# The Macon County

# & Shopping Guide

Free independent weekly

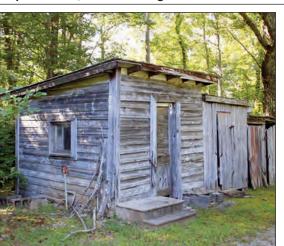
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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Country scenes on a Sunday drive

Driving around on a beautiful Labor Day weekend, old sheds and historic buildings could be found on country mountain roads. On California Mountain Road off Goldmine Road, an old shed still stands where children used to wait for the bus 60 years ago and a root cellar/can house that could possibly still hold a winter's provender. At left is the old Reed house, now standing vacant.

# Pastor denied use of gazebo for prayer event

**Brittney Lofthouse Contributing Writer** 

Michael Stephens, pastor for Franklin Church of God, spoke to the town council of Franklin Monday night at its monthly meeting asking to reserve the Gazebo in conjunction with Franklin Graham's National Prayer March scheduled to occur Washington DC on Sept. 26. Stephens noted that dozens of pastors will be coming together for the event to pray for the nation. The event is also scheduled to include music from Mountain Faith as well as several guest speakers.

Stephens submitted his request for the event, which has been dubbed weeks ago and requested the town to

consider approving his permit to utilize the Gazebo as they had done earlier this year for Black Lives Matters events as families in need. However, the town of Franklin denied well as the Back the Blue Rally.



The Town of Franklin allowed a Black Lives Matter protest at the gazebo in June while the Faith, Family, and Freedom, four state was still in Phase 2. A Back the Blue rally happened on July 30 at the same location.

The event would also have collected canned food for local

See GAZEBO page 2

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Senior Center finds fun ways to stay in touch



Weekly prayer vigil prompted by current events



**Habitat builds awnings for Franklin Chamber** 

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# SCC launches 'Enroll Anytime' option

Uncertainty about university plans, childcare availability and other variables prevented some prospective students from enrolling in college classes this fall.

THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

Anyone who since realized there's ample time to take a handful - or full load of college courses now has a second chance to get started.

Southwestern Community College is launching an "Enroll Anytime" selection of classes this semester. Students can earn as much credit as they can fit into their schedules, and new sections begin every week from Sept. 8 through Nov. 2.

All classes end on Dec. 4. A complete list of course offerings is available at www.SouthwesternCC.edu.

"We view this as a bridge for students who missed the initial opportunity this fall,'

said Dr. Thom Brooks, Executive Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at SCC. "They can begin – or continue – their college journey immediately. Since these classes are entirely online, no one has to worry about exposure to COVID-19."

"Enroll Anytime" classes are all general education offerings, most of which will transfer to any public - and most private four-year institutions in North Carolina.

Online tutoring and all of SCC's other

support options will be available to any student who signs up.

"We know the ongoing pandemic caused havoc on a lot of people's plans this fall,"



SCC student Rylee Williamson of Clyde has taken multiple online classes through SCC, which is offering an "Enroll Anytime" opportunity this fall.

said Dr. Mark Ellison, Director of Enrollment Management at Southwestern. "Students can take classes in a flexible format that will help them earn a degree without waiting until the spring semester, all from the comfort of home."

To get started, apply online at www.SouthwesternCC.edu. Contact SCC Enrollment Services at 828.339.4352 or admissions@SouthwesternCC.edu for additional information.



# **GAZEBO**

Continued from page 1

Stephens' request and voted to no longer allow use of the space until after North Carolina lifts the current State of Emergency due to COVID19.

Town Manager Summer Woodard informed the board that due to an increase in requests, reservations have been frozen for the last several weeks, not permitting the public to use the space. According to Woodard, two events are scheduled for the Gazebo, one that was approved back in February by the board and another that was submitted over a month ago for Constitution Day, for which the board voted to approve Tuesday night.

Woodard said that the Gazebo has always been used frequently, with one to two requests from community and civic groups a month, however since COVID, the town has seen a significant increase in groups requesting to use the space.

"Since COVID we are seeing one to two requests a week for the space," said Woodard. "That is why we wanted to get some clear direction from town attorney and this board as to how to handle Gazebo reservations going forward."

Town Attorney John Henning Jr., recommended placing a moratorium on the use of the Gazebo for as long as there is a State of Emergency declared, to prohibit anyone other than the town from using the space.

Addressing free speech concerns, Henning noted that the county has designated the courthouse plaza a "free speech" zone, which allows anyone to gather to express their views and be heard, the town however, has not done the same for the Town Gazebo.

Council member Joe Collins requested to allow the continued use of the space for up to 50 people, as allowed under the current state Executive Order — however Henning noted that ensuring those guidelines are followed is taxing on the town.

Mayor Bob Scott said that his concern is that if you allow one group, you have to allow all or if you deny one, you have to deny all of them.

Council member David Culpepper said that he was under the assumption the town's permitting process was strictly for scheduling issues and to ensure multiple events aren't attempting to use the space at the same time and that he wasn't comfortable limiting the use of the area for residents.

The Town of Franklin voted to issue a moratorium on reservations for the space and to only permit two events that had received prior board approval to be held.

Stephens noted after the meeting that he was disappointed that the town would not approve the request for the Faith, Family, and Freedom event be held at the Gazebo but that the event will still be held on Sept. 26 at a different location.

Town approves new K9 for FPD

Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell spoke to the Town Council regarding the rebirth of the town's K9 program.

Chief Harrell proposed spending \$18,000 to establish the program, which covers the cost of a new K9 for the department. After the initial expenditure, Chief Harrell said that it would cost an additional \$1,000 per year for veterinary visits and food for the K9. Chief Harrell said the community groups have stepped up to support a K9 for the police department and have donated or pledged to cover the initial expense.

The Franklin Police Department had a K9 several years ago, but when the K9 finished his service in 2009, the department elected not to replace it at that time. Since then, the Franklin Police Department have relied on the assistance of the Macon County Sheriff's Department, which has four K9s.

"The most recent example is when we had an offender speed through Franklin and then exited the vehicle on foot," said Chief Harrell. "The Macon County Sheriff's Department K9 could only last 15 minutes in the heat of that day, and we didn't have anything to assist them for that search."

Chief Harrell, who served as the Chief of the Highlands Police Department prior to accepting the job in Franklin three months ago, said that the K9s with the Highlands Police Department were invaluable.

Town Council member Jack Horton said that the suspect that was apprehended using the K9 Chief Harrell was near his home and knowing the benefit K9s have in law enforcement he supported the addition to the de-

Collins asked Chief Harrell if the department had plans for the future of a K9 program within the town to which Chief Harrell informed him that additional residents have expressed interest in donating and helping to fund a second K9 as well as providing funding for the care of the dogs so they do become an added expense to the town.

The Town of Franklin voted unanimously to allow Chief Harrell to move forward with establishing a K9 program.

Macon Media provided livestream of the Town Council meeting from which this article was taken.



The Back the Blue event drew hundreds to the downtown area on July 30, more than a month before the partial easing of restrictions by Gov. Roy

# ADD ANOTHER CHEVY TO YOUR DRIVEWAY



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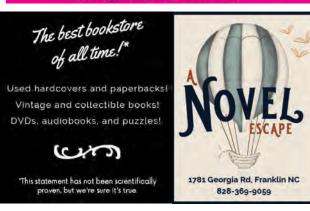
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### — PRE-OWNED VEHICLES —

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2015	Buick	LaCrosse	28,167
2018	Cadillac	CT6	29,695
2020	Cadillac	Escalade	26,141
2020	Cadillac	Escalade	35,568
2020	Chevrolet	Blazer	4,708
2013	Chevrolet	Camaro	10,190
2018 1972	Chevrolet	Colorado CORVETTE	18,864 91,171
2017	Chevrolet	Equinox	37,384
2018	Chevrolet	Equinox	74,937
2019	Chevrolet	Equinox	26,227
2007	Chevrolet	Malibu	98,032
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	114,928
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	11,572
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	10,097
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	41,705
2017	Chevrolet Chevrolet	Suburban Tahoe	28,879 84,475
2015	Chevrolet	Traverse	101,068
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	27,165
2014	Chevrolet	Traverse	86,535
2006	Chrysler	PT Cruiser	173,444
2010	Chrysler	Town & Country	140,383
2015	Dodge	Dart	62,916
2018	Ford	EcoSport	5,000
2002	Ford	Explorer Sport	221,421
2020	Ford	F-150	23,354
2005 2016	Ford Ford	F-150 F-250	357,437 190,896
2018	Ford	Flex	70,276
1930	FORD	MODELA	78,269
2005	Ford	Mustang	61,718
2015	GMC	Acadia	92,733
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500	49,139
2013	GMC	Yukon	51,248
2019	GMC	Yukon XL	37,969
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	FATBOY	2,318
2014 2019	Honda Honda	Odyssey Ridgeline	125,663 12,928
2019	Hyundai	Elantra	36.506
2013	Hyundai	Sonata	85,840
2019	Hyundai	Tucson	36,252
2017	Jeep	Cherokee	81,967
2015	Jeep	<b>Grand Cherokee</b>	91,643
2003	Jeep	Liberty	218,554
2017	Jeep	Renegade	48,579
2015	Kia	Optima	78,513
2019 2013	Kia Kia	Soul	34,258 161,005
2016	LINCOLN	Navigator L	125,510
2019	Mazda	CX-5	36,819
2012	Mercedes-Benz	C 300	95,841
2017	Mercedes-Benz	Metris	57,078
2015	Mercedes-Benz	ML 350	67,933
2019	Nissan	Rogue	40,105
2019	Nissan	Rogue	39,470
2019 2019	Nissan Nissan	Sentra Sentra	38,797 38,658
2019	Nissan	Versa	35,717
2019	Nissan	Xterra	72,051
2020	RAM	1500	25,556
2016	RAM	1500	92,131
2017	Subaru	Forester	44,665
2014	Subaru	Forester	77,478
2019	Toyota	Camry	34,683
2019	Toyota	Corolla	35,775
2019 2019	Toyota Toyota	Corolla Corolla	27,529
2019	Toyota	Tacoma	38,047 35,770
2008	Volkswagen	Eos	115,733
	-		,











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# Center finds fun ways to interact with members

Diane Peltz - Contributing Writer

The Crawford Senior Center has kept busy assisting seniors, throughout the pandemic. Although they are closed to inperson activities, that didn't stop them from offering virtual and drive-through activities. Senior Center director Jennifer Hollifield explained to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night just how they are going about offering services.

"Although we had to switch from offering meals indoors, we were able to go with the drive through congregate meal offerings," said Hollifield.

Each weekday, volunteers man the drive-through tents to hand out hot meals to members of the Senior Center. During the months of May through August, two additional meals were offered every Friday to take home for the weekend. Home-

bound meals are also still being delivered to residents, thanks to help from Macon County Transit drivers. Senior Center employees are making phone calls to offer well checks to adult day members. COVID-19 calls are also being made to help seniors understand the governor's executive orders.

