks missing.

Inoculate your logs [with shitake mushrooms spores – available online in individual 'plugs'] in the time frame of February through the end of March. Stack your inoculated logs in a site that is 100% shaded in the woods but near a steam or branch for soaking to force a flush once the spawn run is complete (~18 months)."

Tradd Cotter, whose Mushroom Mountain organization is based in Easley, S.C., is considered an authority on mushroom growing and wrote a photography illustrated book, "Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation" that many

got both. There are four creeks on my property and I water the mushrooms with a gravity flow system."

Cabe said that he enjoys eating his homegrown mushrooms and pointed out, "They've got almost as much protein as chicken or pork, so I sell a lot of them to vegans."

He recommends storing shitakes in a paper bag, not plastic, and then in the vegetable bin of a refrigerator to make them last at least a week and sometimes up to two.

Bill Hodge, who also sells shitakes at the Franklin Farmer's Market, grows them at his home in Otto and, like

Cabe, learned at an extension office class and has also been growing them for about 10 years – but on a smaller scale, with about 200 logs.

"It's just a way to make a little extra money," he said, adding that he enjoys eating the fruits of his labor in spaghetti sauce, scrambled eggs, and sautéed with onions and garlic as a side to a steak.

Hodge also has a creek on his property where he soaks the inoculated logs for at least 24 hours to "initiate" the mushroom spawn to fruit and produce mushrooms. "I love watching the mushrooms pop out of the logs," he said. "It's re-

warding. I would say the hardest part of growing mushrooms is just cutting the logs."

Since his mushrooms are of a summer harvest variety, Hodge fruits at between 25-30 inoculated logs a weekly during the summer months of June through August and sometimes into September.

Matthew Kelly's Smokey Mountain Mushrooms sells shitake, lion's mane, comb tooth, and maitake mushrooms at the Franklin Farmer's Market.

## Into the Wild

Asheville Fungai is one organization offering education regarding wild mushroom foraging with a warning: "While foraging for wild mushrooms is a lot of fun and very rewarding, please use extreme caution! There are many species that have look-a-likes. Having an experienced guide while learning is highly recommended."

For example, a mushroom that may appear edible – especially for people who are used to eating grocery-store-bought button cap white mushrooms – is the destroying angel or *Amanita ocreata*, "an all-white innocent looking mushroom," said Kyle. Destroying angel will cause liver,

multi-organ failure and death. Another deadly wild area mushroom is the *Galerina marginata*, which he said "could be confused with the honey mushroom." Two that will simply make a person sick are the siciner and the jack o'lantern.

"I like to teach respect and not fear," said Kyle regarding worries over wild mushroom foraging. "Being with a good



Ronnie Cabe, Matthew Kelly, and Bill Hodge sell their home-grown mushrooms at the Franklin Farmer's Market.

use to learn to grow mushrooms. Another way to learn is to take a class.

Ronnie Cabe, who sells shitake mushrooms some Saturday mornings at the Franklin Farmer's Market, said he first learned to grow mushrooms by taking a class at the N.C. Cooperative Extension – Macon County Center, and then he eventually taught classes. For a while, Cabe, who resides in Cowee on 200 acres, had mushrooms growing in 7,000 logs.

"I was selling to restaurants and at two farmer's markets," he said, pointing out that he has been growing shitakes for at



The two main deadly mushrooms to avoid in Western N.C. while foraging for wild mushrooms are *Amanita ocreata*, nicknamed Deadly Angel, and *Galerina marginata*, nicknamed Funeral Bell or Deadly Skullcap.



least 10 years. "I kind of went berserk." As he has gotten older, he said he has pared down his efforts to a manageable 2,500 logs and grows both shitakes and golden chanterelles.

"I enjoy growing mushrooms because there is no weeding," said Cabe. "I would rather carry logs than pull weeds. To grow mushrooms, you mostly need trees and water and I've



Shiitake, golden chanterelle, lion's mane mushrooms and more are grown by local mushroom farmers and sold at area venues such as the Franklin Farmer's Market.

teacher until you know what to look for is better than a book." But Kyle recommends newbies read and take with them on foraging hikes "A Field Guide to Mushrooms of the Carolinas." "It's a great book for our region," he said.

Asheville Fungai also recommends newbie mushroom foragers read *Mushrooms & Other Fungi of North America*, touted as "the most comprehensive mushroom guide with over 1,000 color photographs."

Because of all the rain in recent years, the area has exploded with mushrooms, according to Kyle, who said he offers educational workshops and regular foraging tours. "Plus,

we have a lot of untouched forests in this area, and the public has a right to pick mushrooms for personal consumption in national forests." Primarily, he said chanterelles and chicken-of-the-wood are the "most prolific" edible mushrooms that he finds while foraging. "Finding edible mushrooms while hiking is wonderful and an added benefit, and then to get home and make the best tasting gravy ..."

