



CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, February 13

4:30 pm

Macon County Public Library



Franklin High School students voted for their favorite candidates to be named Mr. & Ms. FHS 2020 choosing Alex Emma Torres and Jesus Torres for the titles. The two were crowned at the annual dance in the FHS gym flanked by the court also chosen by the students. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Ellen Randall

Parents plead for board to restore arts education

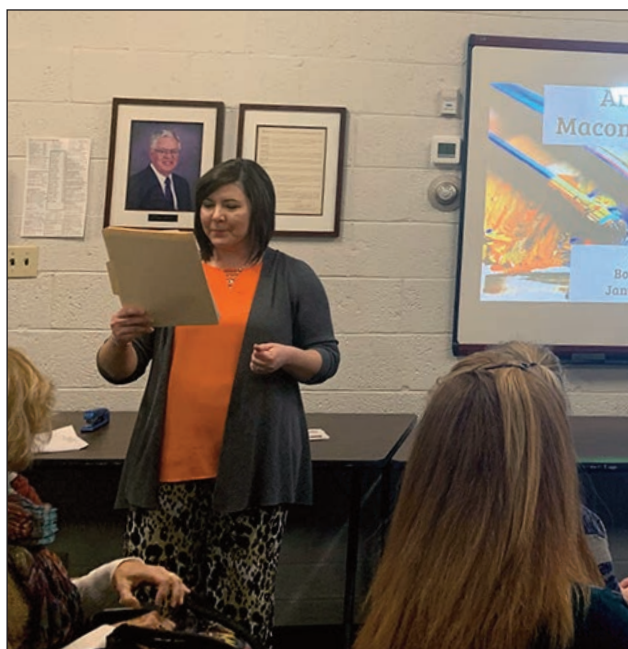
Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Macon Middle School hasn't provided art classes for students in nearly a decade. Three years ago, the middle school lost its chorus position – not because there aren't qualified individuals for the position, but because the school district made the decision to use those funds elsewhere in the budget.

Members of the community lined the walls outside of the Macon County Board of Education meeting room on Monday night, all waiting to plead with board members to re-invest in the school district's arts education.

"Having arts in the schools is instrumental for our students' development," said Maggie Jennings, a Macon County Schools parent. "From helping with their mental health to putting them in the same level as children across the state, even the country, our students need... no, they deserve

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Maggie Jennings implores the Macon County School Board to restore arts in the schools.

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ARTS IN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

the arts.”

Jennings was joined by another parent, Sarah O’Neal, who spoke on behalf of a grassroots movement referred to as ARTS for MCS. The group has been brainstorming ways to get art education classes back into schools and on Monday night came armed with a three-year proposal which included adding seven art and music classes, building a new Fine Arts Center at Franklin High School, and purchasing modular units for two overcrowded elementary schools who are slated to lose the space they currently have dedicated for art and music.

Jennings and O’Neal presented board members with a request to fund a part time arts coordinator for Macon County Schools in the coming fiscal year. In addition to a program coordinator, the group asked for new positions for both art and music on the elementary level, an art position at Macon Middle School, and afterschool chorus class for elementary students, and for the district to commit to providing well-equipped programs with supplies to be able to provide art and music to students.

Macon County Schools currently does not provide art or music classes for preschool classes, something ARTS for MCS wants to see change as part of their three-year vision.

The group also advocated on behalf of Union Academy, the county’s alternative school, which does not provide music or art opportunities to students.

Providing statistics on how music and art impact a child’s overall educational experience and academic success, Jennings’ implored board members to take the presentation into the school district’s budget planning process and prioritize their request.

Another focus of the presentation was on how Cartoogechaye and East Franklin Elementary are slated to lose the classroom they have dedicated for art and music in the next year or so due to mandated legislation.

“The North Carolina Legislature has mandated smaller class sizes and for us to be able to do that, we will need extra classrooms to put those teachers to be able to lower the class sizes,” said Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “So at East Franklin and Cartoogechaye, that will be in the music/art room.”

Jennings noted that since they are losing the dedicated classroom space, both East Franklin and Cartoogechaye will still have art and music once a week, one the first semester and the other the second half of the year, but the art and music teacher will be on a cart that travels from room to room.

Macon County Board Chairman Jim Breedlove said that the presentation would be considered during the budget planning process, which is just beginning.



Macon County Schools parents Maggie Jennings (L) and Sarah O’Neal spoke on behalf of a grassroots movement known as ARTS for MCS at Monday night’s school board meeting.



SCC hosting ‘Nonprofit Summit’

Southwestern Community College is offering a workshop to provide local nonprofit organizations with the tools they need to support their services and achieve long-term success.

The Small Business Center at SCC will host a “Nonprofit Summit” from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the Burrell Building on SCC’s Jackson Campus.

Nonprofit experts from both Jackson and Macon counties will be leading seminars for the day.

“There will be a total of 10 speakers representing five different organizations with more than 150 years of combined experience in the nonprofit world,” said Tiffany Henry, Director of SCC’s Small Business Center. “You’ll learn the creative ideas and strategies you’ll need to accelerate change and have a greater impact.”

Workshop topics include donor relations, board and staff development, communications, stakeholder engagement, marketing and more.

Featured speakers include Michele Garashi-Ellick, Executive Director of the

Tiffany Henry, director of SCC’s Small Business Center, speaks with attendees at a recent workshop.

Great Smokies Health Foundation in Sylva, and Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation. Garashi-Ellick has more than 30 years of nonprofit experience, with Woods bringing 20 years of experience to the workshop, respectively.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for local nonprofits to network and learn,” said Woods. “Getting a full day of training from experienced professionals for free is a rare opportunity.”

Participation is free and lunch will be provided. Preregistration is required: <http://bit.ly/nonprofitsummitSBC>. Prospective attendees are encouraged to register a week in advance.

For more information about any of the services and seminars offered by SCC’s Small Business Center, contact Henry at t_henry@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4426.



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Adams takes chief position in Waynesville

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

When Waynesville Police Department announced their new police chief last week, Franklin officials were caught by surprise.

“Town Manager Robert Hilts announced that he has appointed David P. Adams as Waynesville’s Chief of Police. Mr. Adams is currently serving as Chief of Police for the town of Franklin,” read the news release circulating around Western North Carolina last Thursday morning.

“We are still talking about what we are going to do next and plan to have more information at the next board meeting,” Mayor Bob Scott said. “This came as kind of a surprise to us so we are still figuring it out.”

Chief Adams came to Franklin eight years ago when Terry Bradley retired after 18 years of service to the town of Franklin.

“I appreciate all the support that the town of Franklin and the residents have given me over the last eight years, this is all bittersweet,” Chief Adams said. “Franklin is such a great place to live and I wish them all the best.”

Chief Adams said that he is confident in the police staff



Franklin Police Chief David Adams has taken a position as police chief for the town of Waynesville.

that he is leaving at the department and said they have “several capable individuals who can lead the department how it needs to be done.”

Adams said the support from local business and veterans organizations he has seen over the last eight years has been invaluable and has helped the department purchase needed equipment and to help grow the department.

Adams was one of 32 candidates who applied for the Waynesville Police Chief position and noted that the new position is a tremendous opportunity for his career.

The Waynesville Police Department is larger than Franklin and will be a new adventure for Adams professionally.

“My proudest accomplishment in Franklin is the career development we have prioritized over the last eight years,” he said. “From advanced law enforcement certificates, to specialized training, the staff has been able to engage in career development that will benefit the entire town.”

Chief Adams’ last day with the town of Franklin will be Feb. 14, giving Franklin officials a couple of weeks to decide on an interim police chief.

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'A Serious Look at Our Local English' reveals distinct Appalachian vernacular

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Stacy Guffey can trace his heritage in the Appalachian Mountains back at least seven generations, he explained during his presentation for the Jan. 20th "Speaker Series" at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center where he is director. From a young age, Appalachian English, or "mountain talk," as it is often called, has fascinated Guffey. Thus, the topic of the presentation, "A Serious Look at Our Local English," was both personal and academic.

"I'm not a linguist, but I've been studying language since I was a teenager," he said. "It's always been a real interest of mine."

By researching maps, family dialects, and historical accounts of language, he pieced together an informative and visual lecture that drew a diverse crowd to the "Speaker Series" that is offered monthly at Cowee School.

Although titled "A Serious Look . . .," Guffey introduced the presentation with a humorous story – and then proceeded to sprinkle throughout general light-hearted observations regarding Appalachian language.

He explained initially that his grandfather never learned to drive a car, so when Guffey obtained his driver's license as a teenager, "Granddaddy" wanted to travel in the car whenever an opportunity arose.

"One time we were coming up from Columbia, South Carolina, and we stopped at a convenience store and purchased two Sprites and Granddaddy said, "Put my dope in the poke." Guffey said he had to explain to the bewildered cashier that the "Cokes" needed to be placed into a bag. [The term "dope" was used as a slang term for Coke at one time because Coca-Cola included traces of cocaine due to the original recipe involving an extract of the coca leaf, used to make cocaine, which was not harmful in small doses and used for medicinal purposes.]

Guffey said a "Pop vs. Soda" map reveals much when considering regional differences in phrases and language. He showed the audience a map, the result of a 400,000 person survey, which conveys that most people in the Appalachian Mountains refer to all brands of soda as "Coke."

Webster's dictionary defines the word "dialect" as "a regional variety of language distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation from other regional varieties and constituting together with them a single language."

Guffey pointed out that the way words are sometimes pronounced in the Appalachian Mountains originated with settlers to



A younger Stacy Guffey with his late grandfather Robert Guffey (center) and his father, Jerry Guffey.

the area who often immigrated from countries in the United Kingdom. For example:

- fire – pronounced "far"
- wash – pronounced "warsh"
- ocrea – pronounced "ocree"

"And that dialect did – and does – often vary from person to person and family to family," he said. "There is wide geographical distribution."

Another commonality is adding "st" to the end of some words; across becomes "acrosst" and once becomes "oncest."

Plus, the common mountain talk expression of "pre-fixing" results in adding "a" to words, as well as dropping the "g" in "ing" suffix words: "a-cryin'," "a-fishin'," "a-changin'."

Other commonalities are such expressions as: "Born on the wrong side of the blanket" or "Nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs." Also, there is sometimes a comfort level with using what an English teacher would instruct are double, triple, or even quadruple negatives, such as this comment: "I ain't never seed no men folk of no kind do no warshing." Or nouns are turned into

verbs: "He's out squirreling." Verbs are sometimes created out of nouns: "I seed him coming before I heard him."

Airy and nary are also old speech constructions from colonial times. "Do you have airy shovel? I ain't got nary one."