The center held a fan giveaway last month in which seniors simply drove up to the center and received a rotating fan at no cost to them. In total, 22 fans were given away. Every Thursday the tent is up for seniors to stop by and get a free face mask. The masks are donated by a resident who has been busy sewing hundreds of masks to ensure that any senior in need can get one. Zoom classes are going strong and include Tai Chi, Yoga, and chat rooms where members

can get together and converse with friends, that they would otherwise be missing, due to the center being closed. Recently a drive through BINGO game was implemented. Members were handed two BINGO cards when they picked up their lunch at the drive through, and numbers will be called every weekday and also posted on Facebook. Hollifield explained, "although we lost half of our volunteers we are still planning to offer more activities throughout this year."

The activities that are planned for future events include a drive-through flu clinic, and a Veterans Day flag giveaway to recognize vets. The center will also be offering a free balance testing in the parking lot in recognition of National Fall Awareness week, which is Sept 21 - 25. A Halloween drivethrough trick or treat is in the works as is the Tree of Thanksgiving Event. This event will offer seniors the option to write a note about something they are thankful for and then place it on the tree which will be displayed on the premises for all to see. Christmas will not go unnoticed either. The crew is planning a drive through "iconic" movie scene act-out. Employees



and volunteers will be acting out parts from movies such as, when Ralphie from the movie "A Christmas Story," got his tongue stuck to an ice pole. The Grinch will also be represented along with other memorable scenes from holiday

A new carport is going to be built so that employees and volunteers can assist seniors and be protected from the heat and potential inclement weather.

### MVI gets help with Green Power project

In other news from the Commissioner's Meeting, Jennifer Love, Macon County Schools STEM Coordinator, gave an update on how the N. C. Green Power initiative was progressing. N. C. Green Power has offered a grant to install solar panels, at Mountain View Intermediate School (MVI). Love



Even though the Senior Center is closed to in-person activities, the staff are providing ongoing services to its members. **Photo by Vickie Carpenter** 

has been busy trying to raise the \$6,000 needed to be able to install the solar panels, which would generate an energy savings of \$800 per year, which is a total of \$32,000 over the 40year lifetime of the panels. Love was able to obtain all but \$1,500 toward the grant, which will expire on Sept. 30 and MVI would have to forfeit their funds. She said that she had several offers from companies but has yet to receive the money. The Board of Commissioners decided to give Love the \$1,500 needed to go forward with the project. They will see their money returned in just two years with the \$1,600 savings generated by the panels, from the electric bill at MVI. If more than \$6,000 end up coming in, Green Power will provide a larger panel, to recognize an even bigger profit from the installation. The grant includes the installation, electrical costs and maintenance of the panels. It also includes training for five teachers regarding how the panels work providing the opportunity to incorporate what they learned into the students' curriculum, which aligns with the fifth and sixth grade science standards.



# General Assembly, governor agree on Coronavirus Relief Funding

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer** 

Every family in North Carolina with at least one child will receive a one time payment of \$335 from the state as part of the Coronavirus Relief Funding 3.0 Bill approved by state

"This budget followed my recommendations on school enrollment funding and invested in important areas like high speed internet access and disaster relief, but legislators should have done more to expand Medicaid, support small businesses, pay our educators, assist with rent and utilities relief and further help unemployed North Carolinians," said North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. "Obviously I don't agree with every provision, but the funding for pandemic support in this budget is critical and must move forward."

According to the legislation, the Department of Revenue will issue the checks to every family in the state no later than Dec. 15. In order to get a check, individuals need to file a 2019 state income tax return by Oct. 15. To be eligible, families also need to be a resident for the entire 2019 calendar year and report at least one child who is 17 and under on their state tax form.

"Families in North Carolina were catapulted into an unprecedented situation in March when COVID19 changed the day-to-day for all of us," said Rep. Kevin Corbin. "We know this money will not begin to cover everything associated with unexpected childcare costs, but it's one of many ways the most recent budget passed in the legislation will help the hardworking families in our state."

If you didn't file a state tax return solely because your gross income didn't meet the state's requirements, you could still



Rep. Kevin Corbin speaks in the N.C. House of Representatives in a recent legislative session.

Submitted photo

get a check. But you will have to apply through the Secretary of Revenue. Applicants will also have to meet the other requirements, including being a resident of North Carolina for all of 2019 and having at least one child who is 17 and under.

The relief measure also increases North Carolina's unemployment benefits for families to the second highest in the Southeast by increasing the amount by \$50 a week, while maintaining tax rates for employers still recovering from the pandemic and rehiring displaced workers.

The measure delivers on a top public school priority of holding education funding levels "harmless," regardless of expected drops in enrollment.

The "hold harmless" funding policy was cited by education leaders as the most important measure lawmakers could take to support North Carolina schools.

Relief for North Carolinians in House Bill 1105 Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0 also includes:

- A total increase of \$115 million to education
- \$17 million in grants for exceptional children's services
- \$50 million to the Lost Wages Assistance Program
- Help for more families to qualify for scholarship programs
  - Additional \$45 million for small business grant program
  - Bipartisan priorities like the PPE+NC program
- Elimination of education wait lists for kids with disabilities
- \$44.5 million for hurricane recovery from four major
- \$38 million on direct services for behavioral health
- Support for safe voting with \$5 million for elections





# Man's weekly downtown prayer vigil prompted by current events

Deena C. Bouknight - Contributing Writer

Harold Johnson, 74, has for the past six weeks, stood for three hours at the corner of Main and Phillips Street in Franklin on Tuesdays holding a "Jesus is the Answer" banner. He explained that he is not there to condemn anyone, but to provide hope during this current time of a pandemic, social unrest, and political

Johnson said he has been involved in ministry since he lived in Florida, 15 years ago, and decided recently to do "his part" by showing up each week from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., playing music, holding the banner, and offering to speak to and pray with people about the "hope of Jesus.'

"I wound up on that corner due to where our nation is. We need the security of knowing what that banner says, that Jesus is the answer," he said.

Because the area outside the courthouse is open for public forum, individuals and groups meet there periodically or regularly pray. Johnson, in fact, has been praying the first Friday night each month with the Prayer Against Drugs group.

"The corner is active for prayer time outside of a brick and mortar church."

Johnson explained that he not connected with the individual or group with the "Repent" signage. "My motive is to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the answer. The 'repent' concept sometimes comes across as gloom and doom. I'm not doom and gloom ... not trying to scare people. Jesus is hope, and prayer changes things. I believe there will be a change when individuals make a Godly heart change, which will ultimately improve the social and political unrest in our country today."

While Johnson makes himself available each Tuesday, his wife, Marla, walks Main Street and prays for her husband and for the people he may have a chance to share with.

"I've been able to encourage some people," he said. "Many people smile and wave. The music is meant to bring peace ... soothing and consoling. One or two people have been ugly,



Harold Johnson was prompted by this time of social unrest, global pandemic and political strife to offer up weekly prayers and to provide hope for the community. Photos by Vickie Carpenter

but that's to be expected. Most are open to this message. Franklin is an awesome town; Macon County has an awesome group of people."

Johnson uses a small portable sound system with wireless capability to access a playlist on his phone that includes a mixture of old hymns and new Christian music.

"I'm not locked into one particular vein of music. I just look for anointed and worship-

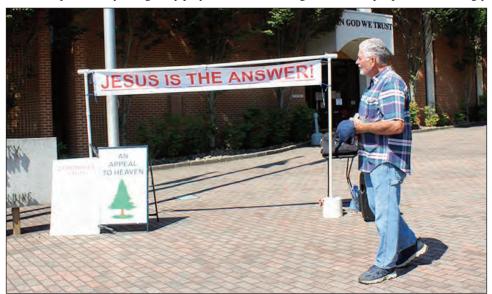
While making himself available each Tuesday, Johnson said he has experienced "several incidences of encouragement. One person that he had known previously, someone who overcame a life of homelessness and other challenges due to a faith in Christ, stopped by to give Johnson an update.

"He overcame his struggles and is now a productive part of the community, and that's what this message is all about."

Even though he has noticed a "gulf of separation between the younger and older generation," he shared that young people have stopped to speak to him. "And two young men stopped and asked if they could pray over me. It blessed me. It's about how we need to know this Jesus, this Christ. That's the motivation."

Since the public can reserve the area at the corner of Main and Phillips Street for eight weeks at a time. Johnson said he will petition the town for "future dates and time slots."

Johnson insisted that he is not trying to draw attention to himself. "The Bible says it takes the holy spirit to woo and draw. But sometimes it takes us to be God's vehicle. I'm privileged and honored to be allowed to do it. We've all got to do something ... how minimal or small, that's not the question. Just do something."





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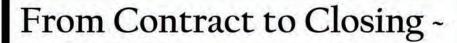
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# Henke and Shields sworn in as SCC trustees

As of July 1, Ken Henke and Gary Shields began serving new terms on the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Community College. The former Western North Carolina public educators will continue their board service at SCC through June 30, 2024, in their renewed terms.

Henke, a former principal and school board chairman for Jackson County, was originally appointed as a trustee in 2018 to fulfill the remainder of the late W. Paul Holt Jr.'s unserved term. Shields, who served as principal for Franklin High School during his 37-year career with Macon County Schools, has been with the board since 2011.

Henke was appointed by the Jackson County Board of Education, and Shields was appointed by the Macon County Board of Commissioners, and they were sworn in on July 28 at SCC's Jackson Campus.

Henke began his career in Jackson County edand as assistant principal and principal at Smoky pus in Sylva. Mountain High School before retiring in 2001.

He was elected to the Jackson County Board of Education the next year, and he served as chairman from 2004 until 2018.

During his time as principal, Henke worked with SCC to assist high school students wishing to participate in dual enrollment. While he was school board chairman, the college and public schools worked together to implement one of the first early colleges in the state.

"I have watched through the years as SCC moved from just a small, local school helping local folks to a nationally-acclaimed institution helping local, national and international folks," Henke said. "My own son (Len) began his nursing education at SCC before going on to get his Master's in Nursing in Nashville. His experience at SCC was an extremely positive time in his life."

Shields, a Macon County native and Vietnam War veteran, spent 37 years in education, with 29 of those years in the Macon County School System. Shields served as principal of Franklin High School for 21 years before retiring in June 2010.

After retiring, he served four years as a member of the Macon County Board of Education. Shields has been a Macon



ucation as a teacher at Fairview Elementary in Gary Shields (left) is sworn in for a new term as a member of SCC's Board of 1977, and later served as assistant principal there Trustees by SCC President Dr. Don Tomas on July 28 at the SCC Jackson Cam-

County Commissioner since 2014.

Beginning his ninth year on SCC's Board of Trustees, Shields is one of its longer-serving members.

"Our communities have grown due to the willingness of SCC to grow with us as new adventures in our economy have appeared," Shields said. "SCC has been fortunate to have leaders who were not satisfied with the status quo and sought leaders within our communities to challenge the norm. Our region owes a lot to SCC, and many of our high schools have been able to deliver alternative programs to our youth at affordable costs."