Although Western North Carolina is home to an estimated 1,000 mushroom species, a few other sought-after edible wild mushrooms in and around Macon County include: lion's mane, bear's head, oysters, morels, and reishi.

Grants available to support work of artists in WNC

Artists in all disciplines are eligible to apply for grants to support their professional and artistic development through a partnership of the North Carolina Arts Council and Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center.

Artist Support Grants will be distributed to eligible applicants by Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center in the following counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Applications for the grants are available here ([www.coweeschool.org](http://www.coweeschool.org)). The deadline is Sept. 30, 2020. Grants will range in awards from \$500 to \$1,000.

Emerging or established artists are encouraged to apply to support a range of professional and artistic development including the creation of work, improvement of business operations, or expanding capacity to bring work to new audiences. Artist fees are also allowable expenses.

Artists in all disciplines are eligible to apply.

To learn more about the Artist Support Grants and the informational workshops, visit [www.coweeschool.org/nc-arts-council](http://www.coweeschool.org/nc-arts-council).

"Due to the pandemic, this has been a tough year for area artists. Cowee School, along with our arts council partners from the six western most counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, hopes that these grants will make at least a small impact on the livelihoods of our regional artists and the local economy," said Stacy Guffey, director of the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

For more information or questions, contact Laura Brooks, [maconheritagecenter@gmail.com](mailto:maconheritagecenter@gmail.com).



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## Women's History Trail group giving to community

The Women's History Trail - a project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County- wanted to help cheer up residents of the long-term care facilities for Mother's Day. They worked together to provide cards and flowers.

That project had enough interest to bring in revenue to continue bringing cheer to the caregivers working in the same facilities the following week. They were greeted with posters and treats expressing appreciation for their work during the difficult times with Covid 19 affecting their work.

And there was enough interest from volunteers with the Women's History Trail to still have \$504.67 to help with another Community project. CareNet was selected as the recipient.

To learn more about the Women's History Trail go to [www.folkheritage-association.org/womens-history-trail-franklin-nc.html](http://www.folkheritage-association.org/womens-history-trail-franklin-nc.html)



Shown presenting the donation to Tim Hogsed of CareNet are (L) Claire Suminski a leader on the Women's History Trail project and Board member of the Folk Heritage Association and (middle) Anne Hyder, chair of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County and member of the leadership team for the Trail project.

## Macon County Library offering activities, services for students

The staff of the Children's Department at the Macon County Public Library said they had so much fun creating and handing out the summer reading activity bags that they decided to continue the activity bags this fall. Each month will be a different theme and contain enough activities for the entire month for a child. Age range for the activity bags will include bags for grades K-3 and grades 4th-6th, with a storytime craft bag for children ages birth-preschool. Registration is required for each child. Visit [fontanalib.org/franklin](http://fontanalib.org/franklin) or call (828)524-3600 to register for the activity bags.

September's theme will be all about space. Topics for the themed activity bags will include: Space, Human Anatomy, Spy Kits, and Art History.

Examples of activities for the Space Bag will include: oreo cookie moon phase activity, making a sundial and sun oven, making a rocket craft, crafting a solar system necklace, learning about constellations and so much more.

A telescope may be checked out at any of the Fontana Regional Libraries for seven days. The Macon County Public Library also has a NASA backpack and a Space Activity tote available for checkout as well.

Staff at the Macon County Public Library understand the beginning of this school year will be very different than what many students have experienced in the past. Library staff is dedicated to providing resources and tools to help children achieve their academic goals, as well as helping them to take a break and enjoy some fun screen-free activities that still engage their minds and creativity.

The library also has a Homeschooling section in the Chil-

dren's department that can help parents navigate through resources and create a curriculum that is right for your child.

Dial-a-Story program is user friendly. Just dial (828)634-1128 and listen to a three-minute story that changes weekly.

### Library is ready to help students

As schools open again for both in-person and online learning, Fontana Regional Library locations have tools to help students of all ages.

Libraries are open by appointment, and anyone 12 and up can call to schedule a time to come inside to browse books, use a computer, or use a study room. (Younger children are also welcome, but a parent must make the appointment.) Timeslots are 45 minutes in length, although longer sessions can be allowed. Masks or other face coverings are required. Wi-fi is available immediately just outside each building 24/7 as well as inside during library hours. Curbside pick-up service is also available at all locations.

All public school students in Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties have access to online resources like eBooks and research databases through the StudentAccess program, which gives students library accounts automatically, without a separate card. They can also check out books, audiobooks, and puzzles, with no overdue fines. The account number is either the student's lunch number or ID number that they use for school. Ask your local library for details.

For more information about library services both in-person and online, visit [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org) or call the Macon County Public Library at (828)524-3600.