Guffey shared a quote referencing a Western Carolina University 2016 study on how Appalachian English is still viable, but is being replaced as more people move into the area and newer generations are influenced by television and social media culture: "Vocabulary varies mainly by sub-region within Appalachia or by the age or "ruralness" of the speaker. More modern, national terms have been rapidly displacing older, rural counterparts, especially among younger inhabitants. A recent study of students . . . found a dramatic loss of regional vocabulary; for instance, living room, gutters, mantel, and attic had completely replaced big house, eaves trough, fireboard, and loft.

"Vocabulary is continually becoming more standardized. But it is and has been slower to change in the mountains."

He pointed out that one of the reasons for abandoning mountain talk is that "for a century and a half now, Appalachian English has been stigmatized But people shouldn't be ashamed of it because it's just an older form of standard English. Still in my family, we use "you-ins," which has been eclipsed locally by "ya'll." Research shows that people might still use you-ins at home and ya'll in less formal situations and 'you all' in more formal situations."

Guffey said his intention for the presentation was two-fold, to clear up misconceptions about mountain talk's origins, and to show the importance of preserving it as part of local history.

"There is social pressure to use standard English in certain situations, but my hope is that people still use [mountain talk] at home, and that the younger generation will record or write down words and sayings so that the mountain talk isn't completely lost. Some of it will be, but we can preserve some of it and pass it down and be proud of it. It's a window into our past. A connection with our ancestors."

He added later after the presentation: "I feel fortunate to have been around grandparents and great-grandparents to learn the heritage and the talk. I have one son and three grandchildren. It's funny because my oldest grandchild was riding in the truck with me the other day. She said something about the police, and added, "Or, as you would say it, the 'po-lice.' Why do you talk the way you do?" I just laughed."

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Job Fair set for Feb. 7 at library

The Macon County NCWorks Career Center will hold a job fair on Friday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library.

According to Paula Alter, Career Center Manager for the Macon, Jackson and Swain County centers, this is the first of five job fairs planned for Macon County residents in 2020.

“We are delighted to have some new employers, along with previous job seeker favorites, in our line-up for this event,” said Alter. “This year will also feature three specialty job fairs in the areas of reentry (justice-involved), 55-plus age group and veterans. We are looking forward to making more successful job-seeker and employer matches in 2020.”

Job seekers are encouraged to bring an updated resume and dress for an interview. Any job seeker needing resume assistance is encouraged to visit the Macon County NCWorks Career Center, 23 Macon Avenue, prior to the hiring event and a career advisor will assist in developing a winning resume.

Participating employers include: Mountain Projects, Webster Enterprises, Foxfire Heating & Cooling, Julep Farms, Macon Program for Progress, Mountain Retreat and

Learning Center, U.S. Census, Chick-fil-A (Clayton, Ga.), Comfort Keepers, Old Edwards Inn, Grandview Manor, Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, Macon County Senior Services, Macon County DSS, LBJ Job Corp, Aramark, Old Edwards Inn, Drake Enterprises, Beasley Flooring, Harrah’s Cherokee and Valley River Casinos and Macon County Transit.

A special highlight of the day will be the presence of the NCWorks ROVER Mobile Career Center (Regional Outreach Vehicle for Engagement and Resources) which will host a U.S. Census Job Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the library parking area. NCWorks career center staff will also be on hand to assist.

Those with transportation issues to the library are encouraged to take advantage of Macon Transit’s Mountain Gem route which makes routine stops at the library. Charge for this route is \$1 one-way. More information on this route may be found online at www.macontransit.org/routes.html.

Additional information on the job fair or NCWorks Career Center services may be obtained by visiting the Franklin career center, calling (828)369-9534 or visiting www.ncworks.gov.

Public comment period opening for NCDOT’s Division 14 projects

Area residents will get a chance to provide input on what transportation projects they would like to see included in the next North Carolina Department of Transportation’s 10-Year transportation plan for 2023-2032.

With a goal of increasing safety, reducing congestion and promoting economic growth, NCDOT uses data and local input to determine which projects get funded in the 10-year plan based on a specific formula created by the Strategic Transportation Investments law. It allows NCDOT to use its funding more efficiently to enhance North Carolina’s infrastructure while supporting economic growth, job creation and a higher quality of life.

A statewide 30-day public comment period to submit project ideas is being held through Feb. 28. During this period, the public can send project suggestions in a short, interactive survey found on the 2023-2032 STIP web page.

Also, a three-day open house will be held at NCDOT Division 14 headquarters at 253 Webster Road in Sylva for in-person input about potential projects in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Swain and Transylvania counties. Interested residents can attend the open house during regular business hours on Feb. 4-6 to get a chance to submit transportation project ideas and talk with NCDOT staff.

Residents who can’t attend the open house can still be part of the process by contacting Steve Williams of the Division 14 office at

sjwilliams@ncdot.gov; NCDOT Division 14, 253 Webster Road, Sylva, NC 28779; or (828) 586-2141 during the 30-day comment period.

Projects can be as large-scale as an interstate improvement or as small as a new turn lane or intersection improvement. Projects can be for any mode of transportation, including Highway, Aviation, Bicycle & Pedestrian, Ferry, Public Transportation, and Rail. Please note that the comment period is not for maintenance-related projects such as patching potholes, resurfacing, or ditches. NCDOT uses a different method to prioritize maintenance projects.

NCDOT Division 14 will also collect input from local transportation planning organizations and from its own staff as it puts together its list of potential projects. Project scores and a draft statewide mobility project list are expected to be released by March 2021. Another public comment period regarding regional impact projects will be held in Spring 2021, with the same process taking place for division-level projects in Fall 2021.

The 2023-2032 draft STIP will be released in February 2022, with approval by the Board of Transportation in the summer. Projects scheduled in the first six years are considered committed, while projects in the final four years of the draft 10-year plan will be re-evaluated again as part of the next STIP development process. More information on the STIP development process can be found on the NCDOT STIP website.

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Hosted by Democratic Women of Macon County

Part II: Democratic commissioner candidates

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Last week, The Macon County News featured the Republican candidates for the Macon County Board of Commissioners. The March 3 primary election will feature two Democrats on the ballot, both hoping to get the majority of votes to be able to appear on the November ballot for District II of the Macon County Commission.

Olga Lampkin

Olga Lampkin moved to Franklin to be near her aging parents, to spend more time with them and assist them as they age, and because she believes it's a much better environment in which to raise her youngest son. Lampkin was born and raised in the Redlands, a rural, south Florida agriculture-based community. She is the mother of two boys, ages 12 and 24. She has four cats, two dogs, and numerous chickens and roosters. She grows a large garden, and cans, dries and ferments what she grows so that her family and friends can enjoy it year-round.

Since moving to North Carolina in 2015, Lampkin has worked for Coward, Hicks & Siler in Sylva, handling a wide variety of issues, including DOT condemnation defense cases, miscellaneous civil litigation, estate planning, and real estate. Lampkin has worked for law offices since 1990 in south and central Florida (1990-2001), central California (2001-2015) and North Carolina (2015-present). In Florida, the offices Lampkin worked for handled real estate matters while the offices in California mostly handled water rights cases, civil litigation and estate planning, and represented municipalities.

Lampkin serves on the board of directors as secretary of The Canary Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for clean air.

"I truly think Macon County is a great place," Lampkin said. "I chose to live here, built a house, and plan to stay. I want to be a part of keeping Macon County great, but even great things have room for improvement. That being said, I certainly don't want Macon County to be like any of the counties where I have previously lived; I left those places for a reason. I like to be busy, I like to be involved, and I want to give back to my community."

Betty Cloer Wallace

Betty Cloer Wallace made her living as a tree farmer planting 14,000 native hardwood seedlings and wildlife preservationist after she retired from education and government. As a member of 6th generation Macon County farm family, Wallace received a B.S. in English and Art from California State University at Humboldt, her M.A. in Education from University of North Carolina, her Ed.S. in Administration from Western Carolina University and Ed.D. in Administration from University of Georgia.

Wallace previously served as the Associate Superintendent of Macon County Schools and the director of Western Regional Education Center. Her career in education is extensive, also serving as superintendent of Vance County Schools (15 schools, 1,100 employees) as well as Deputy

Assistant State Superintendent for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wallace was also a U.S. Department of Education Fellow in Washington, DC and former Associate Superintendent for the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. Wallace has also had a career in secondary education, serving as an Adjunct Professor at Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College.

She has served on numerous boards and commissions for industrial recruitment and school facilities planning in Macon County and Western North Carolina. In her free time, Wallace writes and is the

author of "Poisoned Apple, the Bell-Curve Crisis" as well as Tuckasegee Chronicles, a historical novel set in Little Tennessee River Valley.

Although she has not held an elected position in Macon County, Wallace does have political experience. Wallace was elected to two terms as State Secretary of the N.C. Democratic Party and has served on the State Democratic Executive Committee and State Executive Council. Wallace was the first woman in North Carolina to run for U.S. Senate and first ran for Macon County Board of Commissioners in 2018.

"My lifelong experience and credentials in public service have been a lifetime of preparation for serving as a Macon County Commissioner," said Wallace. "I want to work toward practical and sustainable change and to up-end the top-down three-person voting bloc that has controlled our Board of Commissioners for many years. We must change our current status quo economic and social trajectory if we want to keep our young families here. I'm an advocate for a strong multi-party system to maintain balance in our local government as in all other areas of our lives. At the moment, Macon County is clearly out of balance, clearly lop-sided toward the "tea party" far right while a contingent of far left "progressives"

pull in the opposite direction. This extreme divergence on both extremes of our local political spectrum has split our local political parties into five distinct factions, which is hurting our ability to sustain a moderate common ground in local government that we need, and must have, to move forward as a county."

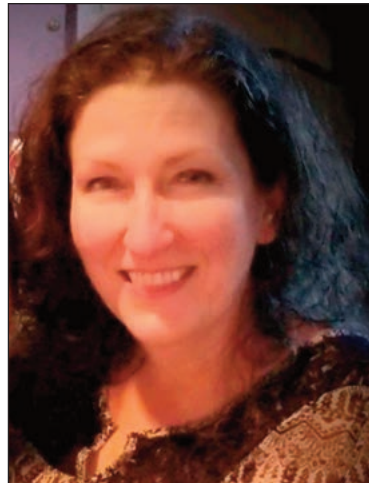
Questions to candidates as they were asked and answered. Edits were made for clarity and length.

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing Macon County

and how would you address it if elected?

Lampkin: "I think funding public education is important, but that is addressed separately. County commissioners should represent the people, not a personal agenda, so the issues that are important to me are not as relevant as the issues that are important to the other Macon County residents. Like so many others, though, I think opioids and meth are the scourge of our county. I am interested in analyzing what measures have been tried in the past, and to help us take new steps forward toward some level of success. Also, there is an obvious need for employment opportunities, but incentives are needed to encourage businesses to move to our county. The monopolies created by Duke and Frontier are appalling, and their poor customer service needs to be corrected. On a county level, the way to address that is just like on a personal level: repeated, forceful contact moving up through the business hierarchy."

