

# The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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Distributed in Franklin, Highlands, Otto, Sylva, Dillsboro, Webster, Cullowhee, Scaly Mountain, N.C.; and Dillard, & Clayton, Ga.

MARTIN LUTHER KING  
**Celebration**  
Sunday, January 19 at 3pm  
First United Methodist Church  
Franklin, NC  
See page 3 for more info

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

www.themaconcountynews.com



CareNet Executive Director and youth pastor Tim Hogsed waves from his perch high atop a crane where he spent 24 hours braving the elements to promote the annual "Cold for a Cause" to collect food, coats and blankets for needy families. While the temperatures were not as cool as in recent years, periodic torrential downpours kept it interesting for the volunteers both in the crane and on the ground collecting supplies. Hogsed shared his duties with two other Franklin pastors: David Beem of First United Methodist Church; and Ben Windle with Discover Church who spent 24 hours each in the crane. For the full story, see page 4.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Standing room only at Commissioners meeting

**Brittney Losthouse**  
Contributing Writer

Macon County Commissioners had to move their January meeting of the board to the largest courtroom in the courthouse on Tuesday night, to accommodate a standing room only crowd. Two different items took center stage, both asking for commissioners' support during the public comment portion of the meeting.



Photo by Bobby Coggins with Macon Media

Retired teachers in Macon County, donning red in support of education, lined the front rows of the meeting, in hopes of getting commissioners to support a resolution to send to state

justed for inflation over the last decade.

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## Voter registration deadline for March 3 primary is February 7

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Republican candidates poured into Macon County over the weekend as part of a Western North Carolina tour to meet with potential voters ahead of the March 3 primary election.

Absentee-ballot voting began on Monday and early voting is slated to begin in just a few short weeks in North Carolina. Republican candidates gathered at the Macon County Republican Party Headquarters on Saturday to meet with interested voters.

Holly Grange, Republican candidate for North Carolina Governor was among those in attendance.

“What a wonderful little headquarters you have here,” Grange said while shaking the hand of Macon GOP Chairman Carla Miller. “Thank you for this opportunity to meet with voters.”

Grange has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives for District 2 since 2016. She is a veteran of the United States Military, serving nine years in the Army Corps of Engineers. She attended Northern Illinois University College of Law and practiced law in Illinois until 2009 when she and her family moved to Wilmington.

Grange wasn't the only state candidate to stop in Macon on Saturday. Joining a host of local candidates, other state candidates included Pearl Floy, candidate for Commissioner of Labor, Michael LaPaglia and Chad Brown, candidates for Secretary of State, and Jeff Carpenter, candidate for NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 07.

Incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis R-N.C. faces three primary challengers: Paul Wright,

Sharon Hudson and Larry Holmquist. Five Democrats are vying for their party's nomination, including state senator Erica Smith and Army veteran Cal Cunningham, who was endorsed by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Other state seats on the ballot this March include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor, Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of the Department of Instruction, and other state leaders.

Voters must be registered in Macon County to participate in the county's primaries. Voter registration forms may be obtained at the Board of Elections office in the Macon County Courthouse and must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Feb. 7.

On Dec. 31, a federal district court judge issued a temporary block on North Carolina's voter photo ID law that was approved as an amendment to the N.C. Constitution by voters in 2018. Because of the injunction, Voter ID will not be required for the March primary. However, Attorney General Josh Stein said in a Jan. 2 news release that the North Carolina Department of Justice will appeal the ruling but that it was too late to do so for the primary.

“However, to avoid any further voter confusion in the primary election in which absentee voting begins in just 11 days and to ensure that the primary election proceeds on schedule and is administered in an orderly manner, the department will not seek a stay of this injunction before the primary,” the statement read.

The Macon County News will begin a six-part election coverage series next week with an overview of the Macon County Board of Commissioners candidates.



Election campaign 2020 is in full swing with several candidates stopping by Franklin over the weekend. Above, Holly Range, Republican candidate for governor speaks with voters along with NC Senate candidate Kevin Corbin.



# COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 1

Retired teachers across the state are asking their local governments to send a resolution to the General Assembly urging them to consider a two percent COLA in the state budget, which has yet to be approved by legislators.

The resolution that was presented to commissioners states, "North Carolina teachers entered the profession, worked for the state and North Carolina Students, in most cases for 30 years or more, while they contributed significant portions of their own salaries into the North Carolina teacher retirement fund with the expectation that the monies would not only be paid out in installments during retirement, but that the installments would be maintained in terms of purchasing power with regular cost of living adjustments as they had been for decades."

The resolution goes on to state that factoring in the three COLAs received since 2009, and two one-time, non-recurring bonuses, North Carolina retired teachers are more than 15 percent behind relative to inflation.

Governor Roy Cooper proposed a two percent COLA for retired teachers in his state budget, however, the General Assembly cut that down to .5 percent in the budget they proposed. The state continues to be at a standstill with budget negotiations, with Republicans and Democrats at odds over key points such as medicaid funding and teacher pay.

Berger, and the other retired teachers at Tuesday night's meeting are hoping to get a resolution approved on the county level

for legislators to consider while they continue the budget debate.

Commissioners didn't take action Tuesday night, however encouraged the group to make a few changes to the resolution and return next month.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, dozens of residents attended Tuesday night's meeting to ask commissioners to designate Macon County as an official Gun Sanctuary County.

Donnie Holden addressed commissioners, noting that six counties, Cherokee County being the first, in North Carolina have officially adopted resolutions proclaiming their counties as "gun sanctuaries" and asked Macon County to do the same.

"I am asking commissioners to schedule a vote to adopt a resolution and commit to the freedom of Macon County residents during the February 2020 board meeting," he said.

By definition, a gun sanctuary is an area that has adopted laws or resolutions to "prohibit or impede the enforcement of certain gun control measures perceived as violative of the Second Amendment such as universal gun background checks, high capacity magazine bans, assault weapon bans, red flag laws, ect."

Essentially the sanctuary counties proclaim that they will not abide by any state or federal laws that do anything they deem as imposing on their Second Amendment rights. While the resolution or declaration is purely symbolic and carries little to no enforcement capabilities, counties across the United States have passed such resolutions.

Supporters of the gun sanctuary declaration plan to present a formal resolution to commissioners for consideration during the February meeting of the board.



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# ‘Cause’ a success despite ‘dicey’ weather

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

According to the National Weather Service, “An unseasonably strong storm system by January standards impacted the region Jan. 10-11, 2020. Heavy rainfall, flooding, damaging winds, and gusty non-thunderstorm winds impacted the region during this time. The bulk of the event occurred overnight and into the morning hours on the 11th. Rainfall totals ranged from 2 to 5 inches, which resulted in widespread areal flooding and flash flooding across the region.”

In spite of the weather, Cold for a Cause, an effort to encourage as many donations of food, personal care items, blankets, coats, and more within a 72-hour period, was a success.



Volunteers Molly Phillip, her son Eli, Carolyn Tait, Kate Phillip, and Russell Bowling brave high winds and rain during Cold for a Cause.



Tim Hogsed, CareNet’s executive director, who is also youth pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church, was one of three volunteers who spent 24 hours each in the 2-foot by 6-foot crane bucket suspended 40 feet in the air that was provided by Joe Sanders, owner of J.R. Sanders Company. The other two bucket inhabitants were Ben Windle of Discover Church and David Beam of First United Methodist Church. Windle told attendees to services on Sunday, Jan. 12, that although cramped and wet, the experience was worth it “to bring people out to donate and fill trucks with needed items for people in Macon County.”

At least 30 volunteers also donned rain jackets and withstood high winds under a tent next to the CareNet donation truck. Volunteers gathered donated items as people drove up to the site of the Cold for a Cause crane, which was parked in a vacant lot next to Bojangles in Franklin.

“They were all in good spirits,” said Hogsed. “I can’t thank the volunteers enough ... or Joe Sanders enough for donating his crane and his time. He was so easy to work with and was there to do whatever we needed him to do. So many people to thank ... like those at Bojangles and Haywood Smoke House. Macon Funeral Home donated a tent to keep volunteers dry. Jeff Parrish with Duke Energy came up with the canopy on the crane bucket to keep the rain from completely soaking the pastors up there. Lights were set up. So many

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people made this happen.”

When the weather became particularly “dicey” on Saturday evening, Hogsed said, “We got David out of the crane for a little bit, but he got right back up there when the storm slowed.”

Although the definitive numbers have not been determined regarding the amount of items donated Jan. 9-12, Hogsed offered, “We filled up one entire 14-foot box truck and have another one, a 16-footer, a quarter of the way filled. Being in a different location and having a slightly different format [due to 10-year Cold for Cause veteran Patrick Jenkins retiring], it was still a great success. That’s a good amount to help those in need in Macon County. It’s a great tradition ... neighbors helping neighbors and it’s awesome to see. We look forward to having many more years doing this event.”

Hogsed added that the CareNet thrift store opened Friday, Jan. 10, at its new location at 45 Macon Center Drive, next to Discover Church. However, anyone who did



David Beam, pastor of First United Methodist Church, was one of three who volunteered to spend 24 hours in a 2 by 6-foot crane bucket suspended 40 feet in the air. Joe Sanders, owner of J.R. Sanders Company, provided the crane for the 72-hour Cold for a Cause event that took place Jan. 9-12.

not get a chance to donate during Cold for a Cause can drop off food and other times during normal business hours at CareNet’s main facility, at 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin.