## Former 30th District DA Roy Patton dies at age 77

When Roy Patton became district attorney in 1987, he inherited with the job an administrative assistant, Marion Jones, who had worked for Patton's predecessor and former boss, Marcellus "Buck" Buchanan.

In a nutshell, Jones said, Patton was a nice man, an humble person who sought to do right by his district and the people he served.

"He wasn't mean enough to be a DA, but he did a good job," the 82-year-old Jones said earlier today.

Patton died Wednesday. He was 77.

The Canton resident served as the 30th Judicial District's top prosecutor for four years and as an assistant district attorney in the seven-county jurisdiction for about six years. The 30th is now designated the 43rd.

"Roy Patton was a caring person with dedication to his profession and loyalty to those he served," Jackson County Assistant District Attorney Christine Matheson said.

Matheson, Buchanan's daughter, worked as an assistant district attorney for Patton. She now works for District Attorney Ashley Hornsby Welch.

"The responsibilities of this office are truly awesome," Patton once told a reporter. "The prosecutor is the right arm of the courts and is responsible for the fair and even-handed administration of justice."

"It is a job that requires maturity of judgment, dedication to truth and justice, great knowledge of law, supervision of a staff who also exercise many of these same duties, and the ability to be both tough and compassionate when the occasion demands."

Patton ran unopposed for district attorney after Buchanan retired.

Four years later, however, he faced formidable opposition in the Democrat primary from two Waynesville lawyers, Mike Bonfoey and three-term state Sen. Charlie Hipps.

Ultimately, Hipps won both the May 1990 primary and the general election. Bonfoey became district attorney after Hipps' death.

After losing to Hipps, Patton predicted he would never again seek political office, and he did not.

"I basically do not enjoy the political end of this office," he told a reporter just days after the primary. "I don't know that I ever want to go through another campaign. I don't know that I want to put my family through that."

In keeping with Patton's wishes, no visitation or funeral services will be held. The family requests donations be made in Patton's name to Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation ([www.sargeanimals.org](http://www.sargeanimals.org)), in honor of Patton's favorite cat, Bo.



Roy Patton

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Bob Holbrooks

Bob Holbrooks, 89, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020. Mr. Holbrooks was born in Macon County, North Carolina, on Aug. 25, 1930, to the late Jessie Sloan Holbrooks and Beedie Icenhower Holbrooks.

He was a master of all trades and he worked very hard for his family. He loved to build things, mow grass, hunt, and fish. He was also of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Mary Jane Holbrooks; five children, Rita Weyh (Michael), Bobby Michael Holbrooks (Cindy), Tim Holbrooks (Linda), Tony Holbrooks (Kim), and Lisa Holbrooks Francisco (Matthew) all of Franklin, N.C.; a son-in-law, John Hurst of Franklin; a brother, Bill Holbrooks of Franklin; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Patsy Holbrooks Hurst; two sisters, Faye Dowdle and Marie Mason; and a brother, Dillard Holbrooks.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Aug. 15, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiating. Burial followed in the Cowee Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Timothy Holbrooks, Adam Holbrooks, Jacob Doster, Tony Holbrooks, Tim Holbrooks, and Mike Holbrooks.

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

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

## Louise Guffey Vanhook

Louise Guffey Vanhook, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020. She was born Sept. 30, 1929, in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Norman Guffey and Dlena Mashburn Guffey. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. In her early years, she was very involved in the homemakers club, she always grew a garden, and she was a very good cook. She was a member of Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Vanhook who passed away in 2005; and two sisters, Frances Brown Phillips and Betty Ann Bowen.

Survivors include two sons, Michael Vanhook (Evelyn) of Franklin and Tommy Vanhook (Deborah) of Mars Hill, N.C.; three daughters, Nancy Vanhook of Franklin, Sharon Morrissey (Tim) of Richmond, Va. and Beverly Anderson (Ted) of Scaly Mountain, N.C.; Seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a brother, John Guffey of Thomasville, N.C.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Aug. 16, in the Clarks Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery. Rev. Janet Green officiated.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Clarks Chapel UMC Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund 1999 Clarks Chapel Road Franklin, NC 28734. Attn: Michael Vanhook.

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

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



Bob Holbrooks



Louise Guffey Vanhook

## J. Jesus Plascencia

J. Jesus Plascencia, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020.

Born and raised in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, He was the son of the late Jose Plascencia Camarena and Teresa Plascencia Villa. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two siblings. He was of the Catholic Faith and he loved to travel.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosa Bernal Jimenez and five children, Jose De Jesus Plascencia of Los Angeles, Calif. Rosa Maria Plascencia of Denver, Colo., Maria Del Carmen Ligetvari of N. Ridgeville, Ohio, Manuela Plascencia of Franklin and Luz Maria Lopez of Franklin; seven brothers and sisters; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at Woodlawn Cemetery.

