

MACON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT MEETING NOTICE 2020



- Burningtown - Combined meeting with Iotla on Saturday, March 14 - 10am - Macon County Airport
- Cartoogechaye - Thursday, February 20 - 6:30pm - Cartoogechaye Elementary School
- Cowee - Saturday, February 15 - 10am - Cowee School
- East Franklin - Combined with North Franklin - Thursday, February 20 - 5:30pm - Franklin Town Hall
- Ellijay - Saturday, March 14 - 3pm - Cullasaja Fire Station
- Highlands - Saturday, February 15 - 6pm - Hudson Library
- Iotla - Combined with Burningtown - Saturday, March 14 - 10am - Macon County Airport
- Millshoal - Saturday, February 15 - 1pm - Holly Springs Community Building
- North Franklin - Combined with East Franklin - Thursday, February 20 - 5:30pm - Franklin Town Hall
- Smithbridge - Saturday, February 15 - 11am - Smithbridge Community Building
- South Franklin - Saturday, February 15 - 11am - Macon County Library
- Union - Saturday, February 15 - 10am - Carpenter Building - Robert C. Carpenter Community Building

COMPLAINTS

Continued from page 1

the meeting.

“What we can do something about is assuring compliance,” said Winters.

According to Winters, compliance meant keeping existing services such as surgery at local hospitals Angel Medical Center and Highlands/Cashiers Hospital, something residents argued wasn’t happening.

One resident spoke in Franklin about a friend who had to wait 24 hours to be transported to Mission Health for an appendectomy because that surgical procedure wasn’t offered in Franklin. A similar case was heard during the Highlands meeting. According to

Winters however, both hospitals still technically offer surgical procedures, such as a colonoscopy in Highlands, therefore they are in compliance with the agreement. For Franklin, some surgeries may be possible on a limited basis for whenever a surgeon is actually at the hospital. However limited it may be, it is still possible.

Meetings hosted by the Gibbins firm will continue throughout February and then a final report will be given to the Attorney General’s Office. In the meantime, The Macon County News will be launching an in-depth series “Since the Merger” addressing concerns voiced during the meeting such as discontinuation of community partnerships, billing struggles, access to doctors, and what is next for Macon County.

POLICE CHIEF

Continued from page 1

up the ranks starting as a road deputy, then a patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant and most recently, Captain.

During his career, Bates established the department’s Be A Responsible Seller/Server (B.A.R.S.) Alcohol Training Program, an accredited program approved by the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. Bates serves on numerous community and civic organizations and boards and takes an active role in the community.

The Town of Franklin is currently advertising for the Police Chief Position and is taking applications. Reporting directly to the Town Manager, the Police Chief is responsible for the supervision of 16 full time sworn officers, one full time civilian personnel, and multiple part-time officers.

Qualifications

The applicant should have strong skills in

leadership, community-oriented policing, and excellent communication skills.

Experience in supervision and management specifically in law enforcement work is desired.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate from an accredited college or university with major coursework in criminal justice, public administration, or a related field supplemented by advanced courses in police administration and considerable management experience in law enforcement.

Advanced training through an accredited school or program is preferred.

A Bachelor’s Degree is required. Master’s preferred.

Applicants must have a valid NC driver’s license and must have completed the minimum requirements established by the NC Justice Training and Standards Council for certified law enforcement officers.

Advanced certification is preferred. Salary range for this position is \$60,197 – \$75,000. The successful applicant must pass drug tests, criminal background check, and psychological evaluation prior to employment.

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WINTER HOURS:
TUESDAY – FRIDAY 10AM – 5PM, SATURDAY 10AM – 4PM



Band recognized by N.C. State Senate

N.C. State Senator Jim Davis (L) paid a visit to the Franklin High School band room last week to personally deliver a "Senatorial Statement to band director Buddy Huckabee congratulating the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment's 2020 Sugar Bowl Performance." The statement details the the band's accomplishments including high marks in music, marching, general effect, color guard and auxiliary, percussion and drum major, earning first place captions in every category. The FHS Band was also crowned the "Grand Champion – Owner of the Steps of Jackson Square" for being the best in musical and entertainment performance of all 12 bands." The document concludes with the statement that the band "deserves to be congratulated for its participation in and achievements during the 2020 Sugar Bowl." The statement was read in the State Senate on Jan. 14.
Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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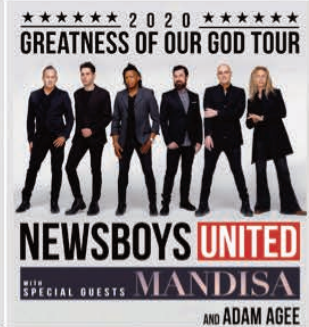