CareNet trucks were filled up with donated personal care items, food, blankets, coats and more.

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**NSDAR honors citizens for community service**

At a recent meeting, Battle of Sugartown Chapter NSDAR recognized two local citizens for their exemplary service within the community: Ron Norton for his voluntary contributions and devotion to helping veterans in the Macon County area and to Deena Bouknight for her assistance in writing an article regarding the local chapter. Bouknight is not pictured.

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# Sand Town: Cherokee/White community lost, but not forgotten

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In his basement of his Franklin home, Willard Dills has thousands of pieces of Cherokee pottery on display on walls and in jars that he has picked up on his multi-generational family land in Cartoogechaye. He has found shards of pipes, game balls made of stone, arrowheads, and his most exciting find – a small unblemished ceremonial effigy in the shape of a man. Alongside these Native artifacts are utilitarian items such as a water dipper made from creek-bed cane and dogwood, as well as hand-made saws, hammers, guns, and more.

“This is my museum,” he said, explaining that the reason family and Cherokee items were found on the same land is because it was all considered the Sand Town community at one time.

“Sand Town in Cartoogechaye was situated on a few hundred acres at the mouth of Muskrat Brook and along Dills Creek,” said Robert Shook, curator at the Macon County Historical Museum on Main Street in Franklin. “That’s where the chief of Sand Town, Chuttahsotee, built his cabin when he came back after being part of the Indian Removal Act [1830] ...

William Siler deeded land back to the Cherokee. William’s house was in sight of the chief’s house. They were best friends. In fact, when William died, the chief followed the wagon with his casket in the pouring rain for eight miles until it got to the graveyard in Franklin.

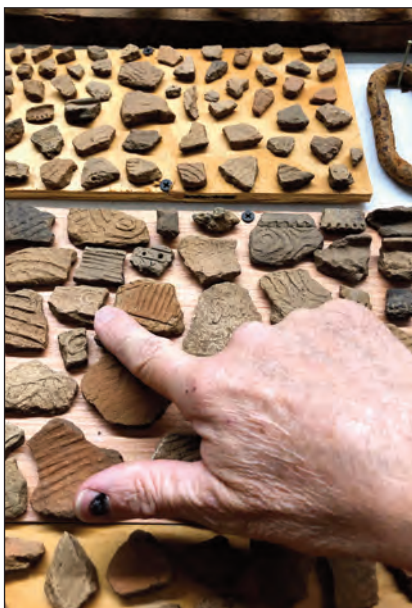
“People need to understand that families, white and Cherokee, had homes in Sand Town together. There was even a trading post out there,” he added.

A hand-drawn map of the community, which existed just off what is now Hwy. 64 before the pass at Winding Stair, shows homesteads all along the creeks and branches. An 1851 “Census of Cherokee ... Cartoogechaye Macon County, N.C.” included close to 20 Cherokee families with names such as Chootah-so-tih (or Jim Woodpecker), Eno-leh (or Catamount), and Cos-kel-lo-kih (or Hog Bite). Also, families with the last names Siler, Rush, Addington, Moore, McDowell, etc., occupied homes and land.

Currently, no formal remains exist of what was known as Sand Town. Farm land, developments, individual homes, and wilderness exist there. However, families have passed down the history so that not forgotten is the fact that some Cherokee and white families did live peacefully in close proximity.



At left, the boards of pottery shards that Willard Dills found on his family’s property, which was once part of the the Sand Town community, only represents a small portion of the thousands of pieces that he has found. Above, Dills has collected utilitarian items that were used by both his ancestors and Cherokee families who lived in Sand Town.



Above, Willard Dills said there are designs on the pottery pieces that are consistent, and some pieces include colors.

At right, an ancient effigy, center, is Dills’s greatest find on his property.



Margaret Redding Siler, who married Dr. Fredrick Lawrence Siler in 1900, documented the Sand Town history in the 1939-published “Cherokee Indian Lore & Smoky Mountain Stories,” available for sale at the Macon County Historical Museum. In it, she writes that her father-in-law, Albert Siler, was so familiar with the Cherokee language that he spoke it “as he did his own. He grew up with the Cherokee children for playmates.”

She explained in her book about the formation of Sand Town.

“Near the Cartoogechaye Creek, in a cove that was sheltered on the north by high mountain walls, but open to the fertile valley to the south, the homesick Cherokee built their cabins. ... It was called Sand Town because of the white sand along the banks of

the stream (Muskrat Brook). Albert Siler grew up with the Sand Town Indians. He had

six sisters and no brothers, so the Indian boys taught him to trap, and to still-hunt without gun or dog. The only weapons they used were the bow and arrow and blowgun. ... As Albert Siler recalled them, the Sand Town Indians were always loyal to their friends, and it was evident from the way he talked that he was deeply attached to them.”

The small, historic St. John Episcopal Church is situated where the Sand Town community

was once located, and Chuttahsotee and his wife are buried there. [See Sept. 19, 2019 article on St. John’s Episcopal in MCN.] Margaret Siler wrote: “One of Albert Siler’s daughters had the marble top of a dresser broken in two and placed at the heads of the Indian graves in the St. John’s churchyard ...”

She also pointed out in her book that often the Cherokee and white families in Sand Town would worship together.

“When the Cherokee attended services at the white churches, they joined in with the utmost reverence and sang, but in their own language.”

Dills’ family settled in the early 1800s in what became Sand Town. Both his great grandmothers were full Cherokee: Tiny

Rogers and Elda Patterson. On his display wall is the water dipper he remembers his grandmother, Elise Patterson Dills, who was half Cherokee, making. “I was with her when she made it. I grew up on every inch of that property out there. She knew how to make that dipper because her mother, full Cherokee, taught her.” The intricately made dipper has thin cane woven so close together that it held the water.

Several men in Dills’ family were employed by the Ritter Lumber Company, located in the late 1800s and early 1900s in nearby Standing Indian. Some family members died while logging. And, even though the Dills family “old homeplace” of the mid-1850s succumbed to decay, Dills still maintains his family’s 51 acres and has a



Willard Dills was with his half-Cherokee grandmother when she made this water dipper out of cane from Dills Creek. The weaving is so intricate, the dipper is able to hold water.



1980s-built getaway cabin there. He walks the property several times a week to see what he can find.

One item from Sand Town that is on Dills' wall features still legible Cherokee writing. However, extensive research determined that the writing most likely pre-dates the Cherokee syllabary of the early 1800s. Some of the pottery pieces feature consistent designs and colors.

"I'm always finding things that the Cherokee or my family used for eating, drinking, living ... My family thinks I'm nuts collecting all this stuff but I don't want it to just lie there and get lost."

The effigy, which Dills had framed, along with a few other "treasures," such as tiny sharp arrowheads, was dated by the Cherokee at around 11,000 years old. Even though it was found in what was Sand Town, it must have been passed down from Cherokee family to Cherokee family for multiple generations, ascertained Dills.

Dills said that the history of his family, the Cartoogechaye Cherokee, and Sand Town, will continue to live on in his and wife Tammy's children, Christopher and Elizabeth, and their grandchildren. Lawson, 7, the oldest grandchild, has already been ac-



Willard Dills and his grandson, Lawson, in the basement "museum," which includes artifacts and photographs from life in Sand Town.

companying Dills to the family property to help him search for and preserve as many historic artifacts as possible from those years when Sand Town thrived. "Lawson loves going with me," said Dills.

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# Two Macon County men join Southwestern's Board of Trustees

Two Macon County businessmen and a student representative were recently sworn in as the newest members of Southwestern Community College's Board of Trustees.

Brett Rogers, Vice President of Duotech in Franklin, joined Outdoor 76 Co-Owner Cory McCall and SCC Radiography student Megan Beck on the board during the Nov. 19 meeting at the college's Jackson Campus.

Rogers spent most of his life growing up in Franklin and graduated from Cedarville University (Ohio) in 2010. In his role at Duotech, which provides military electronics repair services and radar systems upgrades, he's worked with Southwestern's Workforce Continuing Education division to coordinate customized training for employees.

He's also been impressed with the work he's seen SCC do across the region.

"I'm excited to be a part of the team at Southwestern," Rogers said. "They're quality people, and they all have serving hearts. We have the same goals and a heart for the com-

munity. I've always been an advocate for skill-based training, and SCC fills that vital role. The direction the college is heading is exciting. They tailor programs to meet the needs of our area."

McCall is an eighth-generation native of Macon County. In addition to Outdoor 76, a specialty outfitter in downtown Franklin, McCall co-owns Brown Dog Tees and Rock House Lodge. He holds a bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism from Western Carolina University.

He serves on the Macon County Economic Development Commission board along with the Growing Outdoors Partnership. McCall's grandfather, Jerry Sutton, served on SCC's board for 32 years.

"The last nine years in business have taught me the importance of having education as a foundational building block for workforce development," McCall said. "I look forward to serving the communities and residents of Western North Carolina just as my grandfather did for more than three decades."