His family served as pallbearers.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



J. Jesus Plascencia

## Betty Lou Broucker Annulis

Betty Lou Broucker Annulis, 85, was called to her eternal home on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020 from her loving community at the Consolata Nursing Home in New Iberia, La. She was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was the daughter of the late George Broucker and Mildred Broucker (Haywood). She graduated from Lee High School in 1953. On July 30, 1956, she married the love of her life, Paul T. Annulis and began her life as a proud military spouse.

As a military wife, she personified "service before self." Everywhere she went, she made a home for her children, and never met a stranger. She was proud of her husband's service and together they passed their love of service to their children and grandchildren. Not only was she a beloved mother and grandmother, she had a strong faith for the Lord. There was not a bake sale or fundraiser she could not organize for the Women's Guild. She enjoyed the simple pleasures, visiting with family, baking, sewing, crafting, attending daily mass, and playing bingo.

She is survived by her children Ron (Cathy) Annulis of Orlando, Fla., Christopher Annulis and Robin Lemay (Ricky) all of Columbia, Tenn., Keith (Heather) Annulis of Pass Christian, Miss., Patrick (Phebe) Annulis; daughter-in-law, Teresa Annulis of Titusville, Fla.; grandchildren, Markus Annulis, Caitlin Scroggins, Clint Scroggins, Paul A. Annulis, Cody Scroggins, John Z. Annulis, Zoie Annulis, Cambre Catherine Annulis, and Patrick Z. Annulis; and great grandchild, Mark R. Annulis.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Paul T. Annulis; sons, John J. Annulis (Valerie), Mark D. Annulis (Teresa); grandchild, Ian C. Jones; parents, George Broucker and Mildred Broucker (Haywood); sister, Shirley Pinaud (Broucker); and three brother, Don, Dale, and Bud Broucker.

Paul and Betty enjoyed square dancing. Until we meet again, dance away in Heaven. Always supportive and encouraging, she will be missed by her family and friends.

A mass of a Christian burial was celebrated Friday, Aug. 14, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, with Father Tien Duong, Pastor. She was laid to rest in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin, N.C.

The family would like to extend a warm gratitude for the love and excellent care provided by the Consolata Nursing Home Staff over the years. You all are earth angels.

The Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Betty Lou Annulis

## Nancy Margaret Bryan

Nancy Margaret Bryan, 68, passed away on August. 15, 2020.

No services are planned.

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

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



Nancy Bryan

## Vernece Anna Wilson

Vernece Anna Wilson, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020.

Born in LaFollette, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Henry and Bessie Shoffner Sharp. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by several brothers and sisters. She had many talents as a homemaker. She was an artist and enjoyed painting.

She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Lloyd "Landie" Wilson; five daughters, Laverne Meadows, Linda Azadi, Maxine Taylor, Carla Meadows and Nancy Meadows and many grandchildren.

No services will be held at this time.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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## Elliott win first Cup race at Daytona Road Course

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – No practice, no qualifying, new course, no problem for Hendrick Motorsport's driver Chase Elliott.

The 24-year old Elliott gave a not-so-subtle reminder Sunday afternoon in the NASCAR Cup Series debut on the Daytona International Speedway Road Course that he is one of the sport's very best on the technical road circuits, even sight unseen as was the case this week.

Just before a caution flag with five laps remaining, Elliott had pulled out to a 10-second advantage on the field. He turned in a fantastic restart and drove three perfect final laps in his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to ultimately hold off Denny Hamlin by .202-second to win the Go Bowling 235. It is Elliott's third consecutive road course win dating back to last year.

"Just had a really good car more than anything, not sure I did anything special today," Elliott said. "Really fortunate from that standpoint. Had a good week of preparation and came out and really executed on the race."

Elliott said he was hardly surprised about the late-race restart and prepared for it.

"To me was not when, but how many green-white checkers we were going to have to do in a row and being better at executing those," Elliott said. "Any win at Daytona is special. [Crew chief] Alan [Gustafson] and I were joking that we had to change it to a road course to win at Daytona. ... Just a great day."

Hamlin's Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. finished third followed by seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson and Chris Buescher. Clint Bowyer, Kaz Grala (who was substituting for Austin Dillon in the No. 3 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet), William Byron, Joey Logano and Michael McDowell completed the top 10 in a race so smooth and expertly handled that it more closely resembled an age-old venue than a first-time visit on a challenging 3.61-mile, 14-turn course.

"Let's make sure we don't look like a bunch of dummies there in Turn 1," Hamlin said of a pre-race conversation with fellow drivers about the new venue. "We made sure we kept it clean to start and then you can get your bearings about you after you run a few laps. Really, it's one of the those tracks where it's not super technical but it definitely rewards the guys that do the right techniques on road courses."

The veteran NASCAR Cup Series drivers immediately put on a driving display that seemed as if they had long raced on the circuit – which includes a tight infield road course as well as Daytona International Speedway's more famous high-banked turns.