SCC President Dr. Don Tomas recognizes the contributions Henke and Shields have made during their Board tenure.

"Both Mr. Henke and Mr. Shields have devoted their professional lives to education and student success, and that's the kind of commitment and experience we're proud to have on our board," said Tomas.

For more information about SCC and the programs it offers, visit www.southwesterncc.edu, call 828.339.4000 or drop by the nearest SCC location.







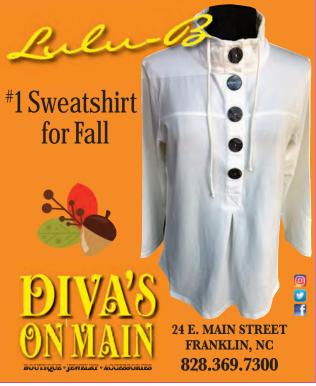
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john@johnhamlininsurance.com









# Habitat adds awnings to Chamber





Construction supervisor John Wert, Laurel Klonkowski and Harry Peggs (not shown) with Macon County Habitat for Humanity recently came to the aid of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently by building awnings for its two rear entrances. The local Habitat office is instrumental in helping many non-profits and home owners with needs. For those who would like to be a part of this rewarding program and have a heart to help others, contact Wert at (828)369-3716.





# Constitution Day set Sept. 17 at gazebo

Order – these words taken from the Preamble the delegates to the Constitutional Convenare the capstone on which the U.S. Constitution signed the Constitution.

tion was written. These words represent values that define the purpose of the Constitution, a document containing 7,591 words and 27 Amendments.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, starting a 6 p.m. outside at the gazebo in downtown Franklin, the public is invited to a ceremony honor-

nation in sing-along with a reading of portions of the Constitution of the United States of America.

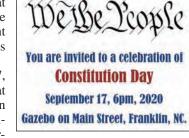
In 1956, Congress established Constitution or shine.

Life, Liberty, Justice, Tranquility, Welfare, Week to begin on Sept. 17; the day in 1787

"During these days where so many things seek to divide us, we invite you to come together in unity as we recognize the need to form a 'more perfect union' by remembering the Constitution, a bedrock of the United States of America," say organizers.

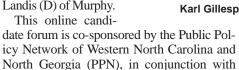
Social distancing guide-

ing Constitution Day to celebrate this great lines are in effect as directed per the Town of Franklin and N.C. governor's orders. For more information, contact Joe Suminski at (828)371-2307. This event will be held rain



# Online forum set for House District 120 Race

On Sept. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m., Western North Carolina voters are invited to participate in the first-ever online candidate forum featuring two candidates who are running to represent House District 120 in the North Carolina General Assembly: Karl Gillespie (R) of Franklin, and Susan Landis (D) of Murphy.



Mountain True and the Hinton Center. The emcee for this event is Hayesville's own Harry Baughn, host of "Mountain Mornings" on WJRB 95.1 and WJUL 97.7 radio stations.

Candidates will have the opportunity to share their views on many issues that are critical to the voters in District 120, including access to health care; financial security (jobs, affordable housing and economic develop-



Karl Gillespie



Susan Landis

ment), and the environment.

Voters are invited to join the forum on ZOOM to hear these candidates make their case for why they would be the best choice to represent the residents of western NC in the House of Representatives.

The ZOOM Log-In information for the NC House District 120 Candidate Forum will be posted on both the PPN and Mountain True websites (www.publicpolicynetwork.net or (www.mountaintrue.org) on Tuesday morning, Sept. 22.



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# Harris, Swain partnering with physical therapy firm

Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital have partnered with PT Solutions Physical Therapy, a national provider of physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and sports medicine services including athletic training. The partnership will expand the hospitals' services in western North Carolina and provide additional opportunities for the clinical team of therapists caring for patients and student athletes in Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay counties, and Rabun County, Ga. Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital also have a longstanding partnership with Western Carolina University Athletics and operate a physical therapy and sports medicine clinic at the College of Health and Human Sciences.

The same team of therapists and athletic trainers will serve in the same capacities and at the same locations as always. The team consists of more than 40 therapists and athletic trainers providing evaluation and treatment for patients, and practice, competition, concussion prevention, and injury management for student athletes.

"PT Solutions is a company that we feel shares our values and can provide a focused environment for growth and employee development for rehabilitation services," said Steve Heatherly, CEO of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "Our therapy and athletic training team is the best in the region and we are excited to forge a partnership that will provide limitless growth and development opportunities for our staff and organization, all focused on serving patients and our communities."

Rocky Barnes, PT Solutions president and co-founder added, "We're looking forward to joining forces with the therapists and athletic trainers of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. Their clinical expertise and local knowledge, combined with our resources and collaborative approach to providing Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine services, will help serve these communities at an even greater capacity than before."

For more information on rehabilitation and athletic training services call (828) 586-7235.

# Vein Center now open

Harris Regional Hospital announces the opening of Harris Vein Center in Sylva. The Harris Vein Center provides vein services to the members of WNC led by Dr. Eric Reitz and Kate Mosley, FNP-C and is now open and scheduling ap-

Services provided at the Harris Vein Center include safe, minimally-invasive vein treatment options for a variety of legs issues including spider veins, venous insufficiency, varicose veins, restless leg syndrome, leg cramps, leg pain and swelling, skin discoloration, plus much more.

More than 40 million Americans suffer daily with painful, swollen legs as a result of venous disease. This condition is the result of faulty valves in the veins and is called Venous Insufficiency. In a healthy vein, there are one way valves that allow the blood to move toward the heart, but not away. In a diseased vein, these valves do not work properly, allowing the blood to fall downward in between heartbeats.

This back and forth motion of blood leads to an increased venous blood pressure resulting in inflammation of the tissues around the vein. This inflammation can cause leg pain, swelling, bulging varicose veins, heaviness, restlessness, cramps, skin discoloration, numbness, tingling, ulcers, Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT) and blood clots. Left untreated, this condition only worsens over time.

Harris Vein Center is located at 37 Medical Park Loop, Suite 101 in Sylva. For a full screening or consultation, call 828.586.7735.

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THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

Patrick Taylor - Highlands Mayor

I got up late on Labor Day, had my cup of coffee, and perused the morning news.

I noticed Southern California continues to battle wildfires, and has set a record 120 degree temperature. I thought, how can anyone live there? I also read about the ravages of COVID -19 and the impending budget shortfalls facing large



**Patrick Taylor** 

I also caught up on my email and saw the Highlands Chamber announcement that Highlands had made the Southern Living list of the most desirable small towns for retirement.

I was again jolted that people will be coming to Highlands. Realtors already see the trend. Affluent professionals want to escape crowded, hot, and perilous metropolitan areas. Broadband and Zoom have created lifestyle options. Our cool climate and small town appearance make us a desirable community.

In this year of community, comprehensive planning, critical decisions lie ahead. The town board and community stakeholders will have to make critical decisions about growth and development.

Water and sewer policy will be key. Certain types of development depend on access to these utilities. Highlands has built a water and sewer system for the past 90 years. Over the decades policies governing these resources have evolved.

Some six decades ago, when there were subdivisions being built outside the town limits, the Highlands Town Board decided to allow these projects to connect to town water. The rationale was that more customers would be beneficial. In some cases the town actually took possession of the waterlines leading to and into the subdivisions. Others subdivisions, like Queen Mountain, were allowed to connect to the town water system, but the residents owned the line going down NC 28 and in the develop-

Fifty years later, those decisions still impact the town. For Queen Mountain, their homeowners have had to fund the replacement of the waterline from the town limits to the subdivision. Other subdivisions, like Satulah Falls, have fared differently since the town long ago agreed to own their subdivision waterlines. Two years ago the aging galvanized lines in Satulah Falls were replaced by the town for around \$200,000. The town had previously upgraded the water system for Buena Vista. This year, the replacement of aging lines for subdivision outside town

See TAYLOR page 11

### **Letters to the Editor**

Opinion ———

Now it's about 'rich privilege' of any race

Do black lives matter? Absolutely. And so do red, yellow, white, purple, or any other color, or creed or nationality. I saw a YouTube video where a young white woman approached a white police officer sitting with another officer in a patrol car. She asked him the question, "Do you think black lives matter?" He replied "Yes, I do. All lives matter." She said she was offended by his answer because saying "all lives matter" was hurtful. She kept asking him the same question over and over and getting the same response, and then asked for his badge number and name which he very politely gave her. At no time was he even slightly rude or brusque with her. Obviously she could not figure out the truth, that "all lives matter includes black lives." For a group to insist their lives are the only ones that matter is racist, not the other way around. Are they even able to think for themselves? Unfortunately there have been police officers that are corrupt, violent and go beyond their bounds. Most of the rest are kind, courteous and care about serving people, which should be their primary objective: To keep all people safe. Yes, there does need to be reform and more screening when officers are hired. Franklin has some of the best police force I've seen anywhere and they dutifully and professionally do their jobs. They need to know how proud we are of them and how much we value them being here.

The current Black Lives Matter organization is a disgrace and embarrassment to the real law abiding African American citizens of this country. They've killed black lives and ruined or burned black businesses as well as others. They have aligned with radical, hate mongering extremists. This does not engender compassion toward anyone and does nothing good for their cause.

In a nation strongly divided along partisan party lines, religious bigotry and turmoil, it is important to remember that we really are all one. Until we learn to respect and treat all others gently and with respect, the anger will not go away. No amount of reparation or any kind of monetary payment thrown at it that will solve the problem. Give everyone jobs, and pay them fair wages. It isn't about "white privilege," That rhetoric might have worked a generation ago, but now it is all about "rich privilege," and that can be any race. Some Asians, now rich and powerful, carry more clout and privilege than other groups. And what about the Kardashians or other black, rich performers who shower their kids with insanely expensive and decadent lifestyles. Native Africans were not the only slaves. At one time there were more Caucasian slaves in the world than any other nationality. Black people at one time, were part of the slave trade and owned other slaves. I did not own slaves and those African Americans living today were not slaves so stop the blame game! So much anger! The only way to truly heal and release yourself and be totally free is to forgive. Forgive anyone you think has wronged you and also forgive yourself for having anger toward them. Let it

go. This can still be a beautiful world, but not if it is full of prejudice and hatred. Be color blind. Let's all learn to live in peace and with malice toward none.

Melba Streiff - Franklin, N.C.

### Solutions offered for roadside debris

Mr. Puckett's opinion in *The Macon County News* this past week regarding trash on the highway. He asserts that someone needs to be picking up trash strewn along the roadways of Macon County. I do agree with keeping our roadways free of unsightly debris.