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February 29



Golden Dragons Acrobats
April 5



Clint Black
April 17



Crowder
May 1



Malpass Brothers
May 15



Crystal Gayle
May 22



Legendary Ladies of Motown
June 19



Jeff Allen
August 14

Jan 31 Ronnie Milsap
Feb 13-15 Let the Good Times Roll - A delightful doo-wop dinner show
Feb 21 Ashley Campbell
Feb 29 Newsboys United with Mandisa & Adam Agee
Mar 6 Sister Hazel
Mar 13 A Night with the Legends: Shop with a Cop Benefit
Mar 27-28 Aladdin Jr.
Apr 3-4 A Glimpse of His Last Days: An Easter Drama
Apr 5 Golden Dragons Acrobats
Apr 17 Clint Black
Apr 18 Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles
Apr 24 Jordan Feliz
Apr 25 Ray on My Mind: The Music of Ray Charles
May 1 Crowder
May 8 Booth Brothers
May 15 Malpass Brothers
May 22 Crystal Gayle
Jun 6 Betsy's School of Dance
Jun 13 T. Graham Brown & Jimmy Fortune
Jun 19 Legendary Ladies of Motown
Mary Wilson of The Supremes and Martha Reeves & The Vandellas
Jun 25-28 Proclaim His Name Prayer Conference

Jun 26 Zack Williams
Jun 27 Aaron Shust with Bob & Kathy Fitts
Jul 3 Mark Wills
Jul 10-12 Into the Woods: A Musical Comedy
Jul 17 Travis LeDoyt: A Tribute to the King
Jul 24 Annie Moses Band Rhapsody in Bluegrass
Aug 1 Grains of Sand Band: Summer Beach Music
Aug 7 The Commodores
Aug 14 Jeff Allen: The America I Grew Up In
Aug 29 Departure: The Journey Tribute Band
Sep 12 Gene Watson
Sep 17 Craig Morgan
Sep 20 The Duke Ellington Orchestra
Oct 2-3 My Name is Edgar Allan Poe
Oct 24 Mountain High Music, Craft, & Car Show
Featuring Kornbread Kreek, Mountain Faith Band, Clogging Exhibitions, Balsam Range, & More
Nov 20-21 Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
Dec 11-13 The Nutcracker Ballet
Dec 17 Merry Christmas Darling the Music of the Carpenters
Dec 20 Christmas with The Isaacs

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Four Republicans running for District Court judge in primary

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After Judge Richard Kent Walker made the decision to not run for re-election, Republicans and Democrats headed to their local board of elections offices to add their names to the ballot. Judge Walker was first appointed to serve the 30A and 30B Judicial Districts, serving Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties by Gov. Mike Easley (D) in 2007, and was most recently re-elected on Nov. 8, 2016. With a judicial career spanning more than a decade, his replacement will have some big shoes to fill.

Republican candidates for District Court Judge include Macon County Attorney Rich Cassady, Clay County Attorney Mitch Brewer, and Haywood County attorneys Kaleb Wingate and Jim Moore. Republican candidates will appear on the March 3 primary ballot, with the winner heading to the November election to face off against Swain County Democrat Attorney Justine Greene.

Rich Cassady

Rich Cassady was raised in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, because his father did not want to mine coal in Eastern Kentucky, where the paternal side of his family was from. Cassady installed telephones for what was originally Ohio Bell and later, Ameritech. He joined the U.S. Navy when he was 20 years old and served nine years honorably, his active service ended in 1997. During his time in the Navy, Cassady served onboard the U.S.S. John Young (DD-973), a Spruance class destroyer, and did two tours to the Persian Gulf in support of the 1st Gulf War. His last duty station was in Hawaii, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in three years attending Chaminade University of Honolulu. In 1998, he attended the University of Mississippi School of Law and graduated in 2001. During his time in the Navy, Cassady married and had a daughter. The marriage ended in 1997. In 2000, he married his current wife and raised his step-son since he was five years old. Cassady's step-son recently completed five years in the U.S. Army and received an Honorable Discharge. Cassady comes from a family of veterans, as his maternal grandfather, father, himself, and son are (or were) veterans.

Upon graduation from Ole Miss, Cassady clerked for the senior most judge in the State of Mississippi, Circuit Court Judge R.I. "Rip" Pritchard III for two years. Cassady said the job served as the equivalent of a Master's program in law. Cassady then worked for two insurance defense firms in Hattiesburg and then Gulfport, Miss. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Cassady moved to Macon County in 2006, where he has practiced law ever since. Cassady practices primarily criminal defense law in federal and state court, family law, and personal injury.