Beck, who lives in Tuckasegee, is a second-year student in SCC's Radiography program and plans to graduate in May. Though Beck will not be a voting member, she will have a seat at the table and can offer insights from a student perspective.

"I'm thankful to Mr. Rogers, Mr. McCall and Ms. Beck for their willingness to serve," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC president. "For more than 55 years, Southwestern has been blessed with unselfish community leaders who have worked together to support our college and help our students succeed. I look forward to working with our new trustees and current board as we continue building upon that tradition of cooperation and progress."

For more information about Southwestern, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu](http://www.southwesterncc.edu), call 828.339.4000 or drop by your nearest SCC location.



Dr. Don Tomas (right), President of Southwestern Community College, holds a Bible as Brett Rogers is sworn in as a member of SCC's Board of Trustees on Nov. 19 at the Jackson Campus in Sylva.

Below, Megan Beck of Tuckasegee is sworn in as the student representative to SCC's Board of Trustees on Nov. 19 at the college's Jackson Campus in Sylva.



Cory McCall (left), a new member of SCC's Board of Trustees, stands beside Dr. Don Tomas (center), SCC President, and Jerry Sutton, McCall's grandfather who served on the same board from 1983-2015. Sutton held the Bible as McCall was sworn in by Ann Melton, Jackson County Clerk of Superior Court, on Nov. 19, at the Jackson Campus in Sylva.



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## Health departments awarded \$2.1M to address opioid crisis

Twenty-three health departments in North Carolina will receive a share of a \$2.1 million award annually for up to three years to implement high-impact, community-level strategies to address the opioid crisis.

These funds are part of a \$7 million award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Community Linkages to Care to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. The three-year awards of up to \$275,000 encourage local health departments and districts to partner with local agencies and community-based organizations to implement core strategies such as syringe exchange programs, connection of justice-involved individuals to treatment and recovery services and post-overdose response teams with emergency medical services.

“This Community Linkages to Care funding serves as a catalyst for local communities across the state to directly address the opioid crisis by working collaboratively to build sustainable, impactful programs for the most vulnerable populations in their communities,” said Dr. Susan Kansagra, Section Chief for the Division of Public Health’s Chronic Disease and Injury Section.

In addition, the Mecklenburg County Health Department was awarded funding to implement an innovative project: a harm reduction-based, drop-in wellness center that will co-locate a variety of wraparound services, including peer support groups, wound care and rapid testing. Four local health departments across the state applied for the innovative part of this funding.

In 2017, Governor Roy Cooper launched the NC Opioid Action Plan, which was updated and rereleased as the NC Opioid Action Plan 2.0 in June 2019. The plan advances various strategies for opioid prevention and response through three focus areas: prevention, connections to care and harm reduction. The updated plan includes local strategies that counties, coalitions and stakeholders can use to fight the opioid epidemic.

Not long after the 2017 plan was put in place, North Carolina for the first time in five years saw the number of unintentional opioid-related deaths among its residents fall by 5 percent in 2018, and emergency department visits for opioid-related overdose declined nearly 10 percent.

“We are fortunate to have received new funding from CDC to further expand the programs needed for people who struggle with substance use disorder to reduce their risk of an overdose and to save lives in North Carolina,” said Alan Dellapenna, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Head. “We have made great progress through the plan and we are proud of the work that communities across North Carolina have started through previous funding administered through NCDHHS.”

This new set of awards continues the momentum from last year’s Emergency Overdose funding that was awarded to 22 local health departments/districts, which collectively served approximately 3,000 people through these same community-based strategies.

Awardees include the following local health departments/districts: Alamance, Albemarle Regional, Appalachian District, Buncombe HHS, Cabarrus, Catawba, Clay, Dare HS, Davie HHS, Durham, Forsyth, Granville-Vance District, Guilford HHS, Haywood HHS, Henderson, Hoke, Iredell, Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District, Mecklenburg, Pitt, Stanly, Surry Health and Nutrition, and Wake Human Services.

For more information about the NC Opioid Action Plan and efforts to-date, visit [www.ncdhhs.gov/opioid-epidemic](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/opioid-epidemic).

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

During the holidays I visited my daughter and grandchildren. Rebecca and her husband live in a large Atlanta metropolitan county. While there, I did my routine training run at large community park across the street from their subdivision.

The large park was very impressive. It has an artificial turf soccer/football field, multiple baseball and softball fields, skateboard parks, and outdoor basketball courts. In addition there were at least two child play scapes and a long jogging/walking trail. The park has a trail network that connects adjacent subdivisions. Plans are underway to add an aquatics center.

As I was leaving the park I saw a sign stating that the park had been built with SPLOST funds. That acronym means, "special purpose local option sales tax." Later I discussed SPLOST with my son-in-law who grew up in Rabun County. He said Rabun County had also built a great recreation facility with SPLOST funds.

I returned to Highlands and began researching the Georgia SPLOST, and whether North Carolina has the same option. Georgia county voters can approve an one cent addition to local sales tax for designated special projects. The tax has a five-year sunset. This additional tax has to be earmarked for specific recreation, education and road projects.

I read an article about North Carolina local option sales tax that has been published by the North Carolina School of Government. While our state has a local option sales tax provision, it is much more complicated than the Georgia SPLOST provisions. There is no special projects provision in North Carolina. The North Carolina Legislature may want to consider creating a SPLOST which would give county voters more specific input in shaping local infrastructure.

For example, Macon County is beginning to review whether to build a new, or renovate, Franklin High School. Currently, the vehicle to fund such a project would be through property taxes, which would probably have to be increased. A SPLOST might be an option to fund such a project in part, or in whole. Road, sidewalks, and park improvements could be funded with this type of tax.

There are pros and cons to having a SPLOST. One

See TAYLOR page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### We finally have a strong president

In Mr. Waldrop's recent letter questioning the killing of Qasem Suleimani, he begins by giving the example of David sparing the life of King Saul who was tracking him down with intent to kill him.

Just to correct Mr. Waldrop, Saul was David's father-in-law and King, not his father.

David spared Saul's life because he was forbidden by the Lord from doing him harm because Saul was anointed by the Lord.

To compare this to the question of whether our President Donald Trump should have spared the life of Suleimani is ridiculous.

The best example to justify the killing of Suleimani, if you want to use scriptural references, is to compare President Trump and Suleimani to David and Goliath, not David and Saul.

A question for you, Mr. Waldrop. Do you think David should have spared Goliath?

Suleimani is credited with killing over 600 of our soldiers and thousands of Iraqis and he was in the process of planning more attacks against America. He was a terrorist and as such deserved to be killed. Knowing this, it is truly distressing to think that any American would take the side of a terrorist against our president and Commander in Chief.

Finally we have a strong president who believes in protecting America instead of apologizing for who we are and attempting to appease our enemies with billions in cash which they readily use against us.

So if the Iranians attempt to retaliate for the killing of Suleimani, I'm sure our president can handle it.

Thank God for President Trump and God Bless America.

Marshall Miller - Franklin, N.C.

### Re-engage Iran with statesmanship and good will

Some of our allies; France, Germany, Japan, the U.K. (and others) have never echoed Trump's hard-line approach to Iran or shown any interest in abandoning the 2015 multilateral nuclear accord that several countries (including Iran) negotiated in good faith.

Trump is now calling upon those countries (plus Russia and China) to step back from past agreements with Iran as the United States (utilizing Trump's haphazard, dysfunctional and extraordinarily dangerous decision-making process) doubles down on imposing punitive economic sanctions on the Iranian people.

Headlines have clearly reflected Trump's impaired thinking since he took office. No one knows for sure what motivates Trump (maybe his moods, his ego?) but his choices

seem tethered in some fashion to his likes, dislikes, personal views of the day, and what he watches on cable news. The assassination of Iran's top General (Qasem Soleimani) was a roll of the dice act committed without any forethought, the consequences of which have weakened rather than strengthened U.S. influence in the region.

In addition to Trump's imposing even more sanctions on a beleaguered people, his strategically aimless threats have only served to inflame average Iranian citizens, many of whom harbor the hope and desire to witness improved relations with the west. Trump further intimidated the Iranian public with his promise to attack Iran's cultural sites, a clear provocation as well as potential war crime. Cooler heads prevailed but the point was made, the damage done.

A drifting U.S. foreign policy in the hands of a president and an administration that doesn't know its own mind (much less the region), and a team of regime changers, sanction imposers and right-wing hawks looking for a fight or simply a distraction from the impeachment could (quite easily) lead to a war neither Iran or America wants or needs.

Rather than pursue a regressive policy of sanctions which will only drive hard liners further from the global community and unnecessarily hurt the Iranian people, would it not be better to join our allies, re-engage the Iranians, not with threats and intimidations but with statesmanship and good will.

To understand the world view of Iran's Supreme Leader (Ali Khamenei) and Iran's President (Hassan Rouhani) it will be helpful to look at the history of U.S. intervention in Iran.

In 1953 the Eisenhower administration helped engineer a coup against the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mosaddeq and Washington became the chief supporter of Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi's authoritarian regime, until its overthrow in 1979. Opposition to the Shah went hand in hand with opposition to the United States and resulted in the adverse circumstances which exist today, 67 years later.