Elliott has proven himself a road course favorite even though he's only in his fifth fulltime season. He led the most laps – 34 of the 65 – and won the first stage on Sunday with Hamlin winning the second stage. Outside of regular pit stops, Elliott was either leading or about to lead all afternoon resulting in Elliott's eighth career win and second of the season – matching a victory in May at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I just wanted to keep him honest and it seemed like the

closer we got the more his car was either wheel-hopping or sliding the front tires, so we were at least keeping him honest there to make him push his car and earn the victory," said Hamlin, a five-race winner in 2020 and driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.

Championship points leader and six-race winner Kevin Harvick had an eventful day in the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford – contact with another car while running near the front and then another spin later in the race. He finished 17th but still leads the championship by 118 points over Hamlin.

Only three races remain to set the 16-driver NASCAR Cup Series Playoff field. Byron is in the 16th position with a 25-



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 NAPA Auto Parts Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after crossing the finish line (left) the NASCAR Cup Series Go Bowling 235 at Daytona International Speedway on Aug. 16, 2020 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

point edge over his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Johnson and a 35-point advantage over 18th place Erik Jones with a double-header weekend scheduled next week on the

one-mile Dover (Del.) International Speedway before the series returns to the Daytona 2.5-mile superspeedway for the regular season finale.

### Cindric makes history with victory at Daytona Road Course

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Austin Cindric's summer of dominance continued Saturday afternoon in the inaugural UNOH 188 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at the Daytona International Speedway Road Course.

Cindric, 22, of Mooresville, N.C., earned his fifth victory in the last six races, his No. 22 Team Penske Ford pulling away to a hefty 7.108-second win over Brandon Jones's Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. That impressive ultimate margin of victory, however, is not indicative of the action-packed debut on Daytona's famed road course.

Noah Gragson recovered from an off-course excursion early in the race while leading the field to finish third and maintain a perfect record of top-10 finishes on every Xfinity Series road course event he's competed in. A.J. Allmendinger and Andy

Lally – both road course experts – finished fourth and fifth.

Jeremy Clement, Sunoco rookies Riley Herbst and Harrison Burton, veteran Justin Allgaier and rookie Myatt Snider rounded out the top 10 in well-earned, masterful drives to the finish.

Allgaier and Allmendinger had words on pit road after the race. Allmendinger spun Allgaier out of a top-five finish in the closing laps and was apologetic. Allgaier, one of the series-best road course racers, approached Allmendinger after the race and shared his displeasure.

"I'm not sure anyone was really all that happy with their race cars you know, unfortunately I have the perspective of driving really fast race cars at this track," said Cindric, who has competed in three Rolex 24 at Daytona IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship races on the road course.

"It's a great credit to my team, MoneyLion and the guys. ... That's five wins on the year obviously back-to-back now. I didn't feel like I drove my best today but we executed there at the end when it counts and that's what makes these races so difficult to win.

Cindric, who led 22 of the 52 total laps, led the opening 16 laps of the race to earn the Stage 1 win and bookended the work by leading the last five laps to claim his seventh career Xfinity Series victory. His five wins (and a second place) in the last six races ties a record held by the legendary Sam Ard set back in 1983.

His chief rival – as has been the case all season – was fellow Ford driver Chase Briscoe, who led a race best 26 laps on Saturday. Cindric and Briscoe put on a master class of road course dueling particularly in the second stage, with Briscoe, also a five-race winner in 2020, earning the green-and-white checkered flag in that sprint.

Their battle – at times contentious – continued late in the race until Briscoe was collected in a multi-car restart melee with eight laps remaining. Briscoe's No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford suffered too much damage to continue and he was scored 29th – his worst finish of the year.

Similarly, another two of the Xfinity Series championship contenders, Kaulig Racing teammates Justin Haley and Ross Chastain simultaneously suffered race-ending issues – Haley with an off-course excursion and Chastain, a mechanical issue. They finished 36th (Chastain) and 38th (Haley) – their worst finishes of the season as well.

With seven races remaining to set the 12-driver NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff field, Cindric, Briscoe, Gragson, Jones, Burton and Haley have assured their chances at a title with victories.

Brandon Brown, who suffered a tough 34th-place finish on Saturday, holds the final 12th place transfer position in the driver standings, but is only 28 points up on Saturday's sixth-place finisher Jeremy Clements in 13th.