"I am running for District Court judge for several reasons," said Cassady. "First and foremost, I have the life and legal experience to handle this

position. All of us running for this position are asking the voters for the power to sit in judgment of them, their children, and their grandchildren, their neighbors, friends, and fellow community members. Over half of the types of cases a District Court judge handles are civil; primarily family law and custody cases. I tell people that I have not always been a lawyer. What I mean by that is that my adult perspective is not through the lens of being a trained attorney. I did not go to law school until I was 30 years old. By that age, I had served nine years honorably in the U.S. Navy, had an unsuccessful marriage, a 7-year old daughter, and had worked installing cable television the year before I went to law school for the same company my father worked for when he raised his family. I have lived the life, or something similar to it, of those that will come before me seeking justice and/or my judgment. Another reason for my running is to keep this particular position out West. If I lose this primary, then the

most likely result is this seven-county district will have five of its six District Court judges from Haywood County. So if law enforcement or lawyers from Cherokee County cannot find Judge Sellers (of Clay County) they will have to make a 200-mile round trip drive to get to Waynesville and one of five Haywood County lawyers that are district court judges. Same for Clay and Macon counties, just not quite as far."

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Mitchell Brewer

Mitchell Brewer was born in Wilson, N.C., and attended Barton College (formerly Atlantic Christian College). His wife, Taylor (Calder) Brewer, and he married after graduating from college. Brewer went to law school at Campbell, where his first child, Grant, was born. Brewer graduated and after licensure, he relocated to Hendersonville with his family where he opened his first private practice. After his second son, Cannon, was born in 2008, Brewer and his family relocated to Garner, N.C., and continued practicing law. Brewer's family turned to five with the birth of his third son, Owen. Brewer then relocated back to Western North Carolina in February 2014 and now calls Hayesville home. Brewer spends time with his family, friends and does his part to help his community.

Brewer attended Ralph L. Fike High School and Wilson Technical Community College where he was awarded an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences (Criminal Justice) and graduated with honors, transferring to Barton College

in 1998. During undergraduate school, when he was not doing tree work, he worked in security, delivered furniture all over eastern and middle North Carolina, and built truck bodies and operated fork lifts for a truck body manufacturer. Brewer graduated summa cum laude from Barton College in 2000, married, and worked for the State of North Carolina, Department of Health and Human Services' Interstate Compact on Juveniles, transferring juvenile probation and helping return runaways. Brewer went to law school at Campbell University at Buies Creek, N.C., and started practicing law in 2005. He practices criminal law, motor vehicle law, domestic relations, family law, civil matters, special proceedings, estate matters, and business formations.

"I am hoping to serve the people of the 30th Judicial District comprised of Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties because I understand the culture and the many challenges facing the residents of these



Kaleb Wingate

counties," said Brewer. "I also have a very appropriate background that has allowed me to experience and see first-hand the application of our courts on veterans, single mothers, people with substance use disorder and other mental conditions. I also worked in numerous occupations and understand why the courts are integral to the remedies businesses and working people face."

Kaleb Wingate

Kaleb Wingate, 31, is the only candidate on the Republican Primary Ballot that was born and raised in Western North Carolina, currently living near Main Street in Waynesville. After law school, Wingate returned home to serve his community as an Assistant District Attorney. He prosecuted hundreds of cases throughout all seven counties in the district and was able to gain a vast amount of experience in District Court. In addition, Wingate was assigned to Superior Court in Haywood County where he prosecuted serious felonies such as drug trafficking, bank robbery, vehicular homicide, and sexual assault. Wingate now operates his own law firm where he handles various types of cases including, but not limited to, DSS, involuntary commitments, small claims, and criminal defense. Wingate is known as a hard-working and modest attorney who understands the law and cares about his community's needs.

"I genuinely want to serve my community," said Wingate. "I'm not doing this to finish out my

state retirement or because I am disgruntled with one or more of our current District Court judges. I want to give back to the community that has given so much to me. I also promise to be accessible to everyone in all seven counties including being open to the idea of having an office centrally located in our district."

Jim Moore

Jim Moore was born in Warren, Ark., in 1961 to Jim and Elwanda Moore. Folks in Haywood County knew Moore's parents through Moore's Mountain Realty in Maggie Valley and through Elwanda's work as a legal secretary for numerous lawyers in Waynesville. After graduating McGehee High School, in McGehee, Ark., Moore enrolled at Southwestern College at Memphis, (now known as Rhodes College), earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree as a major in Political Science in 1983. He moved to Macon, Ga., and entered Walter F. George School of

Law, graduating in 1986. While in his last year of law school, he proposed to his "law school sweetheart," Connie Cort, from Asheville. That summer, Moore passed the North Carolina State Bar Exam and married Connie and began living in Waynesville.

Moore and Connie have been married for 34 years. They are the proud parents of Art, Ashley, and Connor. Moore has enjoyed coaching his kids in baseball, soccer, and basketball. Moore and his family are members of Grace Church in the Mountains in Waynesville. Moore has volunteered in the church produce food pantry, participated in the annual church fair, been both Junior and Senior Warden, and just finished serving as finance chairman for the church. Moore is currently a member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Moore and his family are members of Grace Church in the Mountains in Waynesville. Moore has volunteered in the church produce food pantry, participated in the annual church fair, been both Junior and Senior Warden, and just finished serving as finance chairman for the church. Moore is currently a member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Connie is an attorney and currently representing victims of family violence and family members involved in DSS cases. The couple live on a small farm with horses and several rescued dogs.