Neither the Supreme Leader nor the Iranian President are anti-western or anti-American nor do either of them believe that the U.S. and the west are responsible for all the Islamic world problems. And, contrary to what we're told, neither the leaders nor the Iranian people are crazy, irrational, reckless zealots looking for an opportunity for aggression.

However, negotiations with the west (especially after Trump's having made matters worse with his idiocy) will be far more difficult considering that and their deep-rooted and well-remembered experiences of the 1950's. Admittedly, achieving a level of trust necessary for long-term peace just got harder. But, there is an opportunity for the international community and Iran to move toward peace and constructive friendship and we should seize this chance and try our level best to insure our own leaders (Donald Trump and company) do not destroy it.

David L. Snell - Franklin, N.C.

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### Cold for a Cause a 'huge success'

I write you all to thank you for making "Cold for a Cause 2020" a huge success! The three-day event brought in thousands of coats, blankets and canned goods. It is awesome to see a community come together and help those in need. I want to thank everyone who came out and donated to the cause. A special thanks to the following: Patrick Jenkins for his advice and trusting us with this event; Joe Sanders for his time and the use of his crane; Pastor Ben Windle and Pastor David Beam for braving the elements; Bojangles and Haywood Smokehouse for keeping us fed; Macon Funeral Home for providing their tent to help keep our awesome volunteers dry; Calvin Weeks and Tommy Pilkerton for providing spotlights to keep us visible throughout the night; and all who volunteered! We look forward to many more years of this community-binding tradition in Macon County.

**Tim Hogsed**  
Executive Director Macon County Care Network

### Why is the GA refusing to help NC citizens?

It is my understanding that the state legislature and the governor are at an impasse over the state budget because of a refusal by the General Assembly to expand Medicaid, which Governor Cooper has strongly supported.

Here's the thing: For the past five years NC taxpayers have paid \$8.3 billion in federal taxes to support the cost of expanding Medicaid in 36 other states and the District of Columbia. But our legislators refuse to take action to provide coverage to over 464,000 North Carolinians, which federal funding will fund up to 90%.

Expanding Medicaid would make health care available to many working North Carolina adults whose employers offer neither health insurance nor wages sufficient to purchase coverage on the private market. Many of these working adults are parents whose lack of health care directly affect their children, often resulting in poor school performance and a less promising future.

The injection of billions of dollars of federal funding into the economy will spur North Carolina's business activity and create an estimated 34,000 jobs in this year, 2020.

With Medicaid expansion, at least 665 additional people in Macon County would be covered, more jobs and more tax revenue would be created.

So why is the General Assembly refusing to help the citizens of North Carolina? Why did they refuse to even pass a compromise expansion proposed by House Republicans? I haven't heard a convincing explanation, have you?

And also in this unpassed state budget is a plan for retired school personnel to receive a one-time .5% bonus. You read that right: 5 tenths of a percent... bonus. The Macon County North Carolina Retired School Personnel have asked for a cost of living increase to try to keep up with inflation. For our efforts, we have received a 1% increase three times in 10 years, yet the cumulative inflation over that time period has been 18.10%.

We didn't serve the children of North Carolina in order to become rich, but it would be a real bonus if we retirees could keep up with inflation.

Nancy Scott – Franklin, N.C.

### How low and far gone this country has become

No. 1 - I guess it's a sign of how low and far gone this once a great country has become, when people can support a president who admits to stealing from his own charity. President Trump has paid \$2 million in a court-ordered judgment for using the Trump Foundation for personal gain with funds that donors contributed for firefighters' widows, Veterans, and other good causes, Trump illegally paid more than \$250,000 to settle lawsuits against his for profit businesses. Bought a \$20,000, 6-foot portrait of himself and funneled millions into his own campaign events, back as far as 1989 he used \$7.00, yes, seven dollars of the foundation's money to pay Don Jr.'s Boy Scout initiation fee. Here's a man who steals and rips off his own charity.

No. 2 - Federal Bureau of Economic Affairs reported that through this third quarter of 2019, corporation taxes accounted for must 3.5 percent of all federal tax revenue a sharp drop from 9 percent in 2010 and 22 percent in 1960. It's no wonder we have a massive national debt of more than \$23 trillion, don't say much for Trumps tax cuts.

No. 3 - Trump thinks to ban vaping, this is something they want to do, nobody forces them. But when a 21-year-old goes to Walmart and shoots 22 people another young man with a semi-automatic rifle and 100 round drum magazine kills nine people including his sister, wounding 27 others in only 32 seconds, one man shoots seven motorists at random,

## TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

benefit is that the tax burden is distributed to everyone who purchases goods and services in a county, including visitors and tourists. A SPLOST would take the burden off property owners and continuing millage rate increases.

The converse argument is that a sales tax is regressive, and folks on limited incomes are impacted the most. Also, there is the concern of a tax drain on a county imposing a SPLOST. Some believe consumers would simply take their business to adjacent counties that do not have the tax.

SPLOST may not be a tax panacea, but I think state leaders should consider this option.

The January Highlands Town Board meeting is tonight [Thursday] at 7 p.m., at the Highlands Community Center. First on the agenda will be an update by the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation. Representatives of nonprofit organizations focused on the wellbeing of the community, may want to hear this important presentation.

sorry folks this is just not the second amendment to the Constitution. And there's people who think it's OK for a person of his sick mentality to run our country. How other countries must be laughing at us. When they hear our president on TV, stand there and say "they are just pissing away money on the impeachment." That's the last straw.

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

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

## Low-Income Energy Assistance available

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will begin accepting applications through county social services departments for the state's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019.

Households including a person aged 60 or older, or disabled individuals receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Eligible households may apply from Jan. 2–March 31, 2020 — or until funds are exhausted.

"This funding can help assist eligible individuals and families with their heating expenses during the winter months," said David Locklear, Deputy Director of Economic and Family Services in the Division of Social Services. "We want to ensure families are healthy and safe during some of the most difficult times of the year."

The federally funded program helps households with low incomes with a one-time payment made directly to their heating vendor to offset the high cost of keeping their homes

warm.

To apply, individuals should contact their county department of social services. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

To be eligible, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Have income equal to or less than 130 percent of the federal poverty limit; for example:

– For a household of one, a gross monthly income of \$1,353.00.

– For a family of four, a gross monthly income of \$2,790.00.

- Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts or cash on hand, at or below \$2,250
- Be responsible for their heating cost

For more information on the program and eligibility, visit <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>.

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## MLK Day events planned in Jackson

The Jackson County Branch of the NAACP is participating in a series of events to kick off the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 20, with a week-long celebration of King's civil rights legacy.

A screening of the award-winning film "Selma" will be shown Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 and 6 p.m., at the Lazy Hiker Brewing - Sylva Taproom at 617 West Main Street in Sylva. There is no charge to view the films.

The movie stars David Oyelowo as Martin Luther King, Jr., which portrays the march from Selma to Montgomery that led to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The film is the first in a monthly series of movies featuring the lives of people of color.

February's upcoming film is the award-winning classic "The Help" adapted from Kathryn Stockett's 2009 novel of the same name.

Next up for the MLK Week observances is the Unity March on Monday, Jan. 20, on the WCU campus. The march begins at 11 a.m. at the fountain in the center of campus and lasts until 1 p.m. Its goal is to unify community leaders, faculty, staff, and students in efforts to live out the ideals and values that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held and believed in. The march will begin after a brief introduction that will highlight the history of the march. On-campus parking is free for this event.

Jan. 20 is also the first of two MLK Days of Service At WCU from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning is looking for student volunteers for available projects at a variety of service sites, such as Catman2, the Cullowhee Community



Dr. Oralene Anderson Graves Simmons

Garden and more. Interested students can sign up on Engage.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, Dr. Oralene Anderson Graves Simmons, an internationally recognized civil rights leader, and the founder of Asheville's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Prayer Breakfast will give a presentation. The theme is "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy of Connection: The Story of U.S." A native of Western North Carolina, Dr. Simmons has been a pioneer civil rights worker since the early 1960s, especially known for her role in integrating all-white Mars Hill College in 1961. She was honored with Coretta Scott King at the United Nations headquarters in New York City in 1990. This event will be held in the at Bardo Arts Center, on the WCU campus from 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited.

On Friday, Jan. 24, WCU will host a day of training by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) presenting a premiere curriculum to deliver inclusion, social justice, and conflict resolution work on campuses of higher education. Registration is required.

## Franklin celebrates life of Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday

This Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m., the Franklin community will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with "Let Freedom Sing," a mostly-musical program presented in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, Harrison Avenue at West Main Street. A reception will follow the program in the church's Memorial Hall.

Music selections will be drawn mainly from beloved spirituals, freedom songs, and gospel tunes, with attendees encouraged to join in. Performers include World Music a cappella choir One Heart directed by Sandy Erickson; vocalists Ann Miller Woodford and Ericka Washington; vocalists/mimes Richard Lugo and Quashona Antoine; dancer Michelle Toleno; and C-Square with keyboardist Lionel Caynon and vocalist Bobbie Contino. A very special feature

of the celebration is the debut of the Women's History Trail tribute to local African-American Community matriarch Mrs. Matt Ray, widely and lovingly known as "Aunt Nan," written by Barbara McRae and performed by Molly Haithcock. Visual arts and Women's History Trail displays will be on view in the reception hall.