Austin Cindric, driver of the #22 MoneyLion Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series UNOH 188 at Daytona International Speedway on Aug. 15, in Daytona Beach.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

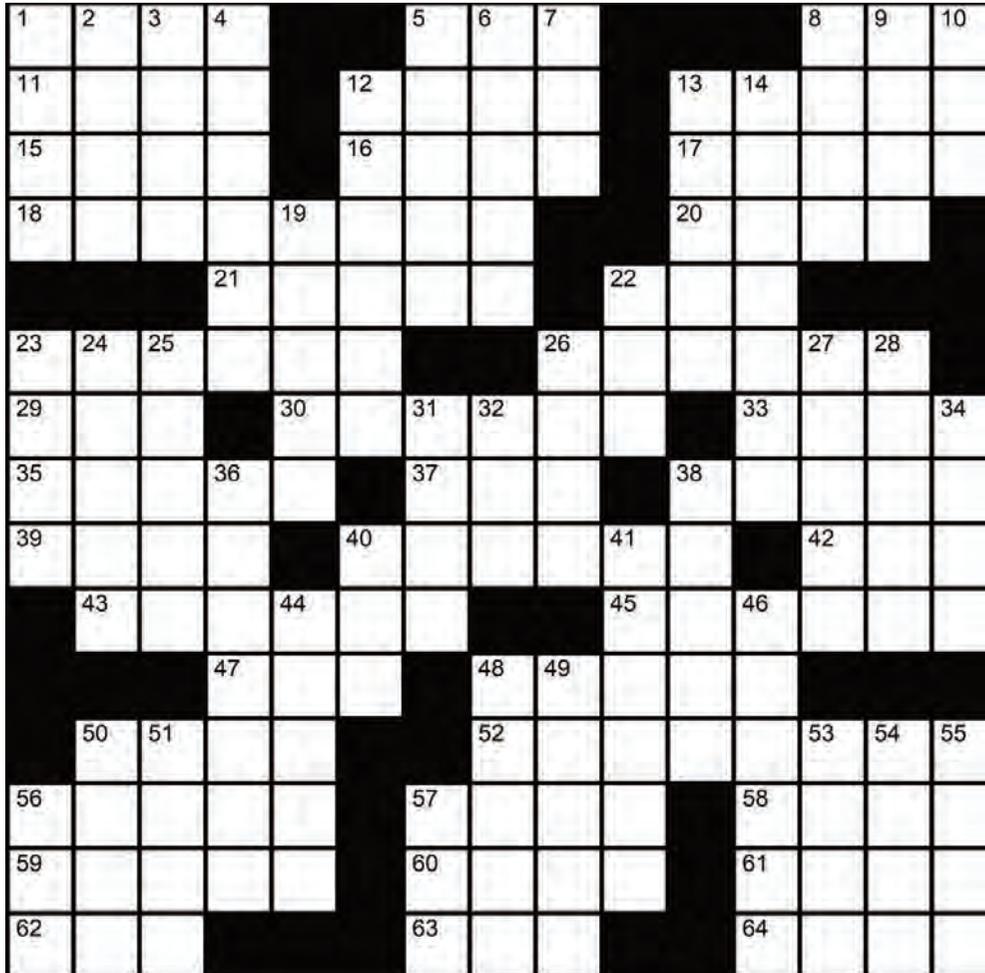
THEME: LABOR DAY

**ACROSS**

- 1. Delivery org.
- 5. \*U.N. workers' grp.
- 8. Pressure unit
- 11. Prune, previously
- 12. Congregation's echo
- 13. Lusitania's destroyer
- 15. Samoan money
- 16. Enthusiastic review
- 17. Police informers
- 18. \*More than 40 hours
- 20. First Nation nation
- 21. Not these
- 22. Paper or plastic?
- 23. Lads' girlfriends
- 26. Meal
- 29. Morsel
- 30. \*Labor Day, always
- 33. International Civil Aviation Org.
- 35. She turned to stone, Greek mythology
- 37. Quaker grain
- 38. Same as gnarls
- 39. Toothy wheel
- 40. Capital of Canada
- 42. Homer Simpson exclamation
- 43. Russia's plain
- 45. Zoroastrian archives
- 47. Simon & Garfunkel member
- 48. Sheik's bevy
- 50. Goes with sushi
- 52. \*Part of labor force
- 56. Jewish folklore creature
- 57. European sea eagle
- 58. Millimeter of mercury
- 59. Impolite dinner sound
- 60. "Dark" movie
- 61. Armor chest plate
- 62. Cupid's action
- 63. Type of evidence
- 64. "By \_\_\_\_ of" or "by means of"

**DOWN**

- 1. "\_\_\_\_ no good"
- 2. Bohemian, e.g.
- 3. Whimper
- 4. "That \_\_\_\_!" and hurts
- 5. Mosque officials
- 6. Don McLean: "Drove my chevy to the \_\_\_\_"
- 7. Comes before first Mississippi
- 8. Minute opening
- 9. "For Pete's \_\_\_\_!"