For 34 years, Moore has been a trial attorney, both as a private attorney and as an Assistant and then Chief Assistant District Attorney for the 30th Prosecutorial District. As an Assistant District Attorney, he was assigned to all seven counties in the District. Moore served Western North Carolina as an assistant district attorney for 17 years. Moore worked with Federal, adjacent State, and other law enforcement authorities outside of the District Attorney's district in deciding which agency would best be able to pursue the best chance of conviction. Moore has prosecuted tens of thousands of criminal cases in both District and Superior Courts of Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee counties. As a private



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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114	PRICE REDUCED
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016	LOCAL TRADE! READY FOR THE TRACK!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC!
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	16,113	LOCAL TRADE!
2013	Chevrolet	Impala	118,535	SPECIAL PRICE!
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,216	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222	LOCAL TRADE! LOADED PREMIER!
2012	Chevrolet	Volt	85,273	LOCAL TRADE!
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	SOLD!
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511	JUST IN!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969	JUST IN!
2005	Mazda	Mazda3	206,231	SOLD!
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499	LOCAL TRADE! LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701	PRICE REDUCED
2017	Subaru	Forester	24,993	PRICE REDUCED
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087	JUST IN!
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,193	PRICE REDUCED
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,189	PRICE REDUCED

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2014	Chevrolet	Equinox	82,313	SOLD!
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	SOLD!
2016	Chevrolet	Tahoe	70,915	SOLD!
2019	Chevrolet	Traverse	24,871	JUST IN!
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363	JUST IN!
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	19,524	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	61,185	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Dodge	Durango	23,521	JUST IN!
2018	Dodge	Journey	39,978	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Dodge	Journey	38,351	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Ford	Edge	37,096	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483	PRICE REDUCED
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433	PRICE REDUCED
2011	GMC	Acadia	163,390	\$8,960!
2017	Honda	Pilot	30,865	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	SOLD!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316	SOLD!
2017	Jeep	Renegade	51,268	SOLD!
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742	LOCAL TRADE! MANUAL!
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	16,498	PRICE REDUCED
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unltd.	14,489	PRICE REDUCED
2017	Kia	Sportage	24,532	SOLD
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408	PRICE REDUCED
2018	Nissan	Murano	38,296	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162	JUST IN!
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712	FRESH ON THE LOT!



TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,533	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2011	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	135,042	ON SPECIAL!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	136,375	ON SPECIAL!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498	ON SPECIAL!
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055	SOLD!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,316	JUST IN! LOCAL TRADE! LTZ MUST SEE!
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299	\$10,000!
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	29,420	DIESEL! LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2001	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	168,903	\$9,678!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281	DUALLY DIESEL! JUST IN LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317	\$22,249!
2019	Ford	F-150	35,396	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747	JUST IN!
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306	\$18,960!
2016	GMC	Sierra 1500	43,391	LOCAL TRADE! FRESH ON THE LOT!
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED DIESEL!
2015	RAM	1500	61,190	SOLD!
2017	RAM	2500	45,436	PRICE REDUCED!
2003	Toyota	Tundra	230,992	\$8,000!
2004	Nissan	Frontier	141,666	\$6,000!

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899	JUST IN!
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916	JUST IN!
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093	SOLD!



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CANDIDATES

From previous page

attorney, Moore has successfully handled thousands of cases such as criminal (misdemeanors and felonies), divorce, annulment, child custody, child support, alimony, equitable distribution, enforcement of property settlement agreements, termination of parental rights, DSS, juvenile, civil (\$25,000 or less), domestic violence protective orders, and appeals from Magistrate Court decisions.

"It is important to me that the Justice System be respected and that everyone feels like they got a fair trial and that they were heard during that trial," said Moore. "I believe my over three decades of experience from all sides of the courtroom make me the best candidate to provide that sense of fairness and trust."

What do you see as being the biggest challenge facing the justice system in WNC and how would you approach it?

Cassady: "This depends upon who you ask and what that litigant is seeking from District Court. If you listen to the concerns of folks living in Cherokee and Clay counties, a major concern is what they perceive to be low bonds. If you talk to victims and perhaps law enforcement, it's the length of time it takes to bring a criminal case to final resolution (to the extent district court is "final resolution"). This length of time can be caused by many things, being the number of court dates in a particular county, backlog at the state lab, or getting a defendant's lawyer to come to

court. Talking to folks, victims do not feel they have much of a voice and even less input on outcomes. That has to be addressed, even if it is as simple as clearing the first row or rows of seating behind the DA's table to give folks the best opportunity to at least hear what is going on.

Brewer: "I see a rapidly growing area trying to digest many new forms of challenges while also working through old issues and growing pains caused by loss of jobs and the "frontier" nature of the region. The terrain has led to silos of suffering and many financial hardships that the people just accept and try to make do. Most counties are doing well with their budgets but resources and other services cannot adequately provide for the better well being of juveniles, elderly and other vulnerable residents. My rulings and analysis will be filtered through this understanding but my efforts will be to help my colleagues come up with solutions to these conditions.