Wallace: "Jobs that pay a living wage and benefits so that we can stop the exodus of our young families is vital; therefore, an aggressive plan for economic development is crucial. Putting all our eggs in the tourism basket helps some residents, but is unsustainable for most residents. Our poverty rate (30%), median income (\$39,000), needy and declining schools, children in low-income households (58%), a growing homeless population, reduced hospital and health care facilities, lack of affordable housing, lack of broadband internet access, and growing crime statistics related to drug trafficking are seriously affecting our lives and economy, since those are the main factors that prospective businesses and industries look at beyond a potential workforce. Potential employers analyzing such data are not impressed with our sporadic support for education, our "welfare queen" numbers, our crime statistics, our 'dollar store' economy, or our lack of broadband internet access and expansion. Macon County has fallen into a downward economic spiral as a number of large industries have closed and as a succession of storefronts are boarded up. We should develop clear and



Olga Lampkin



Betty Cloer Wallace

forthright industrial recruitment presentations and packages, and aggressively contact a large number and range of businesses and industries through industrial associations and commercial realtors to try to entice divisions or even headquarters to locate here. We can certainly offer tax incentives and negotiate long leases, but we should quit deeding away plots of our prime county-owned commercial land to private companies that thrive for a while, then sell the property and move elsewhere. As for our lack of economic growth, we have concentrated on development of Main Street

Franklin, the Macon Airport, recreational parks (even an expensive dog park), and retirement havens, rather than devising and carrying out a long-range plan for development of the by-pass and major arteries leading into Franklin, namely the Sylva Road and Georgia Road, and to a lesser extent the Highlands and Bryson City Roads. Thus, our tendency is toward consumerism rather than production, and it is not sustainable.”

Public Education: *Commissioners are faced with more and more requests for public education funding. What is your stance on the county's role in funding public education? Do you think the current levels are adequate or do you think they should be increased/decreased?*

Lampkin: “I think the county should do everything it reasonably can to increase funding for public education. It may be trite to say, ‘I believe the children are our future,’ but they are. It behooves us all as adults, as the people who make decisions, as the people who can do something, to provide all possible opportunities to allow our children (and all Macon County children truly are “our” children, collectively) to reach their full potentials. For most families, our children spend more waking hours at school with their teachers, than they do at home with their parents. Just as our children deserve opportunities, our schools and our teachers deserve access to the finances and funding that will allow them to better serve our children. Our children deserve more, and our schools and teachers deserve more.”

I have been involved in the Macon County arts movement. The problem is that we have a small set of finances from taxes that goes to pay for many teachers’ salaries, school supplies, personnel, programs, and so on. We need to generate new revenue streams, and be willing to discuss how partnerships between private businesses and public schools can develop relationships that benefit the whole community. We also need to be more thoughtful about how to spend the available resources.”

Wallace: “County commissioners are responsible for providing adequate school facilities, while the state and local school boards are responsible for operation of the schools, albeit our local school board is often reduced to begging our county commissioners for additional funding simply to stay afloat, which is not a pretty sight. Together, these two boards and ‘we the people’ have a moral obli-

gation to our children and grandchildren to do better, to provide schools that give every young person the best chance for a successful future. It is disgraceful that our students do not have basic instructional materials and that teachers are forced to beg for financial assistance and to spend their own money for basic student needs. It is disgraceful that the Macon Middle School was allowed to become leaky and moldy and not maintained up to standard for 40 years. It is disgraceful that 58% of our children live in homes below the poverty level, that the majority of our students qualify for free and reduced price meals (including the entire East Franklin School), and that many other families are humiliated every year when they cannot afford to pay for meals for their children. It is unfortunate that we have consolidated our elementary schools so that the majority of young students are taken out of their home communities and must commute long weary miles elsewhere. I don’t know of many adults who would suffer through such long hours of busing to get to their workplace every day, but yet our children are forced to do it. It is disgraceful that decisions have not already been made, years ago, about the future of facilities at Nantahala, Highlands, and Franklin High School in a fair and equitable manner. We spend far too much time plugging holes rather than planning and setting priorities.

As our state legislature continues its juggernaut toward privatization of our public schools, we cannot simply blame the state for cutting our funds. As a county, we must fill the gap to the degree that we can financially do so, right here at home, and go even beyond the basic essentials to the degree that we can afford it. For starters, we can use local funds for all necessary supplies and instructional materials not provided by the state, and we as a county can certainly pay for meals for students who are currently paying for them in part or full, often with great difficulty. Would adults be happy going to their jobs without adequate tools and meals? In the whole scheme of our county’s total finances, paying for school supplies and meals for our children is not a large item. We could initiate long-range planning to decentralize our large elementary schools and return students to smaller community schools, while at the same time plan for reconditioning our middle and high school facilities, bringing them up to standard and expanding them. It would take time to decentralize, but that’s what long-range planning is for. And we should really look at restructuring the grade-level offerings at each school level, which is actually not as formidable as it might seem if done in conjunction with facilities planning. Macon County already has adequate funding resources for most of our educational needs if the county commissioners would plan ahead and set priorities with educational needs at the top, rather than continue to engage in authoritarian knee-jerk piecemeal governance by ad hoc special interests. Our basic education needs should supersede all other aspects of our county finances, if we expect to meet our moral obli-


gations and prepare our children for a future here in Macon County or elsewhere, depending on what they want to learn and do. Having the basic education to allow for choices is the most important legacy we can provide for our children.”

Macon County is in the middle of a large space needs analysis project to address infrastructure needs. What are your thoughts on the current direction the county is taking to address these issues?

Lampkin: “Most road repairs and upgrades are handled by DOT. Ideally, DOT would consider the actual communities in which it seeks to address infrastructure needs. However, I’m involved in the Highway 107 projects in Sylva and know firsthand that DOT drawings and projects are prepared by people who seemingly have no idea what would be beneficial for the communities. We need to be proactive with DOT from early stages of projects to ensure that our needs are being taken into consideration and met. As a community, we need to be open to new ideas, even if they might take some getting used to. For instance, I support the installation of the traffic circles in Franklin. They are ‘difficult’ because they are new and uncommon but, if used properly, they will ease traffic congestion at the intersections where they were installed. I also support putting utilities lines underground. Not only would it cut down on power and phone outages caused by downed trees, but it would be more pleasing to the eye.”

Wallace: “The \$300,000 ‘space needs’ study recently completed was preordained to fit our existing programs and services – except for promotion of a new and wildly expensive courthouse and detention center. School facilities were not included in the study; therefore, the study was actually not a study of our comprehensive needs but a rubber stamp of the status quo and special interests. We do need a review of our comprehensive needs, along with projected costs for each capital item, but not another study to justify special interest projects. We should set priorities for the entire county and continually review them, including long-range planning for a civic center large and complex enough to house high school graduations and events such as arts and crafts fairs, gun shows, automobile shows, and assorted conferences. We should put money into our schools (both facilities and operation) and services for the growing population of retirees, rather than continuing to expand recreation, entertainment, and the airport; and every large project requiring large expenditures and ongoing maintenance should be decided by public referendum, by a direct vote of the people, fully participatory and fully transparent.”

Voters will have a chance to meet both Democratic and Republican candidates for Macon County Commissioner on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Macon County Public Library beginning at 4:30. The candidate forum that will feature a Q&A with commissioner candidates and will also have introduction from candidates running for various offices including District Court Judge and Congress.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Sallie and I visited our 'beltway kids' in Washington this past weekend. It is always good to leave Highlands for a while and see what other folks are doing. Well, I suppose comparisons of Highlands to Washington, DC are a stretch, but let me give it a try.

First on my agenda, after our initial visit with our son and daughter-in-law, was to get a haircut. By a series of unfortunate events, I had missed that opportunity for several weeks, so I was overdue.

I got a tip that one of the best barbershops in DC, Diego's, was near our hotel. We walked to the barbershop and found Diego himself cutting hair and holding court. Diego is one of those people who are blessed in loving what they do. It was full on Saturday morning, but the wait was short. As I got my haircut, I saw on the walls a bipartisan collection of autographed photographs of congressmen, senators and presidents who had visited this barbershop. I realized I was getting a genuine "Washington elite" haircut.

So if you see me around town in the next few days and notice I look slick and trim, just remember I am sporting a DC haircut. Now will it make me think smarter or dumber as an elected official? The cost was the same as in Highlands so I just don't know.

One evening we had an early dinner in downtown Washington. When we finished and walked back on the street it was dark. Oh, it looked like Gatlinburg or Las Vegas! There were white lights on all the trees on the street. The illuminated trees were well done and added a special feeling to the winter streetscape. If it is good at our nation's capital, maybe it would work in downtown Highlands, too?

I noticed in downtown DC there were numerous electric scooters and electric bicycles available to rent. My son showed me an app on his phone that allowed him to rent a scooter or bike. While I don't see scooters in Highlands, electric bicycles are already here and will probably increase. They could become an alternative for some to riding around town in automobiles, even electric cars.

In my children's neighborhood outside of Washington I noticed work in progress on something we are doing in Highlands. Like Highlands, fiber optic cables were being installed on all the streets. The building of these fiber networks are taking place across the nation. Our \$4.6 million construction project will serve Highlands well for years to come. The cost will be recuperated over the years of operation.

A related issue that Highlands, as well as almost every community in the country, is grappling with its workforce/affordable housing. Our housing issues can't compare to the problem in the Washington area. The rent and commute distances our children face in DC are staggering by comparison.

Correction: I gave out the Highlands Police Department phone number instead of the Macon County Non-Emergency Number. The correct number is 526-4131.

Letters to the Editor

Is there anything that is not better today?

Fellow Democrats, is this all you got is impeachment? This is the only thing you've done since taking over the House. I take that back, you have drawn a big fat salary. You've taken more days off then you've have showed up for "work" Ha, ha. You've been talking impeachment from Day One when Trump was elected.

Can anybody name the top 10 things they have accomplished? How about the top three? How about the top one? Is there anything – anything – that is not better today than when Trump took office? How many times have people said the check is in the mail. How many times have people said, can you hold the check until Tuesday, I will make a deposit. You would have to impeach all the Democrats.

I don't think people understand from George Washington to George Bush. We owed 10 trillion from Obama to Obama. In eight years it went from 10 trillion to 20 trillion. Shovel ready and you know what he was shoveling. Kathy Whitley blames that on Trump. Hello, Kathy, he bought a \$20,000 6-foot portrait of himself. The one thing you didn't say was the truth, they are just [expletive] away more of our hard-earned money on the impeachment then she blames the president for something that happened in 2010 and 1960. The amazing thing is the editor and publisher prints this crap when there is so many good things to be thankful for.

Pete Young – Franklin, N.C.