Mr. Puckett was rather harsh in calling DOT workers idiots and for that he needs to apologize to these fine workers and most likely better educated than he. Sorry that you do not like what you see and maybe you need to volunteer to clean a designated area if you are able to do so or maybe Macon County, North Carolina is not the place to live. Much of this debris and I have seen examples of people throwing trash from their vehicles and most of them bear out-of-state tags such as Florida, Georgia and various other states. Perhaps you need to go to the Macon County Commission meeting in Franklin and present your concerns to them. You are very wrong to condemn our residents and workers here in North Carolina. But I bet you feel proud about your comments but I am willing to bet you are not the most perfect person in the world to form critical opinions on our fine working men and women. You need to fact check your information and present it to the correct authority or our elected commission before degrading our work

James O. Wright - Franklin, N.C.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: For the months of September and October and through November 3, 2020, it will be the policy of The Macon County News to restrict Letters not to include references to upcoming elections or mention of candidates. If you wish to run a paid political advertisement we will be happy to run one for you but as for September and October and through November 3, no more references will be accepted.

- Betsey Gooder, Publisher



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Thursday, September 10, 2020 | Volume 38 Number 17 The Macon County News & Shopping Guide

### Is it science or censorship?

Last week, a doctor and nurse presented the case for wearing masks. I have some questions. Why are we talking about this when there is a cure - actually several of them? And why are doctors who are curing people with COVID-19 being persecuted and censored? One example includes the great video of America's front-line doctors, experts in various fields related to COVID, which can be seen here at https://x22report.com/. The original video has been censored from youtube.

Another example was Dr. Dan Erickson's great presentation, which received over 5 million views before it was censored. Science does not censor.

Why are we working so hard to try to prevent the spread of a disease with a death rate of .02% and falling? Have there been any studies on the effects of long-term breathing of spray disinfectants? What about studies on the unintended consequences of the continued draconian measures imposed by our political leaders? I'd like to see double-blind, placebo-controlled studies showing that mask wearing confers some benefit to either the wearer, or to others. There is one type of mask that has been tested. Its label warns the user that the mask is not designed to protect either the wearer or others from any viral disease.

Dr. Mercola interviewed a former professor of physics at University of Ottawa, Denis Rancourt, on this topic. They concluded that masks do not protect you or anyone else from aerosol particles. That is because the particles, including viruses, follow the flow of air. Most inhaled/exhaled air flows around the mask edges, but even if it went through the mask, the aerosol which carries virus particles is microscopic, like humidity in the air. There is no scientific evidence that masks do anything to stop or slow the spread of viral diseases. If there was, we would have been advised to wear masks during every prior flu season.

Dr. Judy Mikovitch warns that not only do masks not help, but there is actual scientific evidence that they can cause harm to the wearer within two or three breaths. This is because some of the exhaled CO2 is trapped by the mask and re-breathed by the wearer. The result is that the ratio of oxygen to CO2 is altered by the mask in a way that is harmful to the wearer. The optimal oxygen concentration in the air is about 21%. That level can be reduced by several percentage points when a mask is worn. Worse, the CO2 concentration can be increased from optimal .04% to over 4%. That much CO2 is good for plants, but people are not trees. Even a slight reduction in oxygen can reduce your body's resistance to infectious disease.

Why did Dr. Fauci recommend the public not wear masks when the pandemic was at its peak?

Critics of hydroxychloroquine-as-a-cure-for-COVID-19 demand a large-scale, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. These critics refuse to accept the mounting clinical evidence showing how safe and effective HCQ has been.

The same standard should be applied for a large-scale, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of mask-wearing. Let's see the study.

Ed Hill - Franklin, N.C.

### Mail-in ballots too susceptible for fraud

Most of the population of the United States know truly little about the Postal Service.

Prior to 1971, it was The United States Post Office Department. Then in 1971, it was re-organized as the United States Postal Service. They delivered mail with Postal jeeps and later LLV Postal vehicles, the ones you see in town and other big cities. Rural carriers' vehicles are a different story. I am not going to discuss that here.

The Postal Service does not have its own airplanes, unlike UPS/Fed-ex/Emory (back years ago). If any mail was to be

sent by air, the Postal Service had to rent space from a commercial airline because of not having their own planes. Not having their own planes also extends delivery time. In the '70s, Congress wanted to make it easier for businesses to be able to send out flyers advertising their business/sales. The cost was an extremely low bulk rate price. Following is an example (not actual figures because it varies on how many pieces are sent out). If the bulk rate were 1.8 cents per piece, the Postal Service would get that plus the amount that would be equal to the First-Class letter rate at the time. This process was called "Revenue Fore Gone." Later years Congress decided to do-away with "The Revenue Fore Gone" and all the Postal Service received for delivering those tons of bulk rate mail was the bulk rate price! Probably the only Congressmen/women that know about this are the ones that have been in office for the past 30 - 35 years.

Also, I think that it was in the '80s of all the government agencies, only three were in the GREEN (The Postal Service and two others (I don't remember which ones) so Congress mandated that each pay millions of dollars toward the national debt! The other agencies were all in the RED!

As for requesting Mail-In ballots, it is too easy to have voting fraud, (Requesting a Mail-In ballot for a deceased, wife, husband, dog, cat, canary, etc.). By the time those requesting mail-in ballots are checked out for validity, the election will have long been over. Those requesting ballots from large cities will place undo stress on people trying to validate their request causing many to be sent out before being thoroughly validated! And another delay in getting the mail out is caused by the removal of 671 sorting machines (which sorts mail at a high rate of speed) from USPS facilities. The removal of these high-speed mail-sorting machines was by order from the new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Tom Kleschka - Otto, N.C.

### Why do we keep repeating the same mistakes?

I want to thank *Macon County News*, Mrs. Gooder and staff for the kindness and willingness in allowing my thoughts to be shared for over 15 years. Some papers have ask me to no longer send these thoughts for they think it too faith-based or has a religious bent in them. So much for diverse discussions of thought and thinking.

They shouldn't fear this openness or difference. I guess I should change my faith to either Republican or Democrat, which both ask and seek unity and diversity but there are some who only seek a united effort of disruption and dissension. It pains me to see people degrading others whether from the media or from ourselves, but this seems today's norm. This vileness seems so much a part of what we've become, and I believe the media and we ourselves feed on this, because if unity were realized there would be only the good efforts, direction and open discussion of humanity working together for a common goal.

This common goal use to be a norm, it was just a difference in how we get there. There seems to be an underlying effort for in-citing chaos and confusion, for this causes a division where the power players are the only winners. So it seems the powerful themselves can be both the cause and seemingly the cure of man's problems; both are controlling with selfish motives. I view this not only within America but the world over. We seek like-minded powers to give us what we want as this evolves. The same system degrades those who are deemed the enemy of their freedom. It's like the ocean tide that sweeps to shore then recedes, only to repeat itself time and time again. It never ceases to amaze me how we seem to deceive ourselves and keep hitting the repeat button. Every generation seems to believe that now they have arrived, things will be different.

The book of old tells of this unending effort of man, but reveals the root cause of where this lies and how this blight on

mankind has been forever with us throughout history. Our Divine creator has given us this beautiful world in which we live, He, Himself said, "it is good." I sometimes wish He never would have given us a freedom of choice. But if there were no choice there would be no love, either towards Him, from Him or for any of us, all would be meaningless.

11

A renewed approach is needed to re-think outside the box of humanity and why we seem to repeat life's history with the same hurts and pains of the past. Each of us need to examine life and where our choices will lead us. To examine where the good is evident and see evil for what it is and to discern the difference. Choices of where we place our hearts and minds and what we value have a profound effect now, but more so for the future. God has given this freedom of choice, and it shouldn't be taken for granted. It is we who are making our burdens heavy but we also can make them light, the choice is ours. Choice is freedom or a willingness to direct one's own life, but choice doesn't come free for it always comes with sacrifice, pain and suffering towards the one who is loved, and this was His loving choice towards us.

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

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.

# **TAYLOR**

From previous page

limits, Valentine, will again be done at town expense. These projects involved small numbers of residences for rather high price tags.

I cited these projects because the town board some three decades ago changed the policy to prohibit new water and sewer service beyond the town limits. Given this policy, OEI [Old Edwards Inn] recently voluntarily annexed the Farm on Arnold Road. The OEI Farm now pays town taxes, follows town ordinances, therefore is now able to attach to town sewer.

There is a growing feeling among some that Highlands should once again allow water and sewer beyond the town limits. Proponents might argue it would generate additional water and sewer revenue, but it is not that simple. New sewer and water connections outside the town limits could trigger widespread growth with the town having no control since there is no equivalent county zoning. Additional expansion might also generate additional costs for expanding our water and sewer facilities, not to mention future maintenance upgrades like previously cited. The town is also facing major waterline replacements within the town. There is also the reality that the sewer system has not been built out to the entire town. Town taxpayers may see these needs as priorities.

I don't have all the answers, but I do see the pressures of growth coming. Our utility decisions have to be carefully reviewed in the coming months. They will impact potential growth and development. How and to what extent should Highlands grow? Or, should we grow at all? Those are some of the questions facing Highlands.

# Recovery Month highlights importance of reaching out

Vaya Health is joining organizations across the United States this September in celebrating National Recovery Month and calling attention to the importance of supportive relationships for people facing mental health and substance use disorders.

Now in its 31st year, Recovery Month celebrates the millions of Americans who are living in recovery from addiction and mental health challenges. It also promotes available treatment services. The 2020 Recovery Month theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Celebrating Connections," embraces the adversity experienced in 2020 and highlights the benefit of interpersonal relationships in helping people from all walks of life be mentally and physically well.

Often, individuals who experience a mental health or substance use disorder feel isolated and alone. Addiction, in particular, is often called a "disease of isolation."

Vaya Peer Trainer Rebekah McCloy, who has been living in recovery from substance use disorder for seven years, knows firsthand the importance of connection. Toward the end of her substance use, McCloy isolated from everyone she knew her main relationship was with drugs.

Today, McCloy trains other people living in recovery to become certified peer support specialists, who provide support to others who can benefit from their own life experiences. "I traded my addiction to substances for supportive relationships with friends in recovery, family, coworkers and even the peers I now train," she said. "These connections help keep me firmly rooted in my recovery. Through my personal life and my work, I know substance use and mental health challenges are treatable, and recovery does happen."

One in every seven people in the United States experiences addiction at some point in their life, according to the U.S. Surgeon General's Office. One in every five adults experiences mental health challenges each year, research from the U.S. Substance Use and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) shows. While obtaining treatment and living in recovery do not eliminate all life challenges, it does allow people to improve their health and wellness, take greater control over their future and strive to reach their full potential.

While rarely an easy journey, ongoing recovery is under tremendous stress this year due to the fallout from COVID-19, said psychiatrist Dr. Craig Martin, Vaya's chief medical officer. State health officials recently reported that symptoms of anxiety and depression have tripled during the pandemic, and emergency department visits due to opioid overdoses have increased 15 percent.

"Social distancing and isolation can hold a virus at bay, but they also increase the risk of loneliness, anxiety and depression," Martin said. "How crises impact our recovery depends not only on our inner strength and capacities, but also on whether we have healthy relationships and communities. Working together, we can continue to care for one another and support each other in new and creative ways."