Dr. King, a Baptist minister from Atlanta, became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. He is best known for advancing civil rights through non-violence and civil disobedience. In 1957 he became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and he helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1964 Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Everyone is welcome to this event, produced by Macon County's Human Relations Council and Arts Council. An offering will be taken.



Dr. Martin Luther King became a visible spokesperson and leader of the civil rights movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. A day honoring Dr. King was established in 1983.

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# High School Equivalency program at SCC celebrates new class of graduates

Dressed in a royal blue cap and gown, with a glowing Christmas tree behind her and a smile from ear to ear, Emma Hull received one of her greatest gifts of the year: new opportunity.

A Cherokee native who is part of the Mother Town Healing Program offered through the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), Hull walked across the stage on Thursday, Dec. 5, at Southwestern Community College to finally have the moment she has been waiting on for so many years. Along with several of her peers, she received her High School Equivalency Diploma.

With her parents, four children and fiancé cheering her on from the crowd, Hull became one of the many graduates who have found success since SCC's College and Career Readiness (CCR) program began offering High School Equivalency Boot Camps this past summer.

Each semester, CCR hosts classes that allow participants to earn their high school equivalency diploma in an accelerated program. Students attend class Monday through Friday for five weeks. Each week, the students prepare for and take one subject test. Upon passing all five tests, they receive their high school equivalency credential and are invited to attend a graduation ceremony.

"It's not as hard as I thought it would be, but you definitely have to stay committed, and you can't let yourself get overwhelmed," said Hull. "I took it day by day, test by test."

Hull credits her instructor, Robin Weber, with helping her stay on track and always being prepared for the next step.

"If you actually do what Ms. Weber says, you will make it through this program. There's no doubt about it," said Hull. "Always do your homework. You've got to put in time inside



SCC's December High School Equivalency graduates from Macon County are Kyle Borque and Gisselle Rubio.

and outside of the classroom. Several times I've stayed up till 1 a.m. on the weekend doing homework. You can do this, but you have to put in the time."

Hull says getting her high school equivalency through the CCR program has opened many doors for her, especially with TERO.

"Now that I've got my high school credentials, I can become an intern in the Mother Town Healing Program, and from there I can apply for full-time tribal jobs. The possibilities have really opened for me," said Hull.

One such possibility is here at SCC.

"My family and fiancé have pushed me to go further, and I've decided I want to do my associate's degree here at SCC. I really want to start in Spring and keep the momentum going," said Hull. "I'm not sure exactly what I want to do, but I want to be here. The instructors are wonderful, and I finally feel like I can see a future for myself."

As for Weber, she's proud of all her students no matter what their next step may be.

"They all have such bright futures ahead of them, and I know that whatever they may do, they will succeed," said Weber. "These students are truly an inspiration to me."

The CCR program offers high school equivalency in both Macon and Jackson Counties. The next boot camp will be held Feb. 18 - March 27 at the Macon Annex. Another boot camp will be offered from April 6 - May 15 on SCC's Jackson Campus. Classes run from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For those who cannot attend during the day, evening classes will be offered for each county.

For more information, contact Kay Wolf at [k\\_wolf@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:k_wolf@southwesterncc.edu) or 828.339.4262.

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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests December 20 - January 12. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

### January 6

Jose Muniz Gonzalez, 47, of Franklin, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

### January 7

Paul Floyd Schott IV, 32, of Sevierville, Tenn., was issued a governor's warrant. No bond was set. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Dennis Paul Kramber, 42, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$8,000 was set. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Gene Siler Passmore, 38, of Franklin, was charged with violation of conditions of release. No bond was set. A \$2,000 was set. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

### January 8

Kelby Stacey Mashburn, 30, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

### January 9

Edward Allen Solesbee, 31, of Franklin, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

### January 10

Joshua G. Davis, 22, of Bryson City, was charged with probation violation, flee/elude arrest. A secured bond of \$38,000 was set. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

### January 11

Eric Lee Prevette, 33, of Franklin, was charged with unsealed wine/liquor in passenger area, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

### January 12

Ryan Matthew Wilson, 36, of Franklin, was charged with breaking and/or entering, larceny after breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Thomas Eugene Holmes, 61, of Franklin, was charged with possession of open container in passenger area, false report to law enforcement, driving while impaired, reckless driving. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Matthew Canzone made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

### January 8

Erica Nicole Nicholson, 28, of Franklin, was charged with possession of stolen property, larceny, possession of marijuana. An unsecured bond of \$600 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

Sean Taylor Hall, 27, of Matties Dr., was charged with re-

sist/obstruct/delay, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor flee to elude, tamper with evidence, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of a firearm by a felon, tamper with evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Officer Dula made the arrest.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

### December 20

Latasha Brooke Jones, 38, of Woodzillow Lane, Sapphire, was charged with failure to appear for fictitious/altered title/registered card/tag, operate vehicle with no insurance, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, uttering a forged instrument, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$22,000 was set.

Briar Dean Klingsmith, 28, of Riverpark Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

### December 21

Robert Dylan Thomas, 22, of Winesap Dr., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

### December 22

Thomas Glen Mancini, 39, of Sylva, was charged with domestic violation protective order violation. No bond was set.

### December 23

Jason Christopher Webster, 43, of Ford St., Franklin, was issued a fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Jessica Frances Patterson, 22, of Chad Crawford Rd., Balsom, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

### December 24

Heather Michele White, 24, of Docile Dr., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for assault on government official/employee and injury to personal property, resisting a public officer, simple assault and misdemeanor child abuse. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

Gavin Edward Perez, 23, of Cashiers, was charged with assault and battery. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Benjamin Scott Riddle, 21, of West Christy Trail, Sapphire, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Michael Gage Sistare, 22, of Shoe String Lane, Cashiers, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

### December 25

Tony Dustin Gregory, 29, of Nightingale Place, Waynesville, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jason Lee Tramper, 39, of Campground Cemetery Rd., Whittier, was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

Amanda Irene Keene, 33, of Kerley St., Waynesville, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

Garrett Kelly Nations, 24, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

### December 26

Christian Ryan Sammons, 26, of Toby Bryson Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

### December 30

Mary Regina Watkins, 46, of John's Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault.

### December 31

Melissa Nicole Townsend, 39, of Alman Rd., was issued a child support purge. A \$350 bond was set.

### January 1

Eric Lee Vaughn, 29, of Pheasant Run, was charged with criminal domestic trespass, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering non forcible. No bond was set.

Dustin Veron Sampson, 33, of Owl Branch, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jonathan Curtis Meadows, 24, of Cashiers Lake Rd., Cashiers, was charged with assault and battery. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

### January 3

Robert Ryan Oteri, 30, of Thorn Wood Rd., Franklin, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain, resisting a public officer, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Ashley Kay Heatherly, 32, of Rhodes Cove Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

### January 4

Verena Jane Mosteller, 25, of Lower Vengeance Creek Rd., Marble, was charged with resisting a public officer, misdemeanor child abuse. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

John Paul Bartko, 46, of Helen Zachary Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with deface a grave site. No bond was set.

### January 5

Dillion Wayne McKay Watkins, 28, of Johns Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, communicating threats, uttering a counterfeit coin, possession of counterfeit instrument/currency, uttering counterfeit coin, obtain property by false pretense, possession of methamphetamine, injury to personal property, misdemeanor larceny, drive/allow registration plate not displayed, maintain vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, obtain property by false pretense, possession of controlled substance on prison/jail premise, possession of stolen goods/property, felony larceny, misdemeanor larceny, larceny remover/destroy/deactivate component, injury to personal property, second degree trespass, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Tyler Garrett Converse, 26, of Buck Creek Rd., Highlands, was charged with leave vehicle unattended/unsecure, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, failing to appear for inflict serious injury. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

### January 6

Faustino Perez, 35, of Valor Mountain, Glenville, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay, assault by strangulation. No bond was set.

Keonta Monteece Ardrey, 40, of Whittier, was issued a true bill of indictment for possession of hydrocodone, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation out of county, interfere with electronic monitoring device, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A \$14,250 bond was set.

Dakota Allen Cagle, 26, of Dakota Dr., was charged with larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering, felony conspiracy, possession of stolen goods/property, possession of burglary tools. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.









### Gem & Mineral Society supports STEM

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin presented a \$300 check to Caleb Parham, 6th grade science teacher at Mountain View Intermediate School. Shown here accepting a check are from left, Al Pribble, Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship Chairman; Caleb Parham, Mountain View Intermediate School; and Jennifer Love, STEM coordinator (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for Macon County Schools.

### Tartan Hall site of Burns Night celebration

Scots all over the world celebrate the birth of Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland, largely noted for saving the old melodies by adding new words to well known tunes. Burns was beloved by many common folk for writing his poetry in Old Scots language that everyday people used.

Maconians can celebrate their rich Scottish heritage on Burns Night which this year will be celebrated on the actual date of his birth, Jan. 25, 1759. Tartan Hall at Franklin Presbyterian Church will come alive with haggis, bag piping, calling of the clans, Celtic music, and Scottish food.