Superficial education fosters mistaken ideas

Shortly after capitalism brought all of America under its control, government took over the country's schools. Because education is a social good, proponents of government schools say. So as to mold America's children and youth to the service of capitalism, others say.

Before schools in USA became socialized, they followed a curriculum that had been developed in classical Greece and had survived with few changes for over 2,000 years. Under the classical curriculum, students studied subjects that taught them to think well and to think deeply. Nowadays, students are presented courses about social justice (whatever that is – it has something to do with tearing down monuments to people who fought for their freedom). One of the ways that the old curriculum produced good minds was by thoroughly teaching a few subjects for mastery. By studying subjects for mastery, students learned how to master new information as they encountered it during life after school. Nowadays, students in government schools study many subjects superficially. One whose schooling presents him with only superficial examinations of many subjects, finishes schooling knowing only how to develop scant knowledge and vague ideas. (Government schools do teach people to think a lot, just not well.)

Not everyone needs a classical education, but if civilization is to be well, all parents need the freedom to choose whether their children receive a classical education.

Of course many people become educated despite government schooling. One who creates his own wealth, that is, small business owners, receive by that means, an education. One who works as a salaryman or a wage earner, does not have the opportunity to gain an education the way a small business owner gains his. However, the salaryman and wage earner may receive an education from his family and friendly associations, unless all his associates are as uneducated as himself. But however a person is educated nowadays, it isn't by government schools. Dear Lord, save us from social goods.

People whose minds are equipped to develop only scant knowledge and vague ideas, advance such mistaken ideas as, "national health insurance will provide full and affordable health care."

It won't. It can't. The incentives driving the actions of bureaucrats can never lead them to provide anything remotely resembling full and affordable health care. We will receive health care as close to full and affordable as it is possible to receive, from providers competing in the market place for our dollars. To get that, we must first get government out of health care, not deeper into it.

George Crockett – Franklin, N.C.

Obama endured with grace and dignity

Lately I've been thinking about sending Donald Trump a Hank Williams Jr., CD. Hank wrote, "I'm for love. And I'm for happiness. And I'm for if you don't like it can't you just let it pass." Maybe he merely paraphrased Romans 12:19 (KJV). That passage is: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: For it is written, vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord."

Perhaps there is no clear message in Romans 12:19 for the leader of the strongest nation on earth. However, I am perplexed that the Evangelical Prayer Breakfasts in the White House have not slowed Trump's relentless quest for some measure of revenge against Clinton, Obama, Biden and other political adversaries. He has spent over three years ranting about their failures, flaws and mistakes. Seeking revenge? For what?

Maybe the next Prayer Breakfast will focus on Romans 12:19. Maybe the "elected" leader of the U.S. can still learn to forgive the slights, criticisms and insults that leaders almost certainly must endure. Most do with grace and dignity. Barack Obama showed us how. He patiently withstood the avowed determination of Republicans to thwart every move he made.

When Trump "stands up" to his political opponents is he not really falling down? Especially if he claims to be a Christian representative?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

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Please keep praying for me and my family

I'm writing this letter in faith believing that you'll print it and people will pray for me and my family.

Many in Franklin and Western North Carolina know my voice and phone number from Tell & Sell It, but don't know what I look like. Many others do know me and my wife Darlene. Many have probably prayed for us. I'm the guy with many windows and the one-of-a-kind Ford Ranger for sale.

Both of my grandfathers were Baptist ministers here in Macon County and my dad was a very successful businessman in the '50s. He financed chickens for people. He had a box car load of chicken feed coming in on the train every week. He helped a lot of people make a living for their family and he made good money also. He lost \$10,000 in two weeks in 1952. The hatching egg market got flooded with eggs. The price dropped almost overnight. You see, the roots of my raisin' run deep as Merle Haggard put in a song.

Yesterday, my wife Darlene went to the hospital again on an ambulance. Her blood pressure went extremely high. Since November 2013, my wife has been told she has cancer three times. Also, the cancer busted in my chest in August 2014. That's only a small part of the stress we've been through. Without prayer we would probably be in Wells Grove Cemetery, at least our bodies would be there; we would be in heaven. We've had special prayer at more than one Baptist church like James chapter 5 teaches. Prayer still causes miracles to happen. Me and my wife are proof of that, and many of you can testify to the same I'm sure.

When you go to your closet to pray, please pray for me, my wife and our daughter Rosea. I still have cancer. It's CLL, the slow leukemia. I take no medication for it though my wife has been told that she has to take Ibrance as long as she lives.

Many of you have already prayed for us, so I want to thank all of you. Please keep it up.

Jerry Holden – Franklin, N.C.

Who stole the Emperor's clothes?

As the drama plays out in the Impeachment Trial, senators play with fidget spinners, do crossword puzzles, or stroll in the lobby, our American justice system is reduced to tatters. Without allowing witnesses or corroborating evidence, watching the senate trial can be a rather boring affair. So let's have a little fun with this and say that it wasn't a matter of withholding military aid from Ukraine, but instead a matter of the presence or lack of attire of the President.

If the President was accused of having no clothes on, we might consider the following statements by senators and the president alike:

According to some senators, it is the American people who should decide on election day if the person occupying the white house has clothes on or not. The American people elected him and this is just an attempt by the house Democrats to disrobe him, I mean remove him from office.

The economy is doing well, so what does it matter that the President has shed his clothes? Is this a high crime or misdemeanor? Perhaps this is just a Chinese hoax... again. If we allow ourselves to be fooled twice as President Bush once famously said, then shame on us.

His loyal supporters all say that he has done nothing wrong and there is nothing wrong with the way he is outfitted, despite their swearing oath to be impartial jurors in the trial. The president himself has stated he is a stable genius, so who are we to question his veracity? If one is making up the truth, it isn't difficult to conform the facts to the truth.

Mitch McConnell at the outset, said he would not be an impartial juror and would be in lockstep with the White House. Does swearing oath to be impartial undue his previous statements? With cameras focused only on the front of the hearing, no one knows who is really there and who is out in the

lobby giving interviews to the media. One senator had a stack of books to read. A few hours after the hearings in the Senate began as many as 21 seats were empty.

Senators claim that there is no evidence that the Emperor (I mean President) doesn't have clothes on. All evidence is second hand. The president never directly told anyone that he wasn't going to wear clothes. His team of lawyers in the hearing claimed that not a single witness testified that the President himself said that he was or wasn't going to wear clothes. Actually, Gordon Sondland and Alexander Vindman did say that he said so. Perhaps this is why the President isn't allowing any of his staffers testify, because they do have first-hand knowledge. But who cares if the truth has been stripped away.

All this talk about clothes is just a distraction, after all, because Democrats have been trying to get him out office since day one. Senators state that the Dems are just trying to steal the 2016 election from the president. Wasn't that election already stolen by the Russians, I mean the Ukrainians?

The President has said over and over again that he hasn't done anything wrong. He even bragged that we have the clothes, not them (referring to the House Dems). Obviously, the Dems don't have his clothes! Without his clothes, is there really any evidence that he doesn't have clothes on?

If the President was innocent would he be acting in complete denial of the charges? Or would he present himself for examination or at least his closest staff who certainly have first-hand knowledge of whether or not he is adequately attired? We must of course consider whether or not this is a matter of National Security. The President would be happy to appear, however his tailors may claim that his outfit isn't quite finished yet, which is just slightly reminiscent of why he couldn't release his tax returns. We know what a busy schedule the President has tweeting. He broke all records during his recent tweets at 131 in one day (which I fact checked). This is a president who can't concern himself with trifles such as clothing.

Senators took an oath under penalty of perjury to "do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws." Who can prove that they didn't just look the other way?

The release of a manuscript by Former National Security Advisor John Bolton implicating the President in his disrobing is simply an attempt to sell his book according to the Pres. He should know as he is the greatest businessman that ever was.

And finally, the President's lawyers can argue that there is reasonable doubt as to whether or not the president has clothes on. He says he doesn't, I mean he says that he does have them on or hasn't done anything wrong and everything is perfect, isn't it? This is all a conspiracy theory perpetuated by the Ukrainians. Isn't the president above the law? He did say he could shoot someone on fifth avenue and get away with it (actually he said he wouldn't lose any voters). Now, I'm even getting confused. Isn't he either clothed or not clothed? Does a double negative negate something? Or according to Bill Clinton, is it a matter of how we define "is"? Or is this just an attempt by the Dems to steal the election from the Russians or was it the Ukrainians? We may never know the real truth, but at least we can have a good laugh (not of course at the President's expense). These are the questions I'm afraid that Americans will have to decide in the upcoming 2020 election. Best Wishes!

Paul Chew – 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.

Battle underway for the soul of America

The accomplishments of President Trump's first three years of his presidency:

He has created the:

1. Greatest economy the U.S. has had in over 40 years. Last Dow Jones average was over 29,000. The Dow Jones growth under the Obama administration was 8,000. In January 2020, it was 29,000 showing the creation of over 7 million new jobs and bringing back factories and workers from foreign countries. Tax breaks for middle income people and others.

2. New and better trade deals for the U.S. with China, Mexico and Canada, etc.

3. Increased U.S. military effectiveness by infusing over \$700,000,000 for new personnel, new ships and new planes.

4. Safeguarding the borders by building a wall to keep out sex traffickers, illegal drugs and other people trying to get into the U.S. illegally.

5. Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, promised by other presidents, but never fulfilled.

6. Trying to close sanctuary cities to stop those let out by local governments who kill and maim U.S. citizens proving that these local governments do not protect their citizens as promised.

7. Increasing Supreme Court Justices to insure conservative viewpoints on how to interpret the Constitution of the United States.

8. The Iranian Nuclear Deal. As the greatest power in the world, the Obama administration sold out our strength to the terrorists in Iran. A tremendously bad deal for America, while we gave them millions of dollars.

From the moment President Trump was elected, the Democrats and the left leaning media have been trying to remove him from office.

With the economy doing so well, increasing jobs and increasing people's retirement, IRAs, building up the military to protect the U.S., gaining a new respect for the U.S. world-wide. Two questions remain for the American people, 1. Where do you want the American democracy to go? 2. The other is do we want to be free or under the left leaning government into Socialism?

Why would you not continue the growth of America?

Think before you vote in the 2020 election.

Robert Yates – Franklin, N.C.

Voter info for March 3 Primary Election

Voter registration deadline
February 7 at 5 p.m.

Absentee ballots by mail
January 13-February 25

Request forms at www.maconnc.org or www.ncsbe.gov or by calling (828)349-2034 or email Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov.

One-Stop Voting
February 13- 29

Macon County Community Building
Highlands Civic Center

Hours Mon-Fri, 8-7:30; Saturday, Feb. 29, 8-3

Primary Election Day
Tuesday, March 3

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828)349-2034 or visit www.maconnc.org/elections.