Wingate: "The opioid and methamphetamine epidemic which also contributes to property crime. Also, the number of cases in our system compared to our resources. I promise to work hard, follow the law, and protect our community while ensuring the statutory and constitutional rights of those appearing in front of me are protected."

Moore: "Justice delayed is justice denied. The sheer increase in the number of pending cases in both domestic and criminal courts causes cases to be continued too long simply because there are not enough hours in the day to take care of them all. I would be willing to do my part in managing courtroom time by being in the court-

room as early as the defendant and witness are asked to be there to deal with matters even prior to calendar calls. I would be willing to discussing cases prior to court with both sides of a case to manage their time for efficiently. I would also be willing to assist other courts that I am not assigned to should I finish my court early."

What is one thing you hope to accomplish if elected?

Cassady: "If I am limited to 'one thing,' it would be to keep the western counties' voices heard in our District Courts by keeping this position out west," said Cassady. "I would also hope to provide solutions for some of the issues mentioned earlier."

Brewer: "I want everyone that comes before me to know that they were heard and I did not do anything but give complete attention to their matter with great regard for them, their family and the conditions they are facing."

Wingate: "I promise to encourage the resolution of cases in a timely manner and make decisions without bias or prejudice and without regard to political or socioeconomic status."

Moore: "I hope that my efforts to increase the speed by which matters are heard and by establishing a feeling in my courtroom that everyone will be heard and have the laws applied fairly and impartially will increase both the honor and integrity of our District Courts in Western North Carolina."

Any additional information you would like to include for voters?

Cassady: "This is a partisan race. Republican

primary voters need to know that I am the only life-long Republican in this race. One of my opponents joined the party for the specific purpose of running for this position as a Republican; which he clearly sees as advantageous. Another of my opponents had to have left the party when he voted in Democrat primaries in 2012 and 2014. He did not have to join the Democrat party to do that, but he did have to leave the GOP to do so. I am the only veteran in this primary. My life demonstrates my commitment to my country and my community."

Wingate: "I am a Christian, Conservative, and proud Republican. I strongly encourage you to research all of the candidates for this position by speaking with law enforcement officers, clerks of court, attorneys, and all court personnel about their interactions and observations. You will hear the combination of my experience and being a native of WNC makes me the most qualified for this position. I would be grateful for your vote on March 3."

Moore: "I am the best candidate to achieve these goals as I am the only one who has been a prosecutor and a defense attorney and has also handled child custody cases (each of my opponents only has two of these three criteria that make up a great majority of cases heard by a District Court Judge), and I have lived in this District longer than any of the other candidates which is why I have had a successful career in understanding and arguing cases to the people of this District. In other words, I believe I have a good feel for the District and the values of its people."

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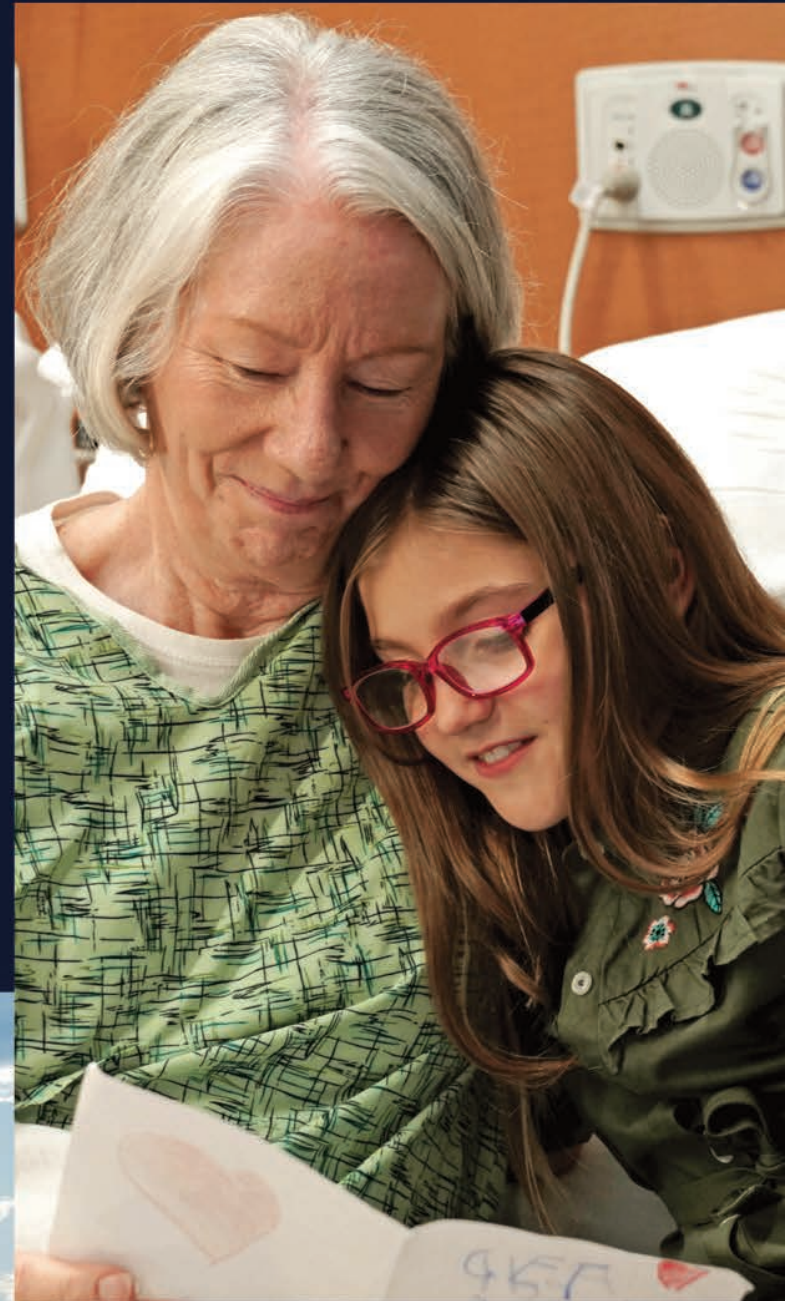