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- 10. Belonging to it
- 12. Not aria nor recitative
- 13. Open a beer bottle
- 14. \*Union responsibility
- 19. \*Labor Day is this puzzle's \_\_\_\_
- 22. BeyoncE, a.k.a. Queen \_\_\_\_
- 23. \*Like Labor Day weekend
- 24. Ovine sign of the zodiac
- 25. Type of weasel
- 26. "Pro" follower
- 27. Oodles
- 28. Fortune-teller's card
- 31. Sol, or la, or ti
- 32. Digital audiotape, acr.
- 34. \*Health and safety org.
- 36. \*Strike \_\_\_\_
- 38. Courtroom silencer
- 40. Choose
- 41. One who bends out of shape
- 44. Groom one's feathers
- 46. Used an emoji, technically
- 48. Long-necked wader
- 49. Embryo sacs
- 50. One-pilot flight, pl.
- 51. Reunion attendee
- 53. Jellystone Park denizen
- 54. Joanie of "Happy Days"
- 55. At a previous time, archaic
- 56. Geological Society of America
- 57. \*Unofficial \_\_\_\_ of summer

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SALE OR RENT \$800/ or buy \$157,000. OBO. 3BR/2BA. Living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, bonus room. New windows. 3BR/2.5BA with 2 Fireplaces and 3 BEDROOM PLUS ROOM decks \$259,000. On the web Doublewide 4BR/3.5BA, 3000sf. Need room? This home has plenty! \$259,000. On the web MUST SELL 3BR/2BA/2000sqft factored Home, Ho \$129,900. For more please contact. Ow

# The Classifieds

### Real Estate

5 BEAUTIFUL CULLASAJA River-front Home-sites (some with Streams and Islands). Perfect for Tiny Homes/Park Models/RV Barns/Eco Green Homes/Shipping Container Homes. .60-2 acres. \$69K-179K. Also, 5 acre parcels across the road. \$49K-69K. Call or text Frank, (828)371-7940.

4 LOTS IN GATED COMMUNITY Long Range Views, Good Roads, 6 Miles From Town, For Sale By Owner. (828)421-4582.

### Garage & Yard Sales

DOWNSIDERS! Decor, Household, Furniture, Electronics, Christmas, Cookbooks, More. Friday, 8/21, 8-2; Saturday, 8/22, 8-4. Rain or Shine. 156 Ruby Lane, Franklin.

FAMILY YARD SALE Womens, Boys Clothing, Furniture, Household Items. Lots More Added. Friday, August 21 and Saturday August 22, 8am-2pm. 258 Bud Perry Rd., Franklin. Hwy 28N. to Windy Gap Rd., Turn on Bud Perry Rd. to Top of Hill.

SUNDAY ONLY 8AM-3PM August 23, Guns, Coins, Artwork, Jewelry, Antiques, Hwy 441S at the Old Mexican Restaurant. Treasures for Everyone!

ESTATE SALE Load of things, 8am-3pm. Thursday 8/20, Saturday 8/22, Rain or Shine, 85 Aylen Fouts Rd., Off Mary B. Lane/Harrison Ave

FRIDAY, SATURDAY 7:30-? 12 Second St., Cash Only, Furniture, Yard Tools, Art, Glassware, Dresses Etc. Masks Required.

### Rentals

RV/TINY HOME LOT Short distance to town. \$325/month. Four-month minimum. Includes water, sewer and trash. Drive by at 42 Shallow Hollow Road then call for details. (828)346-1200.

### Misc. For Sale

5'X8' TRAILER with Ramp and Extras. \$600. (828)349-0141. No Calls after 5 p.m.

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

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

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

### Animals

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

FREE CAT TO GOOD Home, Very Friendly, 4 Years Old. Male, Neutered. All Shots. (828)347-6284.

### Community Fundraisers

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow is open Tues.-Sat. 10am to 4pm. Proceeds benefit Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. For More Information call 369-2040.

CARENET THRIFT STORE 45 Macon Center Dr., Franklin, Hours, Monday through Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Mission of CareNet to help bridge the gap during times of crisis for families in Macon County. (828)349-9064.

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

### Motor Vehicles

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

### Boats & Campers

1995 COACHMAN CAMPER 21.5 feet long, Tag Along. Everything Works Great. Has Rear Bunk Beds, Bath. \$3500 Firm. (828)342-7763.