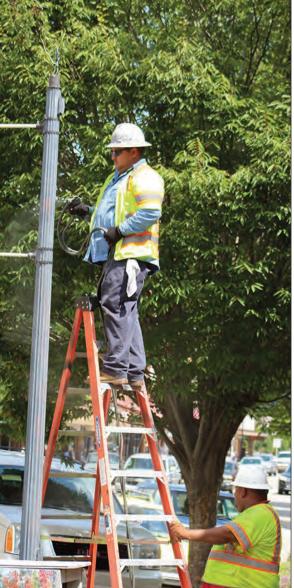
According to SAMHSA, reaching out to people you trust is one of the best ways to reduce anxiety, depression, loneliness and boredom while social distancing. It also allows you to support the people you care about. If you can't visit in person, try contacting loved ones by telephone or by text messaging, social media, "face to face" video chat or email.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many treatment services and support groups have moved online. Anyone in western North Carolina can call Vaya's 24/7 Access to Care Line at 1-800-849-6127 for help in a behavioral health crisis or to learn more about local mental health and substance use treatment services. This free, confidential service is available every day of the year.

For more information on treatment services near you, visit www.vayahealth.com. To learn more about National Recovery Month, visit www.rm.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.

# Main Street light poles get new coat of paint







# Professor announces annual fall color forecast

Autumn leaves and the natural beauty of fall colors across Western North Carolina are a seasonal sensation that draw thousands of visitors and locals alike – and prompts an annual prognostication by Western Carolina University biology professor Beverly Collins.

"In short, for 2020 we can't expect an extra bright, full-color display everywhere and there might be a less dramatic color peak, unless we get a stretch of sunny days and cold nights in late September and early- to mid-October," said Collins, who combines her knowledge of forest ecology with observations of weather trends to assess the potential for vibrant leaf colors.

She explained the means behind the methods of her predic-

tion, while acknowledging that, as with any forecast, there are margins for variations.

"As we know, local light and temperature conditions vary widely in the mountains over elevation, slope exposure and vegetation type, and there certainly will be areas where colors are brighter or arrive earlier or later," Collins said. "Sites that typically 'turn earlier' are likely to do so again, and colors will progress down the mountain and north to south as they have done in the past."

Collins said predicted weather patterns can affect fall colors in two ways: First, fall colors may be subdued because there is little stress or cold temperatures to promote abundant yellow, orange and, especially, red pigments. Second, the colors may be spread out or lag over the season and landscape.

"The warm, rainy summer caused little drought or 'hot sunny day' stress and promoted a lush, full, green leaf canopy," Collins said. "This is true even in some species we don't want around. For example, kudzu seems to be



**Beverly Collins** 

overtaking road signs and covering trees at a faster clip than in years past. The long-term forecast for September and October is for warmer than average temperatures and average precipitation through October; low temperatures around Cullowhee are not predicted to reach the 30s until the last week of October. This suggests our summer weather pattern might hang around longer than normal."

Collins explained that fall colors are a mixture of yellow, orange and red pigments that are revealed as photosynthesis and chlorophyll production wind down and ultimately stop when the weather turn colder. These pigments – especially the yellow and orange pigments – play a role in photosynthesis and help protect the plant from stresses; for example, when there is drought, when it's bright and hot, or under high UV conditions. The pigments are always there in the leaf, but may be relatively less abundant when conditions are wet and warm. The red pigments, called anthocyanins, are also produced more in fall when the weather turns cool.

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# N.C.'s July employment figures released

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 99 of North Carolina's counties in July and remained unchanged in one. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 14.1 percent, while Camden had the lowest at 6.1 percent. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced increases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 11.6 percent and New Bern had the lowest at 7.5 percent. The July not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 8.9 percent. Macon County's unemployment rate sits at 7.5 percent; Jackson County's at 8.4; Swain County's is at 7.8; and Haywood County's rate is 8.9.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in July by 83,070 to 4,524,153, while those unemployed increased by 69,515 to 441,279. Since July 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 382,189, while those unemployed increased 221,740.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on overthe-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 18, when the state unemployment rate for August 2020 will be released.

	Counties With Rates 5% or Below	Counties With Rates Between 5% and 10%			
July	0	84	16		
June (revised)	0	97	3		



# **Arrest Report**

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests August 20 - September 4. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



### **Macon County** Sheriff's Department

### August 31

James Farley Fouts, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Jason Robert Mock, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Clay A. Sanders made the arrest.

Kaylea Gail-Lynn Cannon, was charged with failure to appear. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Silvana Lisa Bettencourt, was charged with simple assault, assault and battery. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

### September 1

William Nickalus Prince, was charged with simple assault. Adrain L. Mace made the arrest.

Carolyn Elizabeth Loftis, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Dustin Lyn Busby, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Tyler Lee Watson, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, altering a motor vehicle. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Rebecca Nanette Pruitt, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Jessy Dakota Beaver, was charged with sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Timothy B. Carter made the

Mark Allen Nolle, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

### September 2

Tyler Garrett Converse, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter, possession of stolen goods/property, obtaining property by false pretense, felony probation violation, possession of methamphetamine, injury to personal property. James E. Crawford made the arrest.

Steven Blake Edwards, was charged with carrying a concealed gun. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Marc Nolle, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Tiffany Dawn Cullins, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, carrying a concealed gun, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. David Blanton made the arrest.

Joshua Lee Sutton, was issued a true bill for conspiracy to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

### September 3

Jerry Hugh Peoples Jr., was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Anthony Vincent Alos, was charged with being a habitual

felon. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

### September 4

Jimmy Rogers, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Juanita Marie Cleveland, was charged with injury to real property, attempted break or enter a building. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

### Franklin Police Department

### August 28

William David Ruckman, 41, of Kraft Ave., Panama City, Fla., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

### August 29

Allen David Combee, 38, of Gray Fox Rd., was charged with no operators license, display revoked registration plate, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, felony possession of tetrahydrocannabinols. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

James Dale Mull, 48, of Southern Trace, was charged with speeding (86 MPH in 55 zone), possession of open container, driving under the influence. An unsecured bond of \$1,500

Stephanie Ord Larsen, 27, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

### September 1

William Bradley Keller, 32, of Pecks Trail, Hendersonville, was issued an order for arrest for larceny, probation violation, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana. A secured bond of \$5,500 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest. Officer Riles made the arrest.

Joshua Henry Dale Driver 27, of Roller Mill Rd., was charged with consuming malt beverage on an off premises permit, intoxicated and disruptive in public, resisting officers, misdemeanor larceny, trespass of real property, shoplifting. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

### September 3

Samuel Ray, 38, of Franklin, was issued an order for arrest for driving while impaired, extradition warrant for probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, extradition warrant for probation violation. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set.

Melissa Lynn Pruett, 35, of Old Murphy Rd., was charged with possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, aid and abet driving while license revoked. An unsecured bond of \$800 was set. Officer Dula made the ar-

### Jackson County Sheriff's Department

Chaz James Brian Hodgins, 29, of Long Branch Church Rd., was charged with resisting a public officer. No bond was

### August 22

Nicole Chante Dyer, 31, of Armour Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Aaron Andrew Augusty, 30, of Longbow Lane, Whittier, was charged with resisting a public officer, assault on a government official, assault on a female. No bond was set.

### August 23

Leander Jarrell, 28, of Race Lane, was charged with do-

mestic criminal trespass, breaking and entering. No bond was

### August 24

Ronnie Steven Swisher, 23, of Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods, conspire to commit felony larceny, break or enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Bryan Dean Hartline, 40, of Windbrook Lane, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Rachel Jewel White Urrutia, 38, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was

### August 25

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 24, of Pyramid Place, was charged with burning personal property, possession of stolen goods/property, larceny, motor vehicle theft, breaking and entering a motor vehicle non-forcible. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

### August 26

Crystal Lynn Mullins, 46, of Tango Court, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Kala Marie Bueno, 28, of Do Ray Me, Cullowhee, was charged with larceny. No bond was set.

Austin Grant Houser, 20, of Helm Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Aaron Keith Nations, 37, of Crystal Creek, Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, felony probation violation for Jackson County. No bond was set.

Anthony James Elton, 55, of South Hwy, Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to register change of address. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Melissa Marie Loy, 43, of Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Crystal Beth Arkansas, 38, of Ruth Sneed Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Randy Dwayne Stacey, 57, of Sylva, was charged with violation of court order+, harassing phone calls. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

### August 28

Jess Harvey Cagle, 47, of Winesap Dr., was charged with injury to lands. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Quenten Carrie Riggs, 24, of Pyramid Place, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, obtain property by false pretenses, uttering a forged instrument. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Kevin David Ritchie, 31, of Hayfield Dr., was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

### August 29

Curtis Wayne Ingram, 33, of Golden Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set.

Charles Ray Tolley, 46, of Riverbend Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Brittany Danielle McCall, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, uttering a forged instrument, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$10,000 was

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

Otto Garden Club September Meeting has been canceled. For more information, callt, Joan at (828)369-2801

Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Wayah Loop on Sunday, September 13. Begin at the tower and hike down the AT to the junction of the Bartram Trail. Return by a FS Rd. Great views from the tower and bald. Limit 10 people. Total Hike Distance will be 3 miles. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 2 p.m. For more information, call leader Gail Lehman (828)524-5298.

Gem Country Republican Women's Club will meet on Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. at at Fat Buddies BBQ. Guest speakers include Justin Stamey and Kevin Corbin. All members are encouraged to attend. Bring plants or gardening supplies for the Treasure Table sale.

**Drive-In Graduation at Adult and Teen Challenge** of the Smokies Men's Center Saturday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m. at the parking lot of Holly Springs Baptist Church, 366 Holly Springs Church Road, Franklin. Rain or shine. No bathroom facilities. Come join the celebration.

The North Shore Cemetery Association will be hosting a down-scaled version of the Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will be a "drop-in event" to accommodate those who want to see some of the others they have been missing. There will be no organized services or agenda. Participants are asked to bring lawn chairs and other items necessary for an outdoor picnic while maintaining social distancing. Bring your own food and drinks as sharing food and/or utensils is prohibited. The reuninon will be held at the Deep Creek Picnic Shelter north of Bryson City. Follow directional signs from US 19/74 to the Deep Creek Entrance. The Picnic Shelter is straight ahead ¼-mile on the left.

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smpcc.org

Crawford Senior Center is hosting Zoom classes. Zoom classes will include exercise, tai chi, and others. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

Macon Chips, the Franklin Wood Carving Club will meet on Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in Franklin High School Wood Shop. They will continue to meet on Thursdays. Participants are asked to comply with social distancing and other endemic protocols. All members and prospective members are cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Contact D Lansont (828)369-2144.

Uptown Gallery on Main Street new hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for one-hour confidential sessions. For more information, call (800)272-3900.

Franklin Covenant Church has a grocery delivery service for anyone at higher risk for COVID-19. If you are unable to leave home to get the supplies you need due to sickness, disability or age, please contact us for more details. The only cost to you would be the items you order, there is no delivery charge. FCCdelivery@yahoo.com.