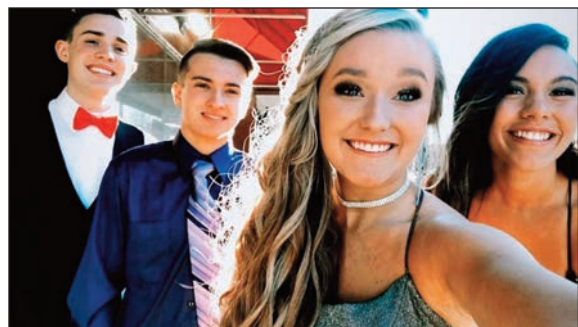
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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests January 12 - 26. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 22

Jessie Lee Cody Atcheson, 25, of Franklin, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay. A secured bond of \$32,500 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

January 23

Amy Morgan Smith, 28, of Franklin, was charged with financial card theft, financial transaction card fraud. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Robert Lee Jewell, 33, of Athens, Ga., was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell or deliver, sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jeffery Scott Johnson, 49, of Franklin, was charged with breaking and entering misdemeanor, injury to real property, obtaining property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$12,500 was set. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

January 25

Mimi Raa Ciarrocchi, 28, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

January 26

Peter Eugene Woodall, 58, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set. Parriah W. Young made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 12

Brooke Leighann Smith, 23, of Hazel Sanooko Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property by false pretenses, possession of stolen goods/property, probation violation, simple possession of schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Bryn Chicoah Hoyle, 21, of Greasy Branch Rd., Bryson, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Kelsey Lane Mason, 26, of Parkway Rd., Brevard, was charged with carrying a concealed gun. No bond was set.

January 13

Albert Juarez, 29, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

Sanford Lee Parker, 53, of Wilson Dr., was charged with communicating threats, assault on a female. No bond was

set.

Adam Warren-David Evitt, 31, of Windy Gap Rd., Cullowhee, was issued a true bill of indictment for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Angela Darlene Tinkham, 46, of Academy St., Canton, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Erica Leann Mader, 21, of Peak Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with assault and battery. No bond was set.

January 14

Jamison Lawrence Lassiter, 36, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Tammie Taylor Lambert, 50, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for operate vehicle with no insurance. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Deborah Kay Williamson, 54, of Small Meadow Dr., was charged with resist a public officer. A secured bond of \$150 was set.

January 15

Lori Jane Cantrell, 48, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods, trespassing, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

January 16

Michael Jerome Drakeford, 38, of Usti Dr., Cherokee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

William Donald Cline, 28, of Addie Littlejohn Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

David Charles Roberts, 39, of Lavender Way, Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

January 17

Robert David Burch, 43, of Overdrive Rd., was charged with possession of firearm by felon. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Loretta Moss Watson, 59, of Mossy Ridge, Cullowhee, was issued a true bill of indictment for misdemeanor possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, misdemeanor possession of schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Baron Houston Sutton, 33, of Levi Mathis Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of stolen property, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering a motor vehicle forcible. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Matthew Zachary Farnsworth, 19, of Glenwood Rd., Maiden, was charged with driving while impaired, driving after consuming under the age of 21. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Kristopher Alexander Tutt, 24, of Little Rock Circle, was charged with negligent child abuse causing serious physical injury. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

January 18

Christopher Dale Cagle, 40, of Lonesome Hollow Dr., Maggie Valley, was charged with possession of firearm by a felon. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Amber Elaine Ledbetter, 42, of, Pink Dogwood Lane, Waynesville, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. Unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Kassandra Rene Crowe, 36, of Beck Branch Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of stolen property, misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

January 19

Quinton Earl Barker, 25, of Cozy Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

Steven Chase Stanley, 27, of Belmont Dr., Franklin, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Monique Laverne Smith, 28, of Hollyview Circle, Franklin, was charged with real lamp violation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin. No bond was set.

January 20

Zavion Fredrick Southerland, 19, of Claiborne Woods Rd., Charlotte, was charged with assault causing physical injury on a detention employee, assault on detention employee causing serious injury. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jubal Ben Stephenson, 48, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats. No bond was set.

January 21

Raven Marie Nakota Osborne, 19, of Mosaic Lane, was charged with consume alcohol by 19/20 year old. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

Aaron Levi Owle, 23, of Almond Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$23,000 was set.

Richard Lee Hefner, 39, of Sylva, was charged with habitual felon, failure to appear on a felony, true bill of indictment for habitual felon, possession of stolen goods/property, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Matthew Paul Leonard, 40, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Kevin Michael Swimmer, 27, of Donna Maney Rd., Cherokee, was charged with resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Dr., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$11,500 was set.

January 22

Otono Milan Rodriguez, 28, of Grassy Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for operating a vehicle with no insurance, fictitious/alterd title/registration card/tag, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, drive/allow motor vehicle with no registration. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

Cassandra Chey Fox, 23, of Luker Branch, Tuckaseegee, was charged with littering not more than 15 lbs, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Christian Ryan Sammons, 26, of Toby Bryson Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with fictitious/alterd title/registration card/tag, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, trafficking methamphetamine for transport, trafficking methamphetamine possessing. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Anthony Mitchell Hurst, 36, of Boyd Olster, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, simple possession of a schedule V controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Meetings are held on Tuesday, 7:30 a.m., and Thursday, 12 noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, 66 Church St.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m., and Sunday at 11 a.m., at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Thursday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd.; Saturday, 10 a.m., Asbury Methodist Church in Otto. For more information or to speak with a member of A. A., call (828)349-4357 or visit our website www.aawnc80.org.

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will meet Thursday, January 30, 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Bellevue Park Rd. A program about collecting in Western North Carolina will be presented.

Porter Street Temporary Road Closure and Detour will begin on Thursday, Jan. 30. Porter St. will be closed to all through traffic from the intersection of Porter St. and Wayah St. to the intersection of Porter St. and Hillcrest Circle. The closure to all through traffic on this section of Porter St. is necessary in order to construct the new round-a-bout at the intersection of Wayah St. and US441 Business and Porter St. The detour routes for local traffic south bound will be Wayah St./US441 South for 0.3 miles then turn left on Hillcrest Ave. Road closure barricades will be placed on Porter St. at the intersection of Wayah St. and Porter St. and also at the intersection of Hillcrest Circle and Porter St. Anticipated re-opening of Porter St. no later than Aug. 24, 2020. For more information, call (828)321-5061.

High Mountain Squares "Westward Ho! Dance," will be held on Friday, Jan. 31, from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, 441S. Ricky Simpson from Carnesville, Ga., will be the caller. Mike and Debbie will be doing Rounds and Lines. Western-style square dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Classes start on Feb. 3. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call (828)787-2324, (828)332-0001, (727)599-1440, (706)746-5426 or Check us out on Facebook.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike on Saturday, Feb. 1, to Siler Bald on the Appalachian Trail, elevation change 700 ft., for 360 degree views of Wayah Bald, Winesprings and a glimpse of Nantahala Lake. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 10 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Robert Barnable, 369-1565, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Arduino Club will meet on Saturday, Feb.1, from 1-5 p.m., at the Macon County Library. Stop by during this time to make a robot or motorized game. For more information, email jjurban55@gmail.com.

The Franklin Club will hold its monthly meeting/luncheon at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, at Fat Buddies BBQ in the Westgate Plaze. Visitors are welcome. Call Jeanne Vaughters (828)369-2590 if you plan to attend. Joe Deal, Extension Agent for Agriculture, Livestock. Forage and Pasture will present the program.

Marine Corps League will hold its monthly meeting at The American Legion Auxiliary Building on Monday, Feb. 3, at 6:30 p.m. All Marines, former Marines, Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains are invited to attend.

Tuckaseegee River Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4, dinner is at 6:30 p.m., at the United Community Bank 1640 E. Main Street in Sylva. Justin N. Murdock Associate Professor Department of Biology at Tennessee Tech University will discuss Didymo, a single-cell alga (a diatom) that come form thick blooms in streams and completely cover stream bottoms. The raffle this month will be for a \$100 gift certificate from Rivers Edge.

Democratic Women of Macon County and the Macon County Democratic Men's Club will host a Town Hall event for Congressional candidate Steve Woodsmall on Wednesday February 5 at 6 pm at the Carpenter Building located at 1288 Georgia Road in Franklin. This event is open to the public.

Bird Walk at Lake Junaluska will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6. John and Cathy Sill will lead a trip to look for wintering water birds and other species. They will circle the lake by car with stops to get better views of this magnet for wintering birds. Meet at Bi-Lo parking at 8 a.m. to carpool. For more information, or to sign up at (828)524-5234.

Democratic Women of Macon County are hosting The Whistle Stop Tour 2020, on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Carpenter Community Building. Democratic and unaffiliated voters are invited to meet and greet candidates. Refreshments will be served.

2020 Relay for Life Committee invites everyone who would like to be a part of the committee this year to attend the first meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m., in the Depot Room at the Factory, located at 1024 Georgia Rd. For more information, call Tony Young at (828)399-9560.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 15-8 Meeting will be held on Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m., at Grandpa Charlie's Country Cooking in Andrews. If you know a veteran in need, or would like information about joining CVMA, call (828)276-3471 or email cvmanc15.8@gmail.com.

CarePartners Hospice Support Groups for anyone who has lost loved ones. Facilitated by the Bereavement Staff of CarePartners Hospice, the Women's Support Groups meet the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; the Men's Support Groups meet the second Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m., at the Sunset Restaurant on Harrison Ave. CarePartners Home Care and Hospice is located at 170 Church St. For more information, call (828)369-4206.

Serving Spoon Serves a Hot Meal on Thursday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Town's Jaycee Building except on Thanksgiving.

NC Mountain Made at 36 E Main Street, and Charity's Hair Studio, 493 Highlands Road, are collecting nonperishable food items for CareNet.

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Macon County Interfaith Coalition will be hosting an interfaith event of Love Stories from six different faiths, how they impact our respective faith groups with questions from the audience. One Heart Choir will be performing. This potluck dinner event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Tartan Hall, First Presbyterian Church in Franklin.

All Saints Episcopal Church holds Rite I Service every Sunday, 8 a.m., at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St.; Rite II Service at 10:15 a.m. with music at St. Agnes Chapel every first and third Sunday; and at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd., every second and fourth Sunday. For service times on fifth Sundays, visit www.all-saintsfranklin.org or call the church office at (828)524-4910.

Bethesda Baptist Church Sunday morning service 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening 5 p.m. Direction are North Jones Creek Rd. to Giles Holler Rd., then turn left. For more information, call (828)524-2454.

Ridge Crest Baptist Church services are held on Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m., Sunday evening worship service 6 p.m. Listen live on WNCC 104.1 FM Radio. Wednesday evening Bible study 6:30 p.m. The church is located on 441N., at 206 Ridgecrest Baptist Church Rd. Rev. Guy Duval, pastor (828)369-6252.