### Wanted

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

# TRAILER REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

- BRAKES
- BEARINGS
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- LIGHTING
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Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Insured & Reliable • Call Us Today for FREE ESTIMATES  
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TreeServiceFranklinNC.com

## WRITE YOUR OWN CLASSIFIED AD

Ads starting at \$8 a week  
Each additional word is 20¢

Deadline Monday at 3 p.m.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Insertions: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bold (add \$1): [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

(Numbers, abbreviations and initials count as words)

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	\$8.20	\$8.40	\$8.60
			\$8.80

### CIRCLE CATEGORY

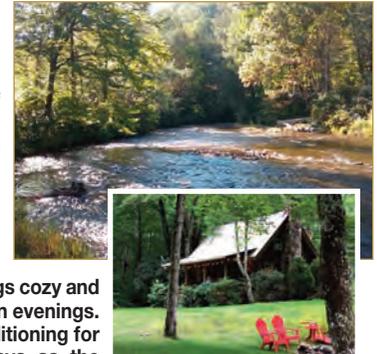
- Animals • Auctions/Antiques
- Boats & Campers
- Business Opportunities
- Help Wanted • Position Wanted
- Commercial Rentals
- Garage & Yard Sales
- Miscellaneous for Sale
- Mobile Homes • Motor Vehicles
- Real Estate • Rentals
- Services • Wanted

UNIQUE PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

(828)371-8544  
mtpropertiesofwnc@gmail.com

Matt Iannuzzi  
Broker/Associate

A river runs through it! This remarkable property sits directly on the Nantahala River. Property on both sides of the river conveys. Your front yard view from this log cabin is the Nantahala River. This is a real log home with tongue and groove wood inside. Stone fireplace will keep things cozy and warm on cool mountain evenings. The cabin has air conditioning for the infrequent hot days as the cabin land is over 3,000 feet elevation. Fish from your front yard as there are plenty of trout in there ready to be caught. This is nature at its finest. MLS 26016063 Price \$379,900



### How To Write an Effective Ad

Be clear and factual, state what you are selling, or what service you provide. Include the size, color, condition, year, make and model, price and phone number.

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

26 W. Main Street • Franklin, NC  
 or FAX at (828)369-2700 or  
 EMAIL: maconcountynews@gmail.com  
**(828) 369-6767**



**COUNTRYSIDE  
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FRANKLIN, NC



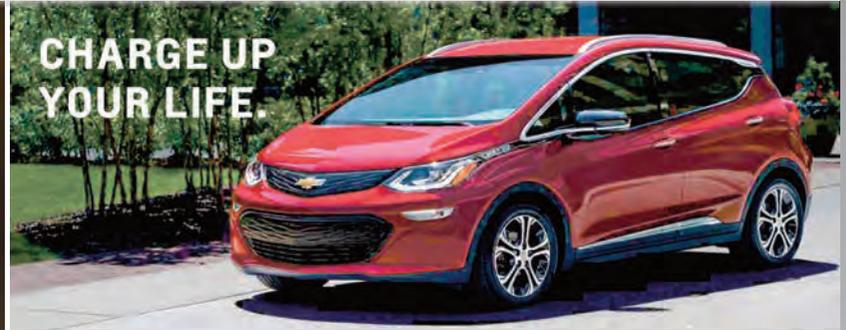
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### 2020 SILVERADO CREW CAB LT ALL STAR Z71



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS  
\$ 5,000 CASH ALLOWANCE  
+\$ 2,851 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT<sup>1</sup>  
**\$7,851** BELOW MSRP<sup>2</sup>

### 2020 TRAVERSE HIGH COUNTRY FWD



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS  
\$ 2,500 CASH ALLOWANCE  
+\$ 2,151 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT<sup>1</sup>  
**\$4,651** BELOW MSRP<sup>2</sup>

### 2020 BLAZER RS AWD



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS  
\$ 5,936 CASH ALLOWANCE  
+\$ 2,130 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT<sup>1</sup>  
**\$8,066** BELOW MSRP<sup>2</sup>

### 2020 EQUINOX PREMIER AWD



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS  
\$ 6,181 CASH ALLOWANCE  
+\$ 1,730 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT<sup>1</sup>  
**\$7,911** BELOW MSRP<sup>2</sup>

### 2020 TRAX PREMIER FWD



FOR ELIGIBLE FIRST RESPONDERS  
\$ 4,515 CASH ALLOWANCE  
+\$ 748 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT<sup>1</sup>  
**\$5,263** BELOW MSRP<sup>2</sup>

## BOLT EV. SIMPLY SMART.

ALL-ELECTRIC 259 MILES ON A FULL CHARGE<sup>1</sup>  
FUN TO DRIVE  
REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS  
NO OIL CHANGES

### 2020 BOLT EV

FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

**0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS**

**\$4,750** TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>

**FIND NEW ROADS™**



## STATE INCENTIVES

Depending on which state you live in, you could also qualify for additional savings. State EV incentives are subject to change. Check your state website for the latest information. Also talk with your electricity provider about additional savings and rebates in your area.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes select base trims. Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 you finance. Example down payment: 3.5%. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 6/30/20. <sup>2</sup> Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new delivery by 6/30/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

<sup>1</sup> EPA-estimated 259-mile EV range. Your actual range may vary based on several factors, including temperature, terrain, battery age, and how you use and maintain your vehicle. <sup>2</sup> Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 you finance. Example down payment: 3.5%. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new delivery by 6/30/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.