Volunteer drivers needed at Macon County Senior Services. Mileage will be reimbursed. For more information, call (828) 349-0211.

Macon County CareNet is in need of volunteers. Positions open are food pantry, soup kitchen and file room. If interested stop by for an application at 130 Bidwell St., or call (828)369-2642.

Volunteer at Angel Medical Center Enjoy the reward of making someone else's day brighter by sharing your talents and time. Become a volunteer at Angel Medical Center. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles such as mail and flower delivery, guest service, information desk assistance, student volunteer programs, pet therapy, chaplain, administrative support and more. For more information, call (828)349-6639 or email Bonnie.Peggs@msj.org.

CareNet on Bidwell Street will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A box of food may be picked up once a week.

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for one-hour confidential sessions. For more information, call (800)272-3900.

### **CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

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

First Alliance Church Sunday services in person and on Facebook are held at 10:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will deliver the message. The Strings Ensemble will provide special music. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828)369-7977.

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday Online Worship is held at 9 a.m., on Facebook Live at Franklin First United Methodist Church while we are social distancing due to COVID19. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or www.firstumcfranklin.org<a href="http://www.firstumcfranklin.org">http://www.firstumcfranklin.org</a>

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

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

West Franklin Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Rd. next to the Forest Service Office.

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

Memorial United Methodist Church Anonymous Call-in Prayer Line. If you need prayer, call (828)369-0707. Leave a message with your prayer request, and the church will be happy to pray for you or whoever you request prayers for. You may also leave a request for a call back if you need one.

Email calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com



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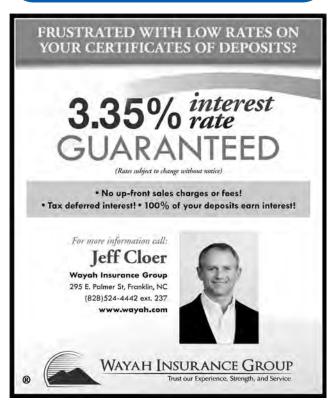




THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE



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# Hawk Watch returns to Grandfather Mountain

Being a mile high has its advantages.

From atop Grandfather Mountain, visitors can grab a front-row seat to one of nature's most stunning spectacles thousands of raptors migrating over the mountains and heading south toward their wintering grounds.

Guests can observe the raptors during the annual Hawk Watch, in which official counters note the number of passersby in the sky throughout the entire month of Sep-

Raptors are birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, owls and vultures. The telltale signs of the raptor are sharp talons, a hooked upper bill and keen eyesight. While some raptors remain in place during winter, most will travel south, where food is more abundant.

Grandfather Mountain is a prime spot for viewing this phenomenon, because it sits along the eastern es-

carpment of the Appalachian Mountains, and its rocky peaks generate strong thermal uplifts and allow prime visibility.

**Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation** Perhaps the most dramatic visual display comes courtesy of the broad-winged hawk, which migrates in groups of hundreds or thousands, called kettles. Those sightings are most common around the second to third week of September.

During 2015's Hawk Watch, Grandfather Mountain president and executive director Jesse Pope spotted a kettle of some 4,800 broad-wings passing over in less than 30 minutes, along with numerous other kettles of considerable size, amounting to nearly 10,000 raptors in one day.

Aside from offering a visual spectacle, Hawk Watch serves an important purpose. The annual counts from Grandfather Mountain and other locations help track hawk populations and migration routes over time and provide important data to inform land management decisions.

In fact, Grandfather Mountain is one of more than 300 Hawk Watch sites officially designated by the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Counts will be conducted every day the weather permits — the hawks don't typically fly in fog or storms — from an area inaccessible to the general public and will be posted daily at HawkCount.org.

Although visitors cannot participate in the official watch this year, due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, they're welcome and encouraged to witness the annual phenomenon, with prime viewing locations on Linville Peak

> Mile High Swinging Bridge) and Half Moon Overlook (the first major overlook

(across the

when entering the park).

Photo by Judi Sawyer

"It invokes that sense of wonder we always talk about at Grandfather Mountain," Pope said. "It's that time of year

where you're watching a A red-tailed hawk soars through the High Coun- majestic bald eagle soar try sky. Throughout the month of September, over the mountain, and you visitors to Grandfather Mountain can observe can't help but ask quesred-tailed hawks and other raptors, as they tions, like, 'Where are they going?' or 'Why are they making this annual journey?' It's just an awe-inspiring time of year."

> This helps demonstrate why September is one of Pope's favorite months on Grandfather Mountain. Along with migration, it's a time when the mountain sees a kettle's worth of seasonal changes.

> "September is a very transformative month on Grandfather Mountain, where we go from the flora and fauna of summer to those of autumn," he said. "You don't know what you might see on any given day."

> The not-for-profit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, call (800) 468-7325, or plan a trip at www.grandfather.com. For now, tickets are only being sold online at www.grandfather.com.

# **Highlands Biological Station receives Duke grant**

make their annual migration south.

The Duke Energy Foundation recently awarded \$6,000 to the WCU Foundation to support Highlands Biological Station's school outreach program.

Highlands Biological Station (HBS) is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University focusing on the rich biological diversity of the southern Appalachian Mountains. HBS currently offers more than 50 different STEM Outreach programs to public, private, and homeschool students in grades preK-12 throughout Macon, Jackson, and other surrounding mountain counties. Their programs integrate multiple subject areas and align with the NC science Essential Standards. Such programs supplement existing lessons and curricula by bringing additional resources to the classroom and by providing outdoor, experiential education opportunities for students.

This past school year, Highlands Biological Station & Nature Center's STEM Outreach Program served nearly 11,000 students through more than 300 programs for 62 different schools throughout the Western North Carolina mountain counties. Recently, HBS has also provided online "Science Short Shows" for local schools and the general public, and this fall will continue to offer its programming to teachers and students in a virtual format.

Support from the Duke Energy Foundation will help Highlands Biological Station expand its offerings while continuing to provide its wide variety of science outreach programming with minimal or no fees. This permits teachers and students to take advantage of its educational resources without a cost or travel burden, and allows Highlands Biological Station & Nature Center to serve a much greater number and wider range of schools and students. In addition, many Western North Carolina schools exist in remote locations and can benefit from having a science educator visit the classroom either in-person or virtually, versus needing to travel with the students to an offsite facility.

'Informal science education extends student learning beyond the classroom through immersive, outdoor, hands-on activities that spark student discovery and reinforce STEM concepts," said Patrick Brannon, HBS Outreach Education Specialist. "Such programs inspire and educate youth and can raise student interest, confidence, academic achievement, and desire for science careers. We are extremely grateful to the Duke Energy Foundation for their financial contribution, and for their continued commitment to STEM education in our local schools."

# Volunteers needed for annual river cleanup

Mainspring Conservation Trust is hosting the Little Tennessee River Clean Up on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and invites the public to participate in this annual event to keep the local waters clean. The River Cleanup will look a little different this year with social distancing requirements, but will present as an opportunity to serve the community.

Volunteers can pick up equipment, including trash bags, gloves, and goodie bags (snacks, water, t-shirt, and map) on Thursday or Friday ahead of the Saturday cleanup at the Franklin Mainspring Conservation Trust office, 557 East Main Street. Choose a "Litter Zone" and be able to work at your own pace. A map of suggested litter zones can be found at www.mainspringconserves.org.

Volunteers can work on their own or meet in the lower parking area at Big Bear Park in Franklin on Saturday morning wearing a mask, clothes and shoes suitable for picking up trash in or near the river. Helpers can choose to clean on floodplain land, along the riverbanks, or in the water itself. Bags and items may also be brought to the large dumpster at Big Bear shelter lower parking area on Sept. 19. Canoes and boats are needed for trash removal in the water. Litter in bags can be left at pull out spots – call Guy Gooder at (828) 421-4845 for pickup.

Mainspring volunteer Guy Gooder has been organizing this event for 15 years. Hundreds of volunteers have helped over the years and Gooder says he hopes that enthusiasm continues.

"We talked about not having the event this year, but we realized that through social distancing we can capture more sec-



The annual river cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 19, from 9 a.m.

tions of the watershed and make an even bigger impact."

Participants are encouraged to take photos of their trash haul and cleanup crews. Post the photo using #littletrivercleanup on Facebook and Instagram so the impact on the river can be

Mainspring Conservation Trust serves the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia. Learn more at www.mainspringconserves.org.



# Couple celebrates 70th anniversary

Boyd and Juanita Allen Lee both 90 years young, celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Sept. 9. They were married in Clyde, N.C., in 1950. Their long life together has been full of lots of travel, friends and adventures.



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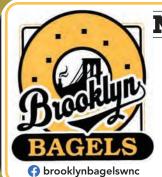


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# Prolific Japanese Knotweed on the move

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

It is September and currently the Japanese Knotweed is blooming and spreading rapidly above and below ground. It belongs to the genus Polygonum. It is very difficult to tell it apart from its various other family members. Japanese Knot Weed has large triangular shaped leaves and purple segmented knots or nodules on their hollow stems. Many in the Knotweed

family share common names such as Japanese Knotweed, Smartweed, Japanese Bamboo, Mexican Bamboo, Fleece Flower, Hancock's Curse, Outhouse Weed, Sally Rhubarb, Peashooter Plant, Crimson Beauty and Monkey Weed. It is sort of fun to use the common names to construct in your mind's eye what the plant looks like. Its segmented stems are like bamboo and are hollow. Its white blooms are soft and silky. There is a variety that has red blooms and others that



THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

Dr. Bob Gilbert

and are alarmingly common. They grow in full sun along road sides and cut-over areas. They are invasive by producing lots of seeds and by spreading long roots. There are more underground roots (stems) than above ground. It has been rated as one of the world's 100 worse invasive species. Its name Hancock's Curse comes from England where a Hancock family planted some in their back yard and it escaped, populating their entire neighborhood.

What is curious is that one of the Southeast's most reputable nurseries, Plant Delights, offers this plant for sale stating their selection "does not run and is not invasive." I would not risk it. On the other hand, there are some positive attributes to these plants. Its blooms are a good pollen source for bees. In the fall, Sourwood honey is very popular but there could be



Japanese Knotweed Photos by Karen Lawrence



open white and turn pink as they mature.

According to Alan Armitage, the genus Polygonum and its many species have been "split, lumped and dumped so that identification is even more confusing.'

Many Knotweeds look similar. The Latin genus name is Polygonum (po-lig-o-num). I am not sure but I think that means many gonads. The plant certainly is prolific. Its Latin plant name should not be confused with Polygonaatum (Polygo-natum) - Solomon's Seal, a completely different wild-

Japanese Knotweed was introduced into the U.S .in the 1800s from Japan as an ornamental. Reportedly it is rampant in Northeastern United States oddly spreading faster in the North than the South.

Late summer and early fall these shrubs are very noticeable

new fall honey such as Outhouse honey or Monkey Honey. I will have to say it is good for erosion control, attractive and edible.