Community Bible Church of Sky Valley service times are 9 a.m. Sunday morning and small Revisit group meetings Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 696 Sky Valley Way #11, Sky Valley, Ga. Phone (706)746-3144. Gary Hewins, pastor.

Newman Chapel Weekly Services are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday night 6 p.m. and Wednesday night 7 p.m. The pastor is Rev. Dennis Ledford. The church is located on Mulberry Rd. in Otto.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday night service 6 p.m., Wednesday night prayer meeting 7 p.m. The church is located at 129 Emmanuel Rd. For more information, contact (828)524-3214.

House of Hope Church of God service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening services first and second Sundays are 6 p.m., third Sunday youth service 6:30 p.m. no fourth Sunday services. Bible school classes Wednesday 7 p.m. The church is located at 1111 Tessentee Rd. in Franklin. For more information, contact Pastor Greg Bartram (828)524-5361.



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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

9	2	5	3	4	8	6	1	7
7	8	9	6	1	2	5	3	4
4	3	1	5	7	6	2	8	9
1	5	4	9	6	2	7	3	8
3	7	9	4	8	1	2	6	5
2	6	8	3	5	7	4	9	1
5	2	1	7	3	6	9	8	4
8	9	4	7	1	5	3	6	2
6	4	7	1	9	8	3	5	2

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

INS	NT	TAI	DERN	TAI	DERN	INS	NT	TAI	DERN
SCOT	LO	BILL	ALLO	BILL	ALLO	SCOT	LO	BILL	ALLO
PAR	ES	ELUL	EDDY	ELUL	EDDY	PAR	ES	ELUL	EDDY
SIL	LO	DICAP	RI	DICAP	RI	SIL	LO	DICAP	RI
CO	HO	CO	CH	CO	CH	CO	HO	CO	CH
DE	CA	GA	ON	DE	CA	GA	ON	DE	CA
PI	CO	MIM	SA	PI	CO	MIM	SA	PI	CO
TAN	S	WAG	NE	TAN	S	WAG	NE	TAN	S
AG	E	LE	TRIP	AG	E	LE	TRIP	AG	E
B	A	G	E	N	I	P	A	P	A
MA	OR	RI	P	MA	OR	RI	P	MA	OR
Y	E	A	R	N	E	R	S	Y	E
E	D	E	N	E	D	E	N	E	D
Y	U	L	E	V	O	T	E	Y	U
A	J	A	R	J	U	T	P	A	J



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Franklin celebrates Burns Night



Kendyle, Little Miss Tartan, with grandparents Tammy and Reggie Holland



Parade of the flags

The Taste of Scotland Society hosted its 24th annual Burns Night celebration this past Saturday at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church with all the traditional trappings the event is known for. From the Ceremony of the Haggis, the traditional Scottish meal, the toasts and concluding with “Auld Lang Syne,” guests were treated to an authentic Burns Night celebrated worldwide on or near the day of the birth of the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns.

Photos by Ellen Randall



Lloyd Swift, Sword Bearer



Merrilee Bordeaux



Jacobites by Name




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Michael Waters, Piper



Martha Ammons, chef



Bob and Lana Cantrell Johnston

Take a stroll during the full snow moon

Explore the winter forest under the light of the Full Snow Moon on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Highlands Botanical Garden. The second full moon of the year is named after the heavy snowfall common in February, and the Botanical Garden is opening up to allow the public to explore the grounds under its light. Bundle up and bring your flashlight to wander through the garden on this one night only. After your stroll, join them for hot drinks and warm up by the fire in the Meadow by the Valentine House, 888 Horse Cove Rd. All are welcome to participate in this free event.

In the event of rain or severe weather, the event will be held on Friday, Feb. 14. The Highlands Botanical Garden is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more information, call (828) 526-2623.

Audubon director to speak at bird club meeting

Curtis Smalling will present "Important Bird Areas of North Carolina" at the Franklin Bird Club meeting Monday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library.

Smalling will give an overview of the Important Bird Area Program, its history, status, and how the network of places is used for conservation planning and bird protection, with a special emphasis on IBAs in the western part of the state. He will discuss ways to help through community science and advocacy as well as how the new forest plan revision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest affect important bird areas.

Smalling is the director of Conservation for Audubon North Carolina and has worked with Audubon since 2000, where he began his career conducting Golden-winged Warbler surveys. A graduate of Appalachian State University, he has overseen the Important Bird Areas Program for Audubon N.C. since 2005. He has been a primary researcher on several species including Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Wood Thrush. He serves on numerous committees and working groups including the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group, International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance, N.C. Black Rail Working Group, and was recently named to chair the avian committee of the N.C. Scientific Council.

He resides in Boone with Mary, his wife of 38 years. They have three children and three grandchildren. For more information, visit franklinbirdclub.com or call (828)524-5234.



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Chef's Special

Buffalo food found growing in the backyard

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

Last May I spotted close to the house a small shrub about eight feet tall with unusual flower spikes that I did not recognize. I was quite surprised as I thought I was familiar with most everything close by. Off and on I kept checking it throughout the summer and stayed puzzled. Wildlife photographer Karen Lawrence helped solve the mystery when



Dr. Bob Gilbert

I noticed this fall small pear shape fruits which made it easy to solve the puzzle - Buffalo Nut. This unique species is found only in the Appalachian Mountains, from Pennsylvania to Alabama. Its scientific name is *Pyrularia* (pyr-roo-lar-ee-eh) pubera. It is the only genus in the western hemisphere. *Pyrus* is the genes of pears which the Buffalo Nut fruit resembles. Its apple-green leaves are fuzzy or pubescent underneath. It can get as tall as 14 feet. The inconspicuous small greenish yellow flowers are found on branch tips. The shrub is dioecious meaning the male and female plants are separate. The prefix “di” means two. The female blooms are on 1-inch spikes and the male blooms are 2-inch similar spikes both occurring late spring.

Buffalo Nut is a parasite. It is one of 40,000 species of parasitic flowering plants. Its roots have the ability to penetrate roots of neighboring trees by root structures called haustoria. They locate, surround and penetrate a root of a host tree or shrub or branch as in the case of mistletoe. Buffalo Nut has the ability to produce its own food by photosynthesis thus it is technically classified as hemi-parasitic. Its parasitic habits do not make it all bad. Plant parasites are important in our ecosystem by keeping certain species from becoming too domi-



Buffalo Nut nut



Buffalo Nut Bloom

Photos by Karen Lawrence

nate. So far at my place I have only found one plant so I am not worried about losing important trees. But there has to be a male plant hiding close by. There are certainly even more but I have not found them yet.

There are seeds in the pear-shaped oily fruit. When germination starts, a tap-root emerges that has lateral branching root structures that travel underground searching for a host. Once connected, the haustoria starts stealing water and nutrients.

The fruits are poisonous if consumed in large quantities. However, bison and elk can tolerate the fruit. It has many names such as Buffalo Nut, Elk Nut, Oil Nut, Mother-in-Law Nut, Rabbit wood, Mountain Coconut, Crazy Nut and Cherokee Salve so named to treat sores. The Cherokee also call it Colic Ball, chewing its seeds causes vomiting which helps with colic.

Our forests here are unique and full of surprises with lots of things to learn. It is fun getting to know your own habitat and to learn what you are living with. We have here in Franklin an informal organization called the Southern Appalachian Plant Society-NC, GA or SAPS. They led small group botanical field trips throughout the year. The sessions are very inexpensive. Check them out on line. I can promise you will have fun, meet new people and learn something. [https://sa\[sncga.blogspot.com](https://sa[sncga.blogspot.com)

Who knows with our expanding Elk population you might find one on your property looking for Elk Nuts as happened to a friend who lives in the Cat Creek area. She looked out of her kitchen widow to find an Elk. We live in a magical place.

Dr. Bob Gilbert, now living in Franklin is co-founder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga.

Karen Lawrence is a professional botanical and wildlife photographer from Franklin.



Deaths & Funerals

Joseph B. Moses

Joseph B. Moses, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Lorenz T. Moses and Edna Bowman Moses. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers, Edgar and Harry, and two sisters, Hazel Stamey and Virginia Corbin.

He was a US Air Force veteran and was a retired real estate agent.

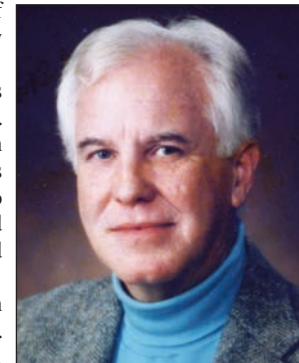
He is survived by a sister, Melba Huggins; several nieces and nephews and his Franklin House family.

A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Macon County CareNet, 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Joseph B. Moses

Jerry Thomas Corleone

Jerry Thomas Corleone, 77, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

He was born in Summit, N.J., to the late Thomas and Elsie De-roche Cook. He was bartender at Highlands Country Club for 25 years; he enjoyed meeting and talking to people and gardening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Highlands Country Club Scholarship Fund.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

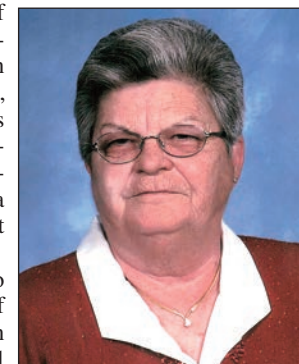
Ruth Lucille Rice

Ruth Lucille Rice, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Jan. 24, 2020. She was born July 27, 1941, in Des Moines, Iowa, to the late Cecil Burt Haus and Ruth Simerson Haus. She previously worked as a machine operator at Caterpillar. She was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church.

She is survived by her two daughters, Susan Deetz of Franklin and Jeanna Morgan (Ken) of Franklin; one son, Paul Rice Jr. and his fiancé, Kimberly Barker of Knoxville, Tenn.; six grandchildren, Jonathan Lequire, Nathan Morgan, Aaron Rice, Marina Morgan, Angela Deetz, and Alexandra Arnold; four great grandchildren, Alivia Rice, Emma Rice, Justin Talley and Xavier Lequire; three sisters, Judy Smith, Sharon Farrell (Bruce), and Joan Ray; two brothers, Sam Haus and Larry Haus. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Rice Sr.; two sisters and eight brothers.

A funeral service was held Monday, Jan. 27, at Windy Gap Baptist Church with Rev. Greg Rogers and Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial followed in the Moore-Welch Cemetery.

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



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Linda Faye Curry Haire

Linda Faye Curry Haire, 68, passed away Friday, Jan. 24, 2020, in Atlanta, Ga. She was born June 24, 1951, in Rockingham County, North Carolina, to the late Clarence Jackson Curry and Nora Estella Williams Curry. She worked and retired from the retail industry and was a member of the Lula Worship Center in Lula, Ga. She was a Sunday School teacher and she also served as a pastor's wife. She loved watching "I Love Lucy" and "Andy Griffith Show." Most of all she had a deep love for God and her family. She loved music and sang in many music groups through the years.