Burns Nights all over the world have traditions in common whether in a pub, a large concert hall, or a small group. One at the beginning is a roll call of the clans or the Muster Roll song, a reading of Burns prayer "Selkirk Grace," and a stirring rendition of "Address to the Haggis." Michael Waters will play the pipes and will present a toast to the "Immortal Memory of Robert Burns." A humorous toast

to the Lassies and Lads is usually done by a married couple. The evening ends as all gather in a circle and sing the beloved song of Burns, "Auld Lang Syne," perhaps his best known work.

Arthur Hayes, bard of Clan Hays, will present the "Ode to the Haggis." Jim Gordon will be the Master of Ceremonies. Music will be provided by the Jacobites By Name, one of our local favorites. George James is the able chairman of Burns Night as well as the Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival, June 19-21, 2020. A silent auction, and a chance to win a 50/50 cash prize are also offered.

Having a Scottish heritage is not a requirement to attend. Scots will be in formal dress, kilts, or informal clothes.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner set to begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults; \$15 for children and can be purchased at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, First Presbyterian Church, and The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.

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### Aviation historical group focuses on 'first flight'



A full-scale replica of the Wright Brothers' 1903 Flyer races down the track at the First Flight Centennial celebration at Kitty Hawk, N.C., a century after the first flight. Alas, rain and poor wind kept it from being successful like the original. The first flight of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1903 is the topic of a documentary to be shown at the Tuesday, Jan. 21, meeting of the Aviation Historical Society. It explains how two self-taught bicycle mechanics became the premier aviation designers and engineers. In addition, photos of the 2003 First Flight Centennial celebration will be shown. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. and runs no later than noon at the Macon County Airport at 1241 Airport Road near Franklin. There is no charge and the public is welcome. For more information, contact Fred Alexander at aeroscribbler@gmail.com or cell (828)506-5869.

Photo by Fred Alexander

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY





Marcia Barnes, award-winning author of the books “Tobijah” and “A Day with Tobijah,” came to Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School to read to the Lower School students last semester. Pictured (front row, L-R) Mira Branden of Franklin, Eric Soto of Lakemont, Ga., Sadie BySura of Rabun Gap, Ga.; (back row, L-R) Lia Miles of Rabun Gap, Marcia Barnes, and Librarian Mary Carol Phillips.

## Award-winning author visits RGNS

Lower School students at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School (RGNS) sat in rapt attention on the second floor of the library at Rabun Gap to hear award-winning author Marcia Hawley Barnes read her two published works — “Tobijah” and “A Day with Tobijah” during a recent visit.

Barnes, a Georgia writer and poet, was awarded the 2017 Georgia Author of the Year Award in the Children’s Book cate-

gory by the Georgia Writers Association. Her stories are based on real animals that she observed, including an unusual duck that visited her backyard one day.

The students listened to the stories and asked her questions afterward. She explained how to get a book published and in the Library of Congress, as well as encouraged students to continue writing and drawing.

## Jackson Festival makes STS Top 20 event

Southeast Tourism Society has named Jackson County’s Hook, Line and Drinker Festival, one of the STS Top 20 Events in the Southeast for May 2020. The STS Top 20 Festival and Event Awards have highlighted programs around the Southeast since 1985.

Travel industry experts select 20 events per month, and STS publicizes them throughout the United States. The complete list is published on two websites: Southeast Tourism Society and Travel Media Press Room.

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce will present the fourth annual Hook, Line and Drinker Festival on Saturday, May 16, 2020. The event will be held from 3-7 p.m., at the Bridge Park Pavilion in Sylva.

The festival features fly fishing guides and fishing industry vendors; food trucks; children’s activities; music by the Carolina Soul Band; clean water, outdoor activity and wildlife advocates; and WNC craft beer vendors.

Jackson County is the home of the WNC Fly Fishing Trail and the NC Trout Capital. The WNC Fly Fishing Trail features 15 hot fishing spots that run from the northern end of the county to the southern end along the Tuckaseegee River. Jackson County is stocked with more trout than any other county in the state and is home to the largest recorded rainbow trout caught in N.C.

New for 2020, the festival will introduce its very own festival brew. This special seasonal

craft beer is being created by friends, neighbors and supporters at Innovation Brewing in Sylva (and Dillsboro). Proceeds from each pint sold will benefit the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce’s continued operation of the festival.

For more information, visit the festival website at [www.hooklinedrinkerfest.com](http://www.hooklinedrinkerfest.com), or call the organizers at (828)586-2155.

For 35 years, STS has been spotlighting the best festivals and events in the Southeast with a Top 20 Festival and Events program.

Its goal is to highlight the efforts of devoted event organizers and provide additional media exposure and accolades for their events,” said Monica Smith, president and CEO of the Southeast Tourism Society. “The Southeast offers so many unique, year-round, opportunities for tourists and festival-goers

to create memories and support the tourism industry – a vital economic generator for communities.”

Events considered for the STS Top 20 recognition must be at least three years old and have attendance of at least 1,000.

STS, founded in 1983 and headquartered in Roswell, Ga., is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting travel and tourism within 12 states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.



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This aerial photo, taken on Jan. 1, shows the construction site of SCC's new Health Sciences Building in Sylva.

## SCC's Health Sciences building on track for 2021

Southwestern Community College's new \$21 million Health Sciences Building is starting to take shape on the west side of the Jackson Campus as construction remains on schedule to finish by the summer of 2021.

As of Nov. 20, the structures for both stairwells and the elevator shaft have been erected. Steel framework is expected to start in mid-December.

Crews have been working diligently since breaking ground on May 6.

Designed by LS3P, the building project is overseen by Michigan-based Christman Company, which has a regional office in Knoxville, Tenn.

"We've been meeting with our construction team every week, and it's been impressive to watch the early stages of this building rise up from the ground," said SCC President Don Tomas. "Every morning when I drive onto campus, I can see something new. This building is going to change the landscape of SCC. We couldn't be more excited."

The 55,411-square-foot building will house 10 programs across 23 classrooms and labs, along with a pediatric gym.

A number of programs will offer free community clinics in the new building as an essential part of the learning process. These include:

- Medical Assisting
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Sonography
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Pulmonary Function Testing and Rehabilitation
- Substance Abuse Counseling and Recovery
- Therapeutic Massage

"We're pleased to see our programs and students become stronger than ever from the additional resources this new building will provide," said Mitch Fischer, Dean of Health Sciences. "Access to a wide variety of free healthcare services will greatly improve the quality of life in our area."

SCC has outgrown its Balsam Center, which was built in 1988 to house four healthcare training programs. The college now has 14 Health Sciences programs, and this building will allow Southwestern to add three more: surgical technology, opticianry and speech language pathology assistance. Once those new programs come online, and once the existing programs are expanded, Southwestern will have

the capacity to accommodate up to 144 additional students in the first year – and up to 288 additional students in the second year.

"The graduates of these programs can expect starting salaries significantly higher than the median poverty wage for both two- and four-person families," said Tomas. "Nearly 90 percent of our graduates remain in Western North Carolina, providing the region with well-trained healthcare professionals while stimulating the local economy through higher salaries."

Funding sources for the project include more than \$13 million from Jackson County, \$5.4 million from the Connect NC bond and more than \$2 million will be covered by an Economic Development Administration grant secured by SCC and Jackson County.

### SCC receives \$400,000 from WNC Bridge Foundation

When construction on Southwestern Community College's new Health Sciences Building is completed in 2021, funding will be available to begin furnishing it.

A huge reason for that is a \$400,000 grant award from the WNC Bridge Foundation, which has secured naming rights in the first floor lobby while ensuring students will learn and train on state-of-the-art technology in the \$20 million facility.

SCC received notification of the award in November.

"Our top priority is helping our students succeed, and this grant from WNC Bridge Foundation will provide a portion of the financial resources necessary for equipping our new building," said Tomas. "We are extremely grateful that WNC Bridge Foundation recognizes the potential this new building has for training future generations of healthcare professionals in our region."

According to research compiled by William Brothers, SCC's Vice President for Financial and Administrative Services, the starting salaries for graduates of SCC's existing health sciences programs range between \$32,100 to \$64,909.

SCC was one of 44 area nonprofits to receive WNC Bridge Foundation's 2019 Impact Grants, with awards totaling \$33,341,836.

For more information about Southwestern and the programs it offers, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu](http://www.southwesterncc.edu), call 828.339.4000 or drop by your nearest SCC location.