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- New, larger helicopter added to the MAMA fleet
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MISSION:YOU

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Last Wednesday Gibbins Advisors, the monitor for the HCA/Mission transaction, held a public meeting at our recreation department. This inaugural meeting was one of several held in the region. The monitors outlined what their role would be in regard to Hospital Corporation of America meeting the NC Attorney General's stipulations that were included in his approval of the sale of Mission Healthcare to HCA. The Highlands Cashiers Hospital, along with several other small hospitals, is a part of this process.

I was surprised that only 30 residents attended the meeting. I suspect there may be a jaded, skeptical view in the community that the new corporate owners of the hospital will do whatever they want to do. Frankly, when Mission took over the operation of the hospital six years ago, residents were told how services would significantly improve. Some folks contend just the opposite happened. I suspect there still remains widespread skepticism about what will happen to services under the HCA leadership.

When the floor was opened to the public, I spoke first. I indicated that I have measured optimism that there can be improvements at the hospital, especially if HCA and other community organizations can establish mutually beneficial partnerships. Let me review several ways these partnerships might work.

Pisgah Legal Aid Services is working to establish a presence in the Cashiers and Highlands area. They specialize in assisting low income people in qualifying for Medicaid and/or the Affordable Care Act. If a person shows up at an emergency room without insurance, hospitals have to treat the patient and possibly write off the debt. HCA made a commitment in the Attorney General's stipulations to provide a basic level of care for everyone. If Pisgah can help more people in the area qualify for this support, HCA will ultimately benefit. More patients with insurance to pay for services will benefit the entire community. The Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation may have an important role to play in this Pisgah initiative, especially since access to legal services impacts the longterm health and wellness outcomes.

I am also optimistic that a concerted community effort may be able to address the lack of primary physicians in the area. The health foundations, Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and the Dogwood Health Foundation could play key roles in addressing this issue. HCA will need to be an active partner also. Under the sales agreement HCA committed to investing 7.5 million dollars, or \$750,000 a year, in community benefit

See TAYLOR page 11

Letters to the Editor

Progressivism has taken on many faces

In September of 1958 I turned 21 and registered to vote. I registered as a Democrat primarily because my family had always been Democrats. As the 1960 Presidential election approached I paid close attention to the candidates, John Kennedy and Richard Nixon, and as I listened I began to realize that my conservative principles were aligned more to the Republican candidate than to the Democrat.

This was somewhat confusing because, in my experience, southern Democrats had always been and still were, hard-working, God-fearing and conservative. The problem was that I was now hearing a more liberal ideology from the Democrat Party which was being identified as progressive.

At the time I didn't know that this "progressive" ideology was nothing new. In fact the initial progressive movement in America, covering a period from 1890 to 1920, was primarily bi-partisan and concentrated on exposing the evils of corporate greed, combating fear of immigrants, and urging Americans to think hard about what democracy meant.

Americans were also encouraged to register to vote, fight political corruption, and let the voting public decide how issues should best be addressed.

It began as a social movement and grew into a political movement. Though Progressive reformers achieved many noteworthy goals during this period, they also promoted discriminatory policies and espoused intolerant ideas such as eugenics aimed at preventing "undesirables" from reproducing via sterilization.

Today progressivism is no longer bi-partisan but has become the dominant force within the Democratic Party. For example, Mark Levin in his new book "Unfreedom of the Press," points out how today's leftist progressive ideology has taken over the media to the point that it is now an arm of the Democrat party. He goes on to say that today's newsrooms and journalists do not promote free speech and press freedom but serve as societal filters attempting to enforce uniformity of thought and social and political activism centered on the progressive ideology and agenda. Issues, events, groups, and individuals that do not fit the narrative are dismissed or diminished; those that do fit the narrative are elevated and celebrated.