Linda Faye Curry Haire

Survivors include her husband, Bennie Haire; a daughter, Angela McLean (Greg) of Franklin, N.C.; two step-daughters, Teresa Haire of Orlando, Fla., and Stephanie Bryson of Franklin; two grandchildren, Jessica Scott and MaKayla McLean; seven step-grandchildren, Brittany Smith, Alexis Simmonds, Chad Wilson, Damien Bryson, Braeden Bryson, Alyssa Abel, and Valerie Abel; a great-grandchild, Kainsi Stepp; and a sister, Mona Cameron (Paul) of Knoxville, Tenn.

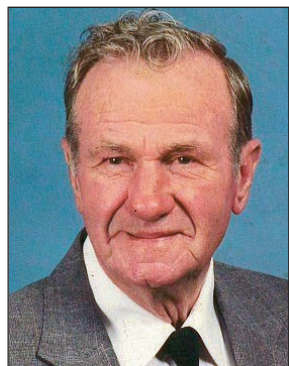
She was preceded in death by a brother, Neal Curry and her parents.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Wednesday, Jan. 29, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Bumgardner, Rev. Bud Haire, and Rev. Paul Cameron officiating. Burial followed in the Addington Cemetery. Pallbearers were Greg McLean, Jeff Boyatt, Josh Flynn, Mike Hanshaw, Zack Phillips, and Kaylin Frame.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Haire family.

Roy Pinkney Crisp

Roy Pinkney Crisp, 94, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. He was born in Macon County, North Carolina on Jan. 5, 1926, to the late George Franklin Crisp and Emma Corbin Crisp. He was of the Baptist faith and a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church. He was an iron worker in the construction business. He served in the U.S. Army. He was an avid gardener, farmer and loved raising honey bees to make his own honey.



Roy Crisp

Survivors include his two daughters, Anne Westbrook of Granite Quarry, N.C., and Barbara Spry (Jim) of Cooleemee, N.C.; three sons, Charles Crisp (Barbara) of Liberty, S.C., Roy Crisp (Jessica) of Franklin, N.C., and Tony Crisp (Carole) of Franklin; 17 grandchildren; 36 great grandchildren; and 17 great-great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Dorothy Allen Crisp; five sisters, Ila Mae Sorrells, Marie Corbin, Helen Taylor, Edith Kell, and Ethel Shaver; two brothers, Frank Crisp and Grady Crisp; a grandson David Crisp; and a great-grandson Noah Crisp; son-in-law Joe Westbrook and daughter-in-law Betty F. Crisp.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Bud Haire, Rev. Brent Spry and Rev. Chad Campbell officiating. Burial was at Jennings Cemetery (Holly Springs Baptist Church). Pallbearers were Wesley Morrow, Cody Crisp, Roy Crisp, II, Daniel Crisp, Dustin Crisp, Dillon Tate and Ricky Woods.

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

Joy Lewis Cummings

Joy Lewis Cummings, 83 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Born in Phenix City, Ala., she was the daughter of the late John Lewis and Edna Williamson Lewis. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert J. Cummings.

She retired from Harcar Window Company where she worked as the Branch Manager. She had a heart for special needs children and volunteered for the special needs unit of the Boy Scouts of America. She also volunteered for Care Partners Hospice.

She is survived by three children, Melissa Mossbarger (Tom) of Franklin, David B. Walker and Jacob J. Walker (Mary) both of Florida; a brother, David Lewis (Joan) of Franklin; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A private service will be held at a later date. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Jonathan Harold Ball

Jonathan Harold Ball, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Born in Gloucester, England, he was the son of the late Harold Ball and Irene Hadley Ball. He graduated from Buffalo Bible and Houghten College and served as pastor and missionary for over 27 years. He was a member of First Alliance Church.

He is survived by his wife of 61½ years, Arlene Ball; two daughters, Kathy Wolfe (Steve) and Kristina Loughborough; son, Jeff Ball; eight grandchildren, Lorie Rosseau (Brian), Lindsey Ile (Cris), Scott Wolfe (Sarah Elizabeth), Joshua Loughborough, Kari Morgan (Austin), Jordan Loughborough, Kyla Ball and Jenna Ball; and four great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m., at First Alliance Church. Pastor Scott Eichelberger will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in John's memory to, First Alliance Church, 31 Promise Lane, Franklin, NC 28734.

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



Jonathan Harold Ball

Joan B. Snow

Joan B. Snow, 86, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., and Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

Born Nov. 17, 1933, in Stamford, Conn., to Gladys and Ernest Bisailon. She was one of five children, brothers Ernest (deceased), Maurice (deceased), sisters Patricia and Sharon.

She moved to New Smyrna Beach in 1974. She worked for Volusia County government for a number of years, before purchasing Indigo Blues, a local women's clothing boutique.

She was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. She was an avid golfer, a grand master bridge player and an accomplished artist. She loved her home in the mountains and was actively involved in golf and bridge in Franklin as well.

She is survived by her four children, Cherise Gasper (John) Lexington, Ky., Bob Simonelli (Alecia) New Smyrna Beach, Suzette Jones (Todd) Lakeland, Fla., and Denise DeLuca, Lakeland; nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. A memorial gathering took place Saturday, Jan. 25, at Settle-Wilder Chapel in New Smyrna Beach.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Vitas Hospice Healthcare, 114 Canal St, Unit 100, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168. Condolences at www.settlewilderfuneralhome.com.



Joan B. Snow

Mae Belle Guffey Bates

Mae Belle Guffey Bates, 83, of Franklin, N.C., entered into her Heavenly home Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020.

A daughter of the late Charlie and Annie Mae Guffey. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Bailey Bates who died in 2000; two sons, Mitchell and Michael Bates; two sisters, Annie Sue Friemuth and Bonnie Harkins. She was a long time employee of Grandview Manor, loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, gardening, and canning, going to church and reading her Bible.

Survivors include her children, Richard, Kathy Dills, Sarah Bryson and Shawn all of Franklin and Sherri Boshears of Toccoa, Ga.; her sisters, Florence Robbins, Carol Gibson and Ruthann Bockholt; and one brother, TJ Guffey all of Franklin; 13 grandchildren; six great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Tellico Baptist Church. Rev. Charlie Anderson officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ronnie Queen Jr. Ramey, Justin Lovett, Bobby Boshears, Michael Dills, Lee Bates, Avery Brendle and Doug Bryson. Honorary pallbearers will be Gabe Henry, Luke Henry and Aaron Bryson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Tellico Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, C/O Marshall and Doris Lovedahl, 405 Tellico Road, Franklin.

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



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Road course test showcases excitement to come for Xfinity

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

The review was clearly evident on Matt DiBenedetto's face and in his voice. After only one morning testing a NASCAR Xfinity Series car for the first time on one of Indianapolis Motor Speedway's road courses, DiBenedetto's reaction said it all.

"It's been fun," DiBenedetto said during a break from the test last Wednesday morning, adding, "I'm already jealous of these [NASCAR] Xfinity [Series] guys, just how cool the race is going to be and how good of a show it's going to put on."

Last week, Indianapolis Motor Speedway's new owner, Roger Penske, announced – in conjunction with NASCAR – that this season's July 4 Xfinity Series race at the famed facility would be run on its road course instead of the traditional 2.5-mile oval that will host a NASCAR Cup Series race the following of the day.

And DiBenedetto, who moves to the famed Wood Brothers No. 21 Ford for the 2020 Cup Series season, was chosen to test the two Indianapolis road courses as NASCAR decides which will be the best option for the summer race. There are varying layouts with one course featuring 12 turns and the other including 14 turns.

"There's high speed stuff," DiBenedetto said. "There's low speed stuff. So, it's pretty much everything we could ask for from a competitor's standpoint for race-ability."

"Also, the little chicane back there coming on the straightaway is really technical. I'm still figuring out my approach to that. There's a lot of different elements to the racetrack that makes it exciting."

As part of the testing agreement, DiBenedetto is not allowed to compete in the Indianapolis Xfinity Series race, but that didn't temper his enthusiasm for what to expect, whichever road course NASCAR decides to use. It was hard to see an early favorite based upon his or NASCAR Xfinity Series Managing Director Wayne Auton's comments and reactions Wednesday.

"We're working on a lot, as Matt alluded to, on the 14-turn, the 12-turn course and we'll take all the data back with us to the NASCAR R&D Center in Concord, North Carolina and evaluate all of it and then make an announcement here pretty soon which course we'll run," Auton said.

"Matt's done a great job and I think his heart rate got up a little bit there on the 12-turn course going into one," Auton continued with a smile. "You can't say enough about Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Roger Penske's idea of getting the NASCAR Xfinity Series cars on the road course and [Indianapolis Motor Speedway President] Doug Boles, what a job his whole staff has done here at Indy to accommodate us here today so we can get great data for the team."

Auton credited Goodyear for the tires it brought to the Indianapolis test session – tires used at multiple other road courses in the Xfinity Series from Road America and Mid-Ohio to the Charlotte ROVAL. He reminded that this week's

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Racing News



Defending NASCAR Cup champion Kyle Busch finished 26th overall in the Rolex 24 at Daytona

Kyle Busch left Daytona International Speedway without a new Rolex watch Sunday but the 2019 NASCAR Cup champion said he "absolutely" had fun in his debut in the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

"We had a lot of fun," Busch said. "I enjoyed it." Problems with a brake caliper and a lengthy brake change Sunday put the AIM Vasser Sullivan team several laps down and out of contention for the win, but Busch was able to finish the race. He drove the team's No. 14 Lexus RC F GT3 over the finish line in 26th position overall and ninth in the 18-car GTD class, eight laps behind the class leader. The two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion said it's "too soon to say" whether he'll return for another go at the Rolex 24. The racing veteran has won 205 races in NASCAR's top three series over his 17-year career.

Racing History

January 31, 1960 - CBS television sent a few production crew members to Daytona International Speedway to televise the pole qualifying and compact car races during Speedweeks. The Daytona 500 was the first 500-mile auto race to be televised live flag-to-flag on network television when CBS aired it in 1979.

Racing Trivia

David Pearson won his first Cup Series race in 1961. What year did he win his last race?

- a) 1975 c) 1980
b) 1978 d) 1981

Answer: c) Pearson's last win came at Darlington in 1980.