## Deaths & Funerals

### Evelyn Hyatt Brendle

Evelyn Hyatt Brendle, 86, went to be with the Lord Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020. She was born March 12, 1933 in Jackson County, North Carolina, to Frank Perison and Laura Wilson Hyatt, the 10th of 12 children.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Ernest H. Brendle, 90; daughter, Pat Rowland of Franklin; son, Ernie Brendle and wife Diane of Franklin; grandchildren, Brice Rowland and wife Jadee of Asheville, N.C., Nicole Rowland of Carrboro, N.C., Andrea Rowland Mathis and husband David Mathis of Clearwater Beach, Fla., Heather Brendle Stanley and husband Chet Stanley of Franklin, and Jeremy Brendle of Franklin; two great grandchildren, Eli Curtis of Asheville and Brenley Stanley of Franklin; a sister, Maxine Sanders and husband Leonard C. Sanders of Franklin; and a brother, Ed Hyatt and wife Peggy of Marysville, Wash. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Perison and Laura Wilson Hyatt, brothers, Perry R. Hyatt, Leo Hyatt, Leon Hyatt and Verco Hyatt, sisters, Marie Mashburn, Wilie Johnson, Lucy Rogers, Ruby Sloan, and Myrtle Crawford.

She was a lifelong member of Watauga Baptist Church and her husband Ernest is a Deacon. She was involved in many church activities. She was the first woman Treasurer of Watauga Baptist Church. She worked at Macon Program for Progress from 1975 to 1996 and served many families and children. She then retired as a homemaker.

A funeral service was held at Watauga Baptist Church on Wednesday, Jan. 15, with Rev. Wesley Price, Rev. Roy Lowe and Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Roger Guest, Doug Johnson, Bob Rogers, Larry Rogers, Dan Smith, Rodney Sanders, Millard Sloan and Chet Stanley.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Gideons International, PO Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214 or a charity of your choice.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Brendle family. Online condolences are available at [www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com).

### Eugene 'Gene' Orcutt

Eugene "Gene" Orcutt, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020.

Born in Miami, Okla., he was the son of the late Eugene and Gayle Wooldridge Orcutt. He loved the Lord and enjoyed spending time with his wife, Diane Pitt Orcutt. He retired as a pharmacist and built and operated little vacation rental cabins with his wife here in Franklin.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Jeff Orcutt and his family of Charlotte, N.C., and Greg Orcutt of Houston, Texas; and one brother, Anthony Orcutt and his family of Miami, Okla.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m., at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church with Rev. Tommy Jordan officiating.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Evelyn Hyatt Brendle



Eugene 'Gene' Orcutt





# Deaths & Funerals

## Myra Slagle Waldroop

Myra Slagle Waldroop, 92, of Franklin, N.C., died Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Born Feb. 7, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Carl and Louise Slagle.

She attended UNC-Greensboro, then Women's College. She majored in chemistry and returned to Franklin to teach science at Franklin High School for 32 years. Her main interests were her family, her teaching and her friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Louise; her husband, Bob Waldroop; son, Lee Waldroop; sister, Mary Southerland and brother, Siler Slagle.

She is survived by daughters, Betty Waldroop and Mary Pittman; grandsons, Barry Browning, Brian Browning (Lisa), Nathan Pittman and Paul Pittman. Great grandchildren are Wyatt, Branch, Clancy, Keira, Austin, Blake and Conner. Also, survived by special nieces, Kathy Tinsley and Chris Slagle and numerous "adopted" family members.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m., at Memorial United Methodist Church. Her nephew, Carl Southerland, grandson, Brian Browning and Pastor Evan Hill will officiate.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Zion Cemetery Fund, 151 Valley Lane, Franklin, NC 28734, c/o Kathy Tinsley or KIDS Place Building Fund, 330 West Main St. Franklin, NC 28734 c/o Alisa Ashe.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

## David Ray Crawford

David Ray Crawford, 70, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019. He was born Aug. 6, 1949, to the late Hudie Cline Crawford and Georgia Edna Pullen Crawford. An avid lover of the lake, he was the "Crappy King" of fishing. He was an Army Vietnam veteran and retired as a law enforcement officer. He grew up going to Ridgcrest Baptist Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Sherrie Sequeira and husband John of Panama City; two brothers, Larry Crawford (Penny) and Dennis Crawford (Bertha); three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m., at Ridgcrest Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

## Judith Joann Cianciarulo

Judith Joann Cianciarulo, 76, passed away Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020. She was born Jan. 18, 1943, to the late Frank and Alma Solomon in Coral Gables, Fla. She loved the mountains, sewing and her beloved dog, "Toby." She was of the Catholic faith.

She is survived by her son, Michael Cianciarulo of Arizona, granddaughter Madison Cianciarulo and a brother Jim Solomon of Florida.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, John Cianciarulo and her daughter, Terri Conte.

A private service will be held at a later date.

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

## Martha Rheta Kelly

Martha Rheta Kelly, 99, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, she was the daughter of the late Clifford Nolan Harrison and Sybil Mitchell Harrison. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Lee Kelly Sr; two daughters, Sherrill Ann Kelly and Bonnie Kelly; one brother, Odell Harrison and sister, Olivia Danforth.

She loved reading and doing word searches. She was the oldest attending member of Liberty Baptist Church.

She is survived by two children, Sam Kelly (Kay) and Karen Higdon (Robert) both of Franklin; eight grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; six great great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at Liberty Baptist Church. Rev. Davis Hooper and Rev. Charles Stevens will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Sam Kelly, Christopher Deats, Jonathan Deats, Justin Anderson, Keegan Pangle, Landon Allen, Joey Gibson and Killian Carpenter.

Honorary pallbearers will be deacons of Liberty Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, C/O Jessica McConnell, 275 Cedar Ridge Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Martha Rheta Kelly

## Josephine 'Jo' Jorstad

Josephine "Jo" Jorstad, 95, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

Born in Platteville, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Bert and Elphia Hauge. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Fosse Jorstad. She graduated Salutatorian at age 15 from Newark High School and attended Joliet Business College. She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by son, Jack Jorstad of Franklin; two daughters, Joan Younge of Franklin and Janet McLaughlin of Naples, Fla.; grandchildren, Rachel Wilson, Nils Younge, Kate McLaughlin, Erin Younge Dutcher, and Katrisha Mistretta; great grandsons, Asher and J Mistretta and Liam McLaughlin and ten nieces and nephews.

A private family service is planned.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

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## Atlas N. Vinson

On Jan. 8, 2020, the Lord called his faithful servant Atlas N. Vinson home. He was a World War II veteran of the European theatre. He passionately loved his Savior, family, and country.

He is survived by a daughter, brother, two sisters-in-law, and numerous other relatives.

A joint funeral for him and memorial service for his beloved wife was held Jan. 13 at the House of Hope (Tessentee Church of God) in the Otto community. Internment was in church cemetery.

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

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# NASCAR introduces new pit stop rules for select races for Xfinity and Gander Trucks

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - NASCAR announced new competition rules for pit stops in select NASCAR Xfinity and NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoor Truck Series races designed to enhance competition and create intrigue.

The change affects the two Xfinity Series races at Iowa Speedway plus the Road America and Mid-Ohio road courses as well as Truck Series events at Iowa Speedway, World Wide Technology Raceway and the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park road course.

During stage breaks, per the new rules package, the race field will be frozen when cautions come out at all these venues. Teams will then decide to pit for fuel and change two tires on a single stop. On the road courses, teams may either add fuel or pit for four tires per stop.

Two pit stops for a full service – four tires and fuel – will now be required at these select events. The pit stop must be completed with a “designated time period” and the team roster for both series will include eight crew members, including the crew that goes over the wall.

After pit stops occurring under caution, restarts will be established based on the order of the cars at the time of the caution and the pit strategy used. Vehicles that did not pit would be at the front of the field, followed by vehicles that pitted once, followed by those that pitted twice and the free pass wave-around and penalty cars.

“I think it’s great to be a part of something that is essentially moving the sport forward and really emphasizing the strategy and allowing some different scenarios to play out that haven’t necessarily been playing out like it has been over the last few years,” said Ryan Pemberton, with JR Motorsports.

“So we’ve got a lot of good crew chiefs, not only here at JR Motorsports but in the industry and I’m excited to see these guys. It’s a good time for them to be able to use their strategy, their wit, and really be able to mix up the field and play a little bit different than it’s been played before.”

Eric Peterson, NASCAR’s technical manager of the NASCAR Xfinity Series said using the smaller race samples this year in the Xfinity and Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series will be a good way to gauge if these rules are something that could be implemented on a grander scale. The series has pondered the idea and received input from various teams over the last five months.

And stand-alone events for both series were specifically chosen for logistics sake as the sanctioning body evaluates the new format.

## PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

### This Week’s Racing News



**David Ragan to run Daytona 500 for Rick Ware Racing**  
David Ragan, who retired from full-time Cup Series competition following the 2019 season, announced that he will be running the season-opening Daytona 500 for Rick Ware Racing in the #36 Select Blinds Mustang.

### AdventHealth expands sponsorship at Ganassi

AdventHealth, one of the nation’s largest faith-based health systems, continues to expand its relationship with Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) by once again teaming up with Kyle Larson on the No. 42 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 for two races during the 2020 season. AdventHealth is also teaming up with Florida-native Ross Chastain on the No. 77 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, prepared by CGR, in conjunction with Spire Motorsports, for starts at the Daytona 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

### All-Time Top Driver’s Bio



**Bobby Allison**  
Born: Dec. 3, 1937  
Cup wins: 84  
Cup top-tens: 446  
Cup championships: 1

During the course of his career, Bobby Allison accumulated 84 victories, making him fourth all-time, tied with Darrell Waltrip, including three victories at the Daytona 500 in 1978, 1982 and 1988. In 1972 he was voted national Driver of the Year for winning ten races and taking 11 poles (including a record 5 straight) and again in 1983 when he claimed his only championship. On June 19, 1988, Allison was almost killed, suffering massive head injuries in a crash at Pocono Raceway which forced his retirement from driving in NASCAR. In 1992, his younger son, Clifford Allison, died in a practice crash for the NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Michigan International Speedway. Allison was elected to the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1993. Bobby Allison was a car owner for numerous drivers from 1990 to 1996, most notably Mike Alexander, Hut Stricklin, Jimmy Spencer, and Derrike Cope.