Sally Rhubarb is a curious common name. I do not use the word sally often but Webster defines it as meaning as "rush forward," another way of saying these plants are invasive and have a mild rhubarb taste.

If it is already growing on your grounds it should be eliminated. Best to cut it to the ground in the spring but any time will do. Apply an herbicide to each cut stem. When and if new shoots emerge, spray them with a

herbicide or try horticultural vinegar. You might have to spray more than once. Remember is it is very active underground.

One report, trying to make a point, says that it will send seeds back home, all the way to Japan. We have imported so many plants from Japan that any new introduction automatically becomes suspicious. Always remember that new imports have no natural predators here. There is nothing to control their spread whereas in its native environment there is at least one or more controlling predators. Often our attempts to introduce a predator backfires and gets out of hand. Asian Lady Beetles are a perfect example.

Dr. Bob Gilbert is cofounder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga.

Karen Lawrence is a professional nature and wildlife photographer of Franklin.



### Harold Warstler

Harold Warstler, 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.

He was born in Goshen, Ind., on June 16, 1928, and was the son of the late Ezra and Bertha Warstler. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Ruth Griggs, and a brother, Michael Garber.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty Warstler; two daughters, Kim Mason and husband Junior Mason of Franklin, Pam Ervin and husband Tim Ervin of Salisbury; a son, Brad Warstler and wife Ellen Shankin of Floyd,



**Harold Warstler** 

Va.; eight grandchildren, Falon Bryant, Dustin Mason, Jesse Shuler, Eric Ervin, Adam Ervin, Nicole Plummer, Clayton Warstler, Jacob Warstler; and 16 great grandchildren.

As a young man, he worked for a number of years in carpentry, farming, drafting and tool design before, in his late 20s, deciding to go to college to study social work. In 1965, Harold and Betty moved their young family to Franklin, where he became assistant director for Macon Program for Progress and soon fell in love with the mountains and people of Macon County. For two years he worked on community organization projects, helping Burningtown and Nantahala get phone service and new community buildings. He was later made supervisor of the Self-Help housing program (a forerunner to Habitat for Humanity). More than 100 new homes were built through the self-help program, which received national recognition. He became director of MPP in 1967 and for the next three years, worked on a number of economic development projects: the non-profit Macon Citizens Credit Union, Maco Crafts, and the Sheltered Workshop. He also helped establish a county-wide Head Start Program, Home Start program and a homemaker training program.

When he retired from MPP in 1975, he drew on those early skills to start building houses again and set up a woodshop to build furniture. In his later years, he loved the time spent in his garden, enjoyed raising chickens, and had endless stone wall and stone flower bed projects. He also remained deeply involved with mission and building projects at the Franklin United Methodist Church. He was a good husband, father, neighbor and mentor and

The family would like to thank Dr. Gus Wilde and Care Partners Home Care and Hospice for their thoughtful care and support.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date at First United

Memorial donations may be made in his memory to Care Partners Hospice, 170 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734; Heifer International, a program to help end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities (www.heifer.org/give); or First United Methodist Church Missions Fund, 66 Harrison Ave, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneral-





### William Hoyt Woodard

William Hoyt Woodard, 81, of Candler, N.C., died Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, at CarePartners Solace Center.

A native of Macon County, he was a son of the late William and Nina Brooks Woodard. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Shirley Guyer; and three brothers, Cleve, Joe and Jack Woodard.

A United States Army veteran, he was the owner and operator of Asheville Powertrain for 36 years as well as owner and operator of Hayes & Hopson Auto Supply for 14 years. He served on several boards and committees to include the Automotive After-



William Woodard

market Association of the Mid-South and Power Heavy Duty of America.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Garnetta Vanhook Woodard; two sons, William Hoyt Woodard Jr. (Stephanie) of Asheville and Barry Earl Woodard (Susan) of Cary, N.C.; three grandchildren, Savannah, Meredith and Will Woodard as well as several nieces and nephews.

A public graveside service was held Saturday, Sept. 5, at Riverview Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in his memory to Riverview Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Clara Wiggins, 408 West Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

### Genie Christine 'Tinia' Delpho

Genie Christine "Tinia" Delpho, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, she was the daughter of the late Bob Bryant and Hazel Christine Welder. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Robert Spencer Delpho; daughter, Theresa Christine Delpho and sister, Gwendolyn Hughes. She loved art and music and was a trained musician. She also loved bowling in both the women's and mixed bowling leagues.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Robert Delpho; son, Jonathan "Jon" Delpho and wife Julia of San Antonio, Texas; sister, Patricia Gale Moore of Florida and one grandson Robert Spencer Delpho III, of San Antonio.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to the American Cancer Society, at www.cancer.org

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

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### Kevin Leigh Barwell

Kevin Leigh Barwell, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he was the son of the late Charles J. Barwell and Sharon Brennan Hunt. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Stanley S. Hunt and a halfsister, Deborah Barwell Martin (Dan Martin). He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He enjoyed spending time in the great outdoors and could often be found camping, hiking, meditating and antiquing. He was of Pentecostal Faith.



**Kevin Leigh Barwell** 

He is survived by his adopted mother, Betty McMahan; two daughters, Jessica Barwell of Girard, Pa., and Sarah Barwell of Bear Lake, Pa.; one sister, Christine Holden and husband Robert of Powell, Tenn.; and half-sister, Gloria Neal and husband Larry of Benton, Kv.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Sept. 3, in the New Savannah Baptist Cemetery, Savannah, N.C. Rev. Harold Johnson and Rev. Mike Barres will officiate.

Pallbearers were members of Men's Teen Challenge of the

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.ma-

### Wanda Faye Brendle Berry

Wanda Faye Brendle Berry, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020.

Born and raised in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Frank M. Brendle and Nobia Sanders Brendle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband William P. Berry; brother, JR Brendle; sister, Edna Mae Sanders and nephew, Roger "Bootie" Sanders. She enjoyed traveling, reading, and going to Amish country. She was a member and past Sunday school teacher at Watauga Baptist Church.



Wanda Fave Berry

David

She is survived by two children, June B. Nations (Keith) of Dillsboro, N.C., and Jeff Berry (Brad) of Franklin; brother, Ernest Brendle of Franklin; two sisters, Doris Greene of Easley, S.C., and Betty Guest of Franklin; four grandchildren, Cody (Ashley), Tanner (Trenna), Dustin and Hunter (Hannah) Nations; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 1, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Roy Lowe and Rev. Wesley Price officiated. Burial was in the Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, C/O Norris Clouse, 2864 Watauga Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

# Moffitt Family OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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### Pearle Rogers Lambert

A pillar of our Highlands community was sadly lost on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, when Pearle Rogers Lambert passed away. She had spent more than 100 years making this world a better place and will be deeply missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

She was born in Scaly Mountain on Nov. 14, 1919, to the late Henry and Lonnie (Mason) Carpenter. She was married to the late Arthur "Dusty" Rogers, who preceded her in February 1967. Pearle Rogers Lambert She worked at the Highlands



Cashiers Hospital for 34 years in many different positions including nurse, X-ray technician and central supplies. Upon retirement, it was often said that they had to hire three people to fill her position. She was quite a jewel and always did her job with a caring heart. She loved people and people loved her. Known to many as "Mamaw" or "Grandma Rogers," she loved to babysit for family and friends. She could often be seen walking around her block with her great granddaughter, Braylee, who was very special to her. She was also a member of First Baptist Church Highlands.

She is survived by her three daughters, Nora Potts (Roy, deceased), Margaret Heinlein (Blair), and Debbie "Trudy" Alexander (Tim, deceased) all of Highlands, N.C.; a son, James "Jimbud" Rogers (Anne) of Highlands; 10 grandchildren, Derrick Potts, Melissa Crowe, Monica Vinson, Jay Calloway, Mike Calloway, Justin Rogers, Cole Alexander, Carly Alexander, Nadya Rogers and David Rogers; 12 great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Arthur "Spec" Rogers Jr., a grandson, Johnny Michael Potts; five sisters, Ethel Miller, Grace Edwards, Bess Creswell, Elizabeth Littleton and Louise Hudson; and two brothers, Dee Carpenter and Zeb Carpenter.

No formal services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Highlands First Baptist Church Building Fund, 220 Main Street Highlands, NC

Online condolences can be made to www.bryantgrantfuneral-

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Rogers and Lambert family.

### Jeanetta Rose Tooley Finch

Jeanetta Rose Tooley Finch, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

Born in Gibson County Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Blanche Wilson Tooley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin Clare Finch and a brother, Jerry Tooley. She was a member of Bethel United Methodist and found joy in read-

She is survived by her children, Neil Finch and Lisa Lane Hampton and husband Mike, all of



Jeanetta Rose Finch

Franklin; four grandchildren, Heather Wooten and husband Larry of Holly Springs, Ga., Laura Swafford of Franklin, Matthew Finch of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Valerie Finch of Bryson City; and seven great grandchildren, Benton Garrett, Adilyn Garrett, Blakeleigh Garrett, Caden Swafford, Emerson Finch, Brianna Stewart and

A graveside service was held Friday, Sept. 4, at Woodlawn Cemetery. Rev. Steve Reeves officiated.

Pallbearers were Thomas Stewart, Alan Thomas, Larry Wooten, Danny Mason, Bill Mason and Randy Gates. Honorary pallbearers will be JR Mason, Steve Miller and Kip Cochran.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

# **Kevin Harvick wins Playoff** opener after leaders wreck

Holly Cain - NASCAR Wire Service

Kevin Harvick was in the right place at the right time to take the lead, then put on an impressive show of tenacity to hold off a hardcharging Austin Dillon to earn his second career Cook Out Southern 500 win at Darlington Raceway in Sunday night's NASCAR Cup Series Playoff opener.

It may have been his series best eighth victory of the season, but the veteran Harvick was emotional on the team radio, letting out a loud congratulatory yell as he crossed the finish line a mere .343-seconds in front of Dillon and the field. Then, instead of taking the checkered flag after parking at the finish line, Harvick allowed an appreciative young fan – dressed in a brightly-colored Harvick t-shirt – to keep the flag himself.

It was that kind of a feel-good night for Harvick, who marked his 57th career victory, ninth best all-time. He took the lead for good on lap 355 of 367 after Chase Elliott and Martin Truex Jr. made contact with the wall racing for the trophy in front of him.

"The first thing I want to say is 'welcome back fans'," Harvick said after climbing out of his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford and motioning toward the limited number of fans allowed in the grandstands at the iconic track.

"Anytime you can win the Southern 500 it's a good day. This is one of the most prestigious races in our sport and one of the most prestigious race tracks in our sport. Any time you can win at Darlington it's a big deal."

Joey Logano, Erik Jones and William Byron rounded out the Top-5. Alex Bowman, Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch, Aric Almirola and Clint Bowyer completed the Top-10. Jones was the only non-Playoff driver among the Top-10.

And while Harvick was enjoying his feel-good moment of triumph, some of the race's other contenders were shaking off a hard-knocks Playoff opener.