All-Time Top Driver's Bio



David Pearson

Born: Dec. 22, 1934
Cup wins: 105
Cup top-tens: 366
Cup championships: 3

David Pearson began his NASCAR career in 1960 and ended his first season by winning the 1960 NASCAR Rookie of the Year award. He won three championships (1966, 1968, and 1969). Pearson ended his career in 1986, and currently holds the second position on NASCAR's all-time win list with 105 victories; as well as achieving 113 pole positions. The National Motor Sports Press Association's Hall of Fame inducted Pearson in 1991 and he was inducted in the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1993. At his finalist nomination for NASCAR Hall of Fame's inaugural 2010 class, NASCAR described Pearson as "the model of NASCAR efficiency during his career. With little exaggeration, when Pearson showed up at a race track, he won." In 2010, Pearson was named to the 2011 class in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

test will be very helpful to Goodyear in making its tire recommendations as well.

Both DiBenedetto and Auton were impressed with the early runs and eager to see what this new venue will present to the Xfinity Series drivers, who compete on more road courses (now five) than any other of NASCAR's three national series.

"Technicality of the driver inside the race car is going to make a huge difference," Auton said. "Whether you can get through [turns] five or six and out-brake somebody getting into [turn] seven or either get off of [turns] 12, 13, 14 and get down the frontstretch and out-brake somebody going into one. That's probably, from what we've seen so far with Matt's input, that that will be two areas that really you'll see a lot of passing at."

"Now I can tell you, those drivers manning these Xfinity cars, they don't mind rubbing a little bit. We'll see how they hold up here at Indy."

NASCAR and Mack Trucks announce multi-year extension

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – As the 2020 season rolls into view and the industry prepares to hit the open roads, NASCAR and Mack Trucks has announced a multi-year extension that continues its designation as the "Official Hauler of NASCAR."

For nearly five-years, NASCAR has logged approximately 450,000 miles annually with Mack trucks, paving the way

for successful races at various tracks across North America.

"Our relationship with Mack Trucks continues to deliver a transportation solution that plays an integral role in our success every weekend," said Elton Sawyer, vice president, officiating and technical inspection, NASCAR. "With their partnership, we have developed a customized fleet of NASCAR trucks that has simplified our transportation logistics and in turn, help us remain focused on our events."

Mack Trucks utilizes the partnership to engage customers across the country with a variety of activations across the sport. Most recently, a Mack Anthem wrapped in a custom-designed, military-themed scheme was front and center during last year's NASCAR Salutes Refreshed by Coca-Cola® – an industry-wide expression of respect, appreciation and reverence for those who have served the nation both past and present.

Four different design concepts for the wrap were shared on social media where fans could vote for their favorite scheme. The winning design, which featured all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, earned nearly 40 percent of the vote.

The popular NASCAR Salutes Mack Anthem paint scheme will return for its third installment in the 2020 season, and once again, fans will be given the opportunity to choose the design for the NASCAR Cup Series rig.

The 2020 NASCAR Cup Series season will commence Thursday, Feb. 13 with the Bluegreen Vacations Duels airing on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM at 7 p.m.


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STATEPOINT CROSS-WORD

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

- 1. Cracked open
- 5. Protrude
- 8. "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" supporting nominee
- 12. Eggnog time, traditionally
- 13. Pol request
- 14. Capital of Senegal
- 15. *Jo Van Fleet won for her role in "East of ____"
- 16. Augmented
- 17. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
- 18. Ones full of desire
- 20. VSCO girl's shoes
- 21. New Zealand native
- 22. "The Nutcracker" step
- 23. Boiled bread product, pl.
- 26. Guarapo de jagua fruit
- 30. Edith Wharton's "The ____ of Innocence"
- 31. "____ 'er ____!"
- 34. *1935 Best Picture nominee "A ____ of Two Cities"
- 35. Plant a.k.a. golden buttons
- 37. *Dustin Hoffman was nominated for role in "____ the Dog"
- 38. Does like Matryoshka
- 39. Narrative poem
- 40. Brunch drink
- 42. Gumshoe
- 43. 10-sided polygon
- 45. Qatar native
- 47. Greek R
- 48. "Friends" favorite spot?

- 50. Fodder holder
- 52. *Oscar winner for "The Revenant" and 2020 nominee
- 55. Uses a paring knife
- 56. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- 57. Whirlpool
- 59. *The first to refuse his award, for "Patton"
- 60. *He was nominated for "Lost in Translation"
- 61. Sunburn aid
- 62. Negative contraction
- 63. Chi precursor
- 64. "The Marriage Story" nominee

DOWN

- 1. Reply to a captain
- 2. *RenEe Zellweger's role
- 3. Away from wind
- 4. Dub again

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- 5. *Movie with most 2020 Oscar nominations
- 6. First cradles
- 7. *Oscar-winners Gore, Fonda and Cameron did this talk, pl.
- 8. *South Korean black comedy thriller
- 9. Image in an Orthodox church
- 10. Soaks in rays
- 11. The old college one
- 13. With numerous veins
- 14. Backless sofa
- 19. Campaign trail gathering
- 22. Coach's talk
- 23. Diminished
- 24. Open-mouthed
- 25. Relating to a gene
- 26. Garbage in, garbage out
- 27. Primo, on Italian menu
- 28. What tailor shops do

- 29. *He won an Oscar for role in a Scorsese movie
- 32. *Oscar-winning writer Julius Epstein to Oscar-winning writer Philip Epstein
- 33. Ewe's mate
- 36. *She's nominated in 2020... twice
- 38. Civil rights org.
- 40. Jersey call
- 41. Sudden increase in wind
- 44. *Whoopi Goldberg scored an Oscar for this movie
- 46. "Phantom ____," 2018 nominee
- 48. Locomotive hair
- 49. Round openings
- 50. Cul de ____, pl.
- 51. *Meryl Streep won for "____ Lady"
- 52. Mortgage, e.g.
- 53. Not in action

- 54. Skunk's defense
- 55. Tire measurement
- 58. Japanese capital

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The Classifieds

Rentals

LOOK NO FURTHER for your new home than River Park Apartments, 93 Wind Crest Ridge in Dillsboro. Designed for the elderly (62 or older), disabled or handicapped. Language assistance available. Energy efficient, affordable 1 BR apts. Accepting Applications! Rental assistance available. Disability accessible units subject to availability and need. \$25 application fee; credit/criminal required. Call site for information (828)631-0124. Office hours are M-Th 1-3:30 pm. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

STUDIO APARTMENT Close to town, \$550/monthly, \$350 Security Deposit, Water, Garbage Included. No Pets. Non-smoking (828)371-6844.

1BD/1BA SMALL CABIN Big Yard, Perfect for single or couple. 3 miles from Town. Woodsy Setting. No Smoking on Property. \$500/monthly, \$500/security. (828)371-6844.

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Bus. Opportunities

FRANKLIN DAYCARE Contact for Details. Serious Inquiries Only. All Others Need Not Inquire. No Confidential Information Will Be Given Over the Phone. (828)507-9009.

Motor Vehicles

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

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Classifieds
\$8.00 *20 words or less*
 The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide
 maconcountynews@gmail.com

Community Fundraisers

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

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

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

Misc. For Sale

UTILITY TRAILER 4'x6' \$250 cash. Weslo Exercise Bike \$50 cash. (828)524-9825.

ENGLISH SADDLE Girth, Stirrups \$180. Reins, full cheek Waterford \$45. Twin Bed, mattress, boxspring \$75. All Like New. Franklin (828)349-1201.

FRESH GEORGIA PECANS Thursdays, 2-4 p.m. In Front of VFW across from Ace. Limited Papershells Available.

FARMERS MARKET Winter Season 10am-Noon, every Saturday. Produce, honey, trout, artisan breads, pastries, roasted coffee beans, preserves, handcrafted soaps, eggs, peonies, lamb, microgreens. 200 Block East Palmer.

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 Matt Iannuzzi Broker/Associate
 Just listed! This house is conveniently located off Hwy 441 and is close to shopping centers, strip malls, restaurants, parks and recreation which include tennis courts, a swimming pool among other activities! The open floor plan blends the kitchen, living room and dining room. The large master bedroom is on the main level. The stone fireplace gives the living room a warm and cozy feel. The large windows reveal a winter mountain view that could be enhanced in the summer with some strategic tree removal. Sitting on the deck you would think you were in the trees. Another deck off the side of the house provides more space to enjoy the outdoors. Full basement to expand your living space! Did I mention this house has a sauna? 265 Silver Spruce Franklin, NC. MLS# 26014679 \$169,900 Call Matt 828-371-8544.

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¹Monthly payment is \$1.99 for every \$1,000 you finance. Example down payment for 2020 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab: \$48. Example down payment for 2020 Trax: \$48. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 2/28/20. See dealer for details. ²Must be a current owner of a 2008 model year or newer GM vehicle for at least 90 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 2/28/20. See dealer for details. ³Excludes L models. Must be a current owner of a 2008 model year or newer GM vehicle for at least 90 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Residual restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 2/28/20. See dealer for details. ⁴Excludes L models. Must be a current owner of a 2008 model year or newer GM vehicle for at least 90 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Residual restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 2/28/20. See dealer for details. ⁵Based on \$41,300 MSRP. Must be a current owner of a 2008 model year or newer GM vehicle for at least 90 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Residual restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 2/28/20. See dealer for details. ⁶Must be a GM or member as of 1/27/20. Bonus Earnings apply 2/2/20 and can be used on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2020 or 2019 GM vehicle. Non-transferable. Limit one offer per Account. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for full details. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

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
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093

25 PASSENGER BUS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2006	Ford	E-450 Cutaway	79,799

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016
2010	Chevrolet	Colorado	123,451
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	16,113
2016	Chevrolet	Cruze	12,329
2013	Chevrolet	Impala	118,535
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,216
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222
2012	Chevrolet	Volt	85,265
2016	Chrysler	200	85,081
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655
2005	Mazda	Mazda3	206,231
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,089
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499
2007	Pontiac	Grand Prix	212,774
2007	Saturn	Aura	201,624
2017	Subaru	Forester	24,993
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,071
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,193
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,189
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	82,313
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	15,869
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	70,915
2006	Chevrolet	Tahoe	168,822
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,465
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	19,524
2019	Dodge	Durango	26,521
2018	Dodge	Journey	39,978
2018	Dodge	Journey	38,106
2018	Ford	Edge	37,089
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285
2018	Ford	Explorer	37,229
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433
2017	Honda	Pilot	30,865
2019	Hyundai	Santa Fe	31,168
2019	INFINITI	QX60	33,398
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,308
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	16,498
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	14,489
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969
2017	Kia	Sportage	24,309
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408
2018	Nissan	Murano	38,288
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,054
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	135,042
2013	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	63,197
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	136,375
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	101,306
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707
2013	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	190,390
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	29,399
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317
2019	Ford	F-150	35,396
2008	Ford	F-150	181,449
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376
2019	Nissan	Frontier	21,148
2019	Nissan	Frontier	28,131
2015	RAM	1500	60,512
2017	RAM	2500	45,436