### Racing History

**January 16, 1949** - Marshall Teague won the opening race of the NASCAR season by driving his 1939 Ford to the win in the Nascar modified division race. Only 38 of the 75 cars that started the event finish the race. Teague competed in 23 NASCAR Grand National races from 1949 to 1952, winning seven of them.

### Racing Trivia

Who is the youngest driver to win the Daytona 500?

- a) Kyle Larson      c) Trevor Bayne
- b) Jamie McMurray      d) David Ragan

**Answer:** (c) Trevor Bayne, at 20 years and one day old, became the youngest Daytona 500 winner ever when he won in 2011.

“It’s somewhat of a departure from what we do today, so we wanted to dip our toe in the water and do a deliberate, strategic approach to implementing it and getting a look at it,” Peterson said.

He acknowledged the new rules bolster strategy and said he is encouraged by the competitive possibilities.

“The reason for limiting what they can do on each pit stop is so that we have the opportunity to have differing tire strategies,” Peterson said. “So if we had it where they can do whatever they want on each pit stop, then that would not allow us the opportunity to get different restart scenarios based on what you elected to do between two tires and four tires at an oval or four tires on the road courses.

“That decision was basically purely based off incentivizing the teams to make different strategy plays.”

David Pepper, the general manager of the ThorSport Racing team that just won a NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series championship with driver Matt Crafton echoed the same positive sentiment as Pemberton, confident the new rules will create another element of competitive zeal. And, perhaps help bring up the competition level across the grid.

“We’ve leveled the playing field and I think you’re going to see a lot of really good stories from a lot of really good race car drivers that are out there and that are going to have an opportunity to go run in the top five and go run in the top 10,” Pepper said. “And it’s going to create stories and names that maybe aren’t household names that you see every single week and it’s just going to make the competition better.”

And, he added, “We want to go to the racetrack and have 15, 20 teams that have an opportunity to get a top-five finish or compete for a win or a solid finish. That’s just going to make it more exciting for the fans, both at the track and watching on TV.

“At the end goal, if Monday it’s a buzz on social media and all of you folks that we had a great event and what a fantastic race it was the day before, then we’ve all done our jobs and we’ve put out a great product and had a great race.”

The 2020 NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series begins at Daytona International Speedway on Friday, Feb. 14 followed by the NASCAR Xfinity Series on Saturday, Feb. 15 and the season’s NASCAR Cup Series opener, the Daytona 500 on Feb. 16.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSS-WORD

THEME: MOVIE CHARACTERS

ACROSS  
1. CuraAao neighbor  
6. Lungful  
9. Not on a rolling stone  
13. British unemployment checks

14. Schiller's famous poem, e.g.  
15. "Will comply" in radio communication  
16. Opposite of liability  
17. Napoleon Bonaparte or Louis Vuitton, e.g.  
18. Embedded design  
19. \*Teen with telescopic powers  
21. \*Adventurous professor with fear of snakes  
23. \*He played it in "Casablanca"  
24. Sign of escape  
25. Steampunk decoration  
28. Thanksgiving tubers  
30. Fear of flying, e.g.  
35. Bun baker  
37. "CliffsNotes," e.g.  
39. Bound by oath  
40. Nay, to a baby  
41. Bread spreads  
43. \*She takes on PG&E  
44. Sacrificial spot  
46. Wedding promise?  
47. Not yet final  
48. Eats between meals  
50. Blood-related problem  
52. Ship pronoun  
53. Diamond's corner  
55. Be obliged  
57. Name before X  
61. \*Orphan who wanted more gruel  
64. Love between AbElard and HEloOse  
65. Pitching stat  
67. Nostrils, anatomically speaking  
69. Pine  
70. Fleur-de-\_\_\_\_  
71. Novelist Wharton  
72. \*Adopted orphan of Green Gables  
73. Auction set  
74. Like a disreputable neighborhood

DOWN  
1. Palindromic title  
2. CISC alternative  
3. \*Female Superman foe alongside General Zod  
4. Afrikaners' ancestors  
5. Off course  
6. First-rate  
7. Nuptial agreement  
8. Version of a song  
9. Mr. Bean's ride  
10. Paella pot  
11. Diagnostic test  
12. Bean that rhymes with Goya  
15. Distance from side to side, pl.  
20. Insect in adult stage  
22. Tiny bite  
24. Most vital part  
25. \*A barbarian  
26. Convex molding  
27. Ladies and \_\_\_\_\_, for short  
29. \*a.k.a. The Mayor of Castro Street  
31. \*Hutch actor in 2004's "Starsky & Hutch"

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- 32. \*Famous Frankenstein portrayer
- 33. Like Michael Collins
- 34. \*One of Miss Hannigan's orphans
- 36. \*Russell Crowe's Biblical role
- 38. \_\_\_\_\_ of the trade
- 42. Bar seat
- 45. Type of realistic baby doll
- 49. \*Pizzeria owner in "Do the Right Thing"
- 51. Strings
- 54. Olfactory sensation
- 56. Avoid
- 57. Poet Angelou
- 58. Flock's affirmation
- 59. Bank's provision
- 60. Dry or salt
- 61. Brewer's kiln
- 62. Great Lake
- 63. Retired, shortened
- 66. Spanish river
- 68. Like a wallflower

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FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

**0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS<sup>1</sup>**

FOR CURRENT GM OWNERS

OR **\$6,500 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>**

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FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

**0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS<sup>1</sup>**

FOR CURRENT GM OWNERS

OR **\$3,750 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>4</sup>**

**+\$500 CASH ALLOWANCE**

ON MOST MODELS WHEN YOU FINANCE WITH GM FINANCIAL<sup>3</sup>

## 2020 TRAX



FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

**0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS<sup>1</sup>**

FOR CURRENT GM OWNERS

OR **\$3,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>**

**+\$500 CASH ALLOWANCE**

WHEN YOU FINANCE WITH GM FINANCIAL<sup>3</sup>

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FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

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ON MOST MODELS<sup>5</sup>

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## MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261
2007	HARLEY DAVIDSON	SCREAMING EAGLE	20,600
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160

## VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093

## BUS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2006	Ford	E-450 Cutaway	79,793

## PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

### CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,013
1972	Chevrolet	Corvette	97,171
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	16,113
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze	12,329
2000	Chevrolet	Impala	183,000
2013	Chevrolet	Impala	118,535
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,214
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,217
2015	Chevrolet	Spark	66,107
2016	Chrysler	200	85,081
2016	Dodge	Challenger	18,663
2002	Ford	Escort	168,244
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655
2015	Kia	Optima	68,620
2005	Mazda	Mazda3	206,231
2007	Nissan	Altima	123,631
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499
2007	Saturn	Aura	240,550
2017	Subaru	Forester	24,993
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,193
2018	Toyota	Camry	38,067
2001	Toyota	Camry Solara	228,066
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655
2018	Kia	Soul	38,421
2018	Kia	Soul	38,769
2019	Nissan	Altima	38,809
2019	Nissan	Altima	39,510
2018	Subaru	Legacy	38,987
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,005

### TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2010	Chevrolet	Colorado	123,451
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	11,611
2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	116,631
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	29,732
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	135,042
2013	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	63,197
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	136,372
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	101,181
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707
2013	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	190,390
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317
2011	Ford	F-150	133,397
2019	Ford	F-150	35,396
2015	Ford	F-250	77,233
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376
2015	RAM	1500	60,512
2017	RAM	2500	45,436
2014	RAM	3500	81,954
2019	Nissan	Frontier	20,930
2019	Nissan	Frontier	28,173
2019	Ford	Ranger	24,306

### SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2009	Buick	Enclave	204,640
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	82,313
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	15,869
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	70,915
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,465
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	19,518
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	60,022
2013	Ford	Escape	148,977
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433
2011	GMC	Yukon	126,654
2014	Hyundai	Santa Fe	99,623
2019	Hyundai	Santa Fe	31,168
2018	Hyundai	Santa Fe Sport	39,474
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	16,498
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	14,489
2017	Kia	Sportage	24,309
2018	Mercedes-Benz	GLE 350	7,253
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408
2017	Nissan	Rogue	26,502
2018	Ford	Explorer	37,229
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,504
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	12,130
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,725
2019	Dodge	Durango	26,228
2018	Dodge	Journey	39,794
2018	Dodge	Journey	38,106
2018	Ford	Edge	40,249
2019	Ford	Expedition	42,804
2019	Infinity	QX60	33,320
2018	Nissan	Murano	37,947
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	37,120
2018	Nissan	Rogue	42,296
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	36,888
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,496
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,150