Progressivism has taken on many faces over the past century and is now led by a new group calling for Medicare for all, the Green New Deal, overhaul the Supreme Court, replacement of the Electoral College, support of Socialism, anti-2nd Amendment and through their Green New Deal, eliminate the use of fossil fuels, the life blood of the world's economy. With all of this they have no idea of the costs and repercussions associated with the enactment of these radical policies.

While here, let's address the replacement of the Electoral College with the popular vote. This is obviously being considered because Hillary won the popular vote by 2.9 million

over Trump. However when we look at the popular vote more closely we see that in the states of New York and California she beat Trump by six million. The obvious conclusion is that, if we eliminate the Electoral College, all future Presidents will be elected by the liberal states of New York and California and the remainder of the Nation will virtually have no vote. The Electoral College was implemented for just this reason.

Having said this, I seriously wonder if my Democrat friends and family realize what the Party has become; being led by the liberal elites in the northeast and California and in calling themselves "progressives," do they truly understand what the progressive movement has now become.

I cannot end without mentioning the current situation with our President. Since his inauguration the Democrats have been calling for his impeachment. On what grounds? Oh, we'll think of something. Well they did and unfortunately for them, they failed to follow the requirements of the Constitution by calling for a vote of the full House before appointing a committee to begin their investigation. Instead Speaker Pelosi appointed a committee which came up with two bogus articles. Abuse of Power by withholding aid to Ukraine, which he had the authority to do under his executive authority, and Contempt of Congress by refusing to honor subpoenas which were unlawful because of Speaker Pelosi's failure to follow the Constitutional requirement of obtaining a full vote of the House before appointing the committee.

President Trump will obviously be acquitted because of the Democrats blind obsession with seeking impeachment at any cost and overturning the vote of the American people.

To end where I began. I have voted in every Presidential election since 1960 and in my experience I have never seen a President accomplish more for this country than President Trump in spite of constant harassment and vilification by the Democrats and media.

God bless President Trump and God bless America.

Marshall "Buck" Miller – Franklin, N.C.

MCN hosting candidate forum on Thursday, Feb. 13 at library

The Macon County News will be hosting a candidate forum on Thursday, Feb. 13, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library. The forum will focus on all five county commissioner candidate, both Democrat and Republican. While the focus is on county commissioner candidates, candidates for other offices including Congress, District Court Judge, and Senate will be attending to meet with voters and introduce themselves.

The event will begin at 4:30 with a meet and greet with all candidates. Beginning at 5, Congressional candidates will be given the opportunity to speak and address voters, followed by other candidates in attendance. The forum will kick off around 5:30 with a question and answer session with commissioner candidates.

Members of the audience will be invited to submit questions, and if time allows, audience questions will be considered.

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The president can do no wrong

Congratulations, by now the president has been acquitted of high crimes and misdemeanors. The Republican Senate has determined without any witnesses or documents that Trump had a "perfect call." There never was any question about the facts, to quote Republican Lamar Alexander, "It was inappropriate for the president to ask a foreign leader to investigate his political opponent and to withhold United States aid to encourage that investigation."

The real question always was the power of this president. In voting to give the president a pass in this case, the Senate has rewritten the Constitution by demoting the Congress as a coequal branch of government. No longer can any Congress investigate any thing any president does because according to Donald Trump, "Then I have an Article 2, where I have the right to do whatever I want as president."

It is one thing for the president to say he can do whatever he wants, it is another thing for his attorneys to create a legal fiction to grant him that power as a matter of law. According to this newly created theory of presidential power, as long as the president does not commit a specific crime, and he believes he is acting in the public interest, he cannot be impeached. That is ridiculous.

According to his attorneys, if the president believes that he knows what is best for the country, or that his reelection is always in the public interest, then anything he does that is not a specific crime, is OK. Congress has no right to investigate or demand any documents and he is not bound by any law, or even the constitutional power to impeach.

There is no specific law against giving the nuclear launch codes to his friend Putin. If President Trump believes it is in the public interest to do that, then that would be OK. If the president dissolved the energy department and gave the power to manage all our energy production to his friend Rick Perry, that would be OK. That is exactly what Putin did in Russia to enrich his political allies. You could make up a thousand examples of possible corruption or dangerous action by the President that would all be OK according to this new legal fiction.

The founding fathers fought a revolution against King George. The one thing that they feared most was the creation of a powerful president that would in essence become a king-like figure. A head of state who could say "I have the right to do whatever I want as president." President Trump's attorneys have just created the legal framework to make that happen.

Louis Vitale – Franklin, N.C.

TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

programs over the next 10 years.