Martin Truex Jr. swept both stage wins, beating Jimmie Johnson in the first and Denny Hamlin in the second. The 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champ led a race best 196 of the race's 367 laps – more than twice that of any other driver in the field.

Yet not a single one of NASCAR's three national series races at Darlington this weekend was won by the car that led the most laps. Truex and Chase Elliott made contact with each other and the infamous Darlington walls while fighting for the lead with 15 laps remaining.

Truex had to pit for tires and despite his work on the evening, ended up 22nd in the results, his only non-Top-5 finish in the last

"Just not enough room there for the both of us," Truex said of the contact with Elliott in Turns 1 and 2. "I thought I had enough of a run to clear him and I think it was close, obviously. I thought I had enough momentum and distance on him that he was going to let me in there. I didn't expect him to be on my right rear. I was committed and once I realized he was there, nothing I could do."

Elliott nursed his No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet home and finished a disappointing 20th.

Denny Hamlin, a pre-race favorite and six-race winner this year, rallied to a 13th place finish after going down a lap and dropping to 19th place with just under 60 laps remaining. The driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota led 19 laps and ran among the Top-5 for most of the race but had trouble getting to pit road dur-



### NASCAR News



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Beer Throwback Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on Sept. 6, 2020, in Darlington, S.C.

ing a green flag run - getting caught up in traffic and getting hit from behind.

Following Sunday's win, Harvick has an automatic bid into Round 2 of the Playoffs. The Top-12 following the Bristol race in two weeks will advance to the next Round of the Playoffs.

Even before the Playoffs' first green flag dropped, Penske Racing's Ryan Blaney found himself in catch-up mode. His No. 12 Ford failed Sunday afternoon's pre-race inspection for an "improperly mounted ballast" and his crew chief Todd Gordon was suspended for Sunday night's race. Blaney was forced to start at the rear of the 39-car field. Blaney and his team owner both suffered a 10-point penalty.

That points penalty immediately dropped Blaney from seventh place in the standings to 13th place – tied with Kyle Busch. Only Kurt Busch and Matt DiBenedetto were ranked lower to start the opening Playoff race.

The race outcome dropped Blaney to 16th position – tied with DiBenedetto for last among the Playoff drivers heading to Playoff Race No. 2 next Saturday night, the Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond (Va.) Raceway (7:30 p.m. E.T., NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

### Brandon Jones steals win in thrilling Xfinity Series race at Darlington

It was a fitting race finish for a track known as being "Too Tough To Tough." The two front-running cars tangled with two laps remaining and Brandon Jones dove low to take the lead and the victory in Saturday's Sports Clips Haircuts VFW 200 Xfinity Series race at Darlington Raceway.

An intense, exciting and suspenseful battle for the lead in the final 10 laps between Xfinity Series regular Ross Chastain and this year's Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin gave NASCAR fans all they could ask for but ultimately contact between the two in Turn 3 with two laps remaining allowed then-third place Jones, 23, of Atlanta, to get around the pair and capture his third checkered flag of the season.

Chastain recovered from the contact with Hamlin to earn his fourth runner-up finish of the season – crossing the line 3.363-seconds behind Jones. Ryan Sieg, rookie Riley Herbst and Hamlin rounded out the Top-5. Rookie Harrison Burton, Noah Gragson, Michael Annett, Austin Hill and rookie Myatt Snider completed the Top-10.

Chastain, whose finish formally secured a berth in the 12-driver Xfinity Series championship group, seemed both frustrated and encouraged by the late race duel with Hamlin, who has five Xfinity Series wins at Darlington. He is the highest ranked driver still without a win on the year.

'Denny was faster, I knew that, everybody watching NBC knew that. I just kept gripping the top best I could, probably hit it [the wall] 25 times," Chastain said.

"To be able to up against a guy like Denny Hamlin, a future Cup champion and go to the end like that with him, I'm proud of this group, proud of the effort," Chastain continued. "It's another heartbreak, but we man, we finished and we still finished second with







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los, a.k.a. El\_

health" for all

13. Rekindled

16. Not a minor

17. Spud bud

18. Nonsense

tion

lop

15. Trailblazer Daniel

pl. 23. Leave speechless

24. Thailand money

25. Belfry dweller

28. Dwarf buffalo

30. Eccentric one

35. 2nd word in fairytale?

37. Overnight lodgings

41. \*Pressed beverage

44. Type of saltwater fish

46. Like a broken horse

\_\_\_ Blanc

47. Larger-than-life

50. "CliffsNotes," e.g.

53. Genuflecting joint

57. \*Back to what?

65. Tokyo, pre-1868

70. Conical dwelling

67. Out of the way

64. Cell dweller

68. Be needy

69. Sticky stuff

71. Heidi's shoe

72. Asian capital

73. Move furtively

1. Famous Steffi

4. Locomotive hair

5. Canadian capital

7. \*Wagon "cushion"

8. Last letter, to Homer

9. Standard's partner

11. Change for a five

15. Himalayan kingdom

12. Funny Poehler's funny

6. Cry of glee

10. Crucifix

friend

3. Twelfth month of Jewish

**DOWN** 

year

2. Do over

55. "\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."

\_ weather

48. Sound setup

52. Fifth note

60. \*

THEME: FALL FUN

Brandon Jones, driver of the #19 03 Dash Championship Toyota, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW 200 at Darlington Raceway on Sept. 5, 2020 in Darlington, S.C.

### a beat-up race car."

Hamlin, who started last in the 37-car field, won both stages and essentially put on a Darlington driving clinic all afternoon, rebounding from a weak starting position, a slow pit stop, whatever was thrown at him.

"He was running his line, I was running my line and I thought we had a great race going there," Hamlin said. "I saw an opportunity to clear and once I did I just carried a little too much speed up into [Turn] three and obviously he got in back of us and allowed the 19 [Jones] to catch up to both of us. It was fun, just didn't work out.'

It was actually Chase Briscoe who looked ready to give Hamlin the best challenge for the trophy. Briscoe led a race best 55 laps on the afternoon, but he spun out and hit the wall while leading with 30 laps remaining – running over fluid on track left by Brett Moffitt's damaged Chevy.

The Stewart-Haas Racing driver still rallied to an 11th place finish, one position ahead of the Xfinity Series championship leader Austin Cindric in 12th.

There was also plenty of significant action among those vying for the 12th and final Playoff position based on point standings. At the green flag, Brandon Brown held a 32-point advantage over Jeremy Clements and even after both suffered bad luck on Saturday, Brown was able to pull out to a 45-point hold on the final playoff transfer position.

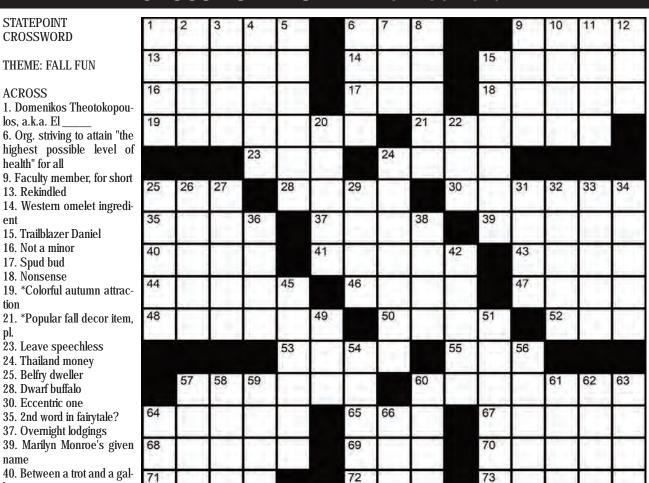
Brown's No. 68 Chevrolet suffered collateral damage in a Lap 2 collision between Sieg and Daniel Hemric and he had to make multiple pit stops for the team to keep the car running, if no longer competitive for a win. The work paid off because Clements ultimately had problems as well, his car stopping on track with 37 laps remaining.

Brown rallied to an 17th place finish while Clements was scored 32nd. The difference between them now is 45 points and rookie Snider, who earned his sixth Top-10 of the season is now only six points behind Clements; 51 behind Brown.

Three races remain to set the 2020 Playoff field as the series moves to Richmond (Va.) Raceway for a Friday-Saturday doubleheader next week starting with the Go Bowling 250 Friday night (7 p.m. ET, NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



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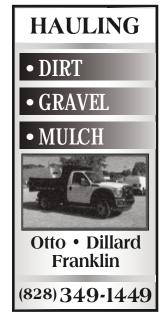
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- 20. Relating to genes
- 22. Unit of electrical resistance
- 24. Boo-boo wrap
- 25. \*Next spring's flowers
- 26. To the left, on a boat
- 27. Safari hat
- 29. Fonzie: "Sit
- 31. Top of the Capitol
- 32. \*Fall bounty
- 33. Prenatal test, for short
- 34. \*Pumpkin garden
- 36. Not far
- 38. Big rig 42. Stitch again

- 45. Vietnam river
- 49. Lennon's widow
- 51. \*Celebrant's bagful
- 54. Lament for the dead
- 56. Artist's tripod
- 57. Exchange for money
- 58. Greek muse of history
- 59. Before Kong
- 60. Any time now
- 61. #70 Across, alt. sp.
- 62. Biblical paradise
- 63. Stink to high heaven
- 64. Broadband access overseer
- 66. Unidentified John







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(2) WHITE PEKING DUCKS free to good home. 4 months old. Must go together. Please call (828)200-5101.

### **Garage & Yard Sales**

MOVING SALE: 611 Country Club Dr., Mill Creek Estates, Furniture, Art, Household Items, Books and More. Cash Only. Masks Requested. Saturday, 9/12, 8am to 2pm.

STORAGE UNIT SALE 1349 Old Murphy Rd. 9am-?. Friday, September 11, & Saturday, September 12.

ESTATE SALE Friday - Saturday Sept. 11 - 12, 8am to 4pm, 59 N. Deer Run Trail, off Hwy 28. Furniture, tools, Grandfather clock, quilting frames, et

CRAFT SUPPLIES Carnival Chalk Collection, Air Compressor, Lots of Material Large Variety, Too Much to Mention! Saturday 12, 8am-? 164 Oak Hill Dr., Franklin.

### Wanted

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

BUYING WILD GINSENG Starting September 1st. Best price paid. Large amounts welcome. Call Ricky Teem (828)371-1802 or (828)524-7748.

### **Motor Vehicles**

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

### **Community Fundraisers**

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow is open Tues.-Sat. 10am to 3pm. 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.

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Canned Cat Food

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floor with a picture-perfect view of the river. Upstairs you will find two more bedrooms with one full bath and 1/2 bath and a large sitting

and 1/2 bath and a large sitting area between the two. Enjoy watching nature in HD off your porch while looking at the river. Bald Eagles, Blue Herons, Kingfishers and many other types of birds nest on the river. You will also see deer, grouse and turkey. Paradise is waiting for you. 48 Thunderstruck Ln. MLS: 26015903 \$434,900



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