At other meetings in Cashiers and Franklin, the health monitors heard more impassioned concerns from residents than what they heard here in Highlands. But, I have heard similar concerns here too. Lack of consistent services, no doctors that remain in the community, and problems in the billing, are just a few examples.

The good news is that the monitors have established a portal on the internet to receive concerns about services and operations at the HCA facilities. Email any concerns to: IndependentMonitor@gibbinsadvisors.com. Your information will be kept anonymous. Patients can report good service and outcomes also.

The Wednesday meeting was a good first start. My involvement will continue. I am also in communication with the Western North Carolina Health Equity Coalition. HEC was formed during the sale of Mission to HCA. It is a coalition of nonprofit groups that are committed to representing everyone, especially the underserved citizens of Western Carolina. It is concerned about access, services and operations at HCA facilities throughout Western Carolina. They are committed to insuring quality services throughout the region. HEC will seek to establish constructive engagement with the monitors. For more information Google WNC Health Equity Coalition.

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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 10 - February 3. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 26
Chelsea Briana Heaton, 28, of Franklin, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

January 28
Tyler Lee Watson, 28, of Otto, was issued an indictment for possession of cocaine. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Jamie Lee Young, 30, of Tiger, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for fugitive warrant and possession of stolen vehicle, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$14,000 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Michael Lee Stanfield, 48, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. No bond was set. Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Jennifer Marie Gerba, 40, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. A secured bond of \$4,500 bond was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jeffery Lee Rodeheaver, 36, of Franklin, was charged with simple assault, misdemeanor worthless check. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

Mark Wayne Saffran, 59, of Franklin, was charged with third degree sex exploitation of a minor. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set. Amber L. Wright made the arrest.

January 29
Joshua Lee Sutton, 38, of Franklin, was charged with possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Matthew Canzone made the arrest.

Casey R. Murphy, 24, of Franklin, was charged with communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

January 30
Teigha Franklin, 35, of Franklin, was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods. A secured bond of \$16,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Lindsey Nicole Houston, 35, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

February 3
Jeremy Edward Stepp, 28, of Franklin, was charged with felony probation violation, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$37,500 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

January 10
Joseph Thomas McCord, 29, of Country Club Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, possession of stolen property, larceny. A secured bond of \$2,200 was set. Officer Norman made the arrest.

January 12
Luis Angel Molina Robles, 32, of Cherry St., was charged with driving under the influence. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set. Officer Evans made the arrest.

January 13
Matthew Scott Winters, 26, of Pressley Rd., was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Officer Dula made the arrest.

Lisa Margaret Blanchard, 42, of Katie Lane, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, forgery of instrument. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

January 25
Jesse Hank James, 26, of First St., was charged with resisting public officer, trespassing, disorderly conduct, resisting public officer, trespassing, disorderly conduct. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

January 27
Jesse Dakota Beaver, 26, was issued an order for arrest for probation violation, larceny, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$6,000 was set. Officer Riles made the arrest.

Marshal Payne Balding, 19, of West Palmer St., was issued warrant service for all other offenses. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. Officer Ashe made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 22
Jennifer Hope Yates, 29, of Rubens Rd., Concord, was issued an order for arrest for larceny of a motor vehicle. A \$20,000 bond was set.

Cheyenne Robin Arneach, 27, of Molly Blankenship Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny, shoplifting concealment of goods. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

January 23
Randal Lewis Marrinan, 52, of Elm St., was charged with failure to appear for communicating threats, injury to personal property, assault inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Michael James George, 45, of Columbus George Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Charles Michael Nash, 31, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felony. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Jose Antonio Contreras-Rios, 27, of Kate Lambert Rd., Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for failure to perform community service. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jeremias Ambrocio Garcia, 24, of Reality Ridge Rd., Glenville, was charged with reckless driving, driving while license revoked, driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

January 25
Alyson Tenail Barker, 44, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

January 26
Mike Alexander Green, 39, of Peppermill Lane, was charged with larceny of a firearm. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

John Dustin Hall, 43, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with possession of stolen goods, injury to real property, possession of stolen goods/property, larceny after break/enter, breaking and or entering. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 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.

Baha'is of Macon County wil host Multifaith Devotions and Discussions, on Friday Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., in Franklin. Open to members of all faiths (or no particular faith). Weekly topics include service, unity, the arts, health, prayer, justice, beauty, etc. Feel free to share a prayer, story, song or artwork that inspires you. Free and open to all. Email grantw@udel.edu for details and directions.

N.C. Cooperative Extension 2020 Hemp Production Meeting will be held on Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Macon County Center, 193 Thomas Heights Rd. This meeting is for existing growers, new growers, and those interested in growing hemp. Topics to be covered will include research, regulations and agronomics, research updates for Western North Carolina from NC State University, insects and diseases, budgets, and marketing, as well as a growers panel. For more information or to RSVP, call the Macon County office at (828)349-2046.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike, on Saturday, Feb. 8, with an elevation change 900 ft., from Long Branch to Rock Gap in the Standing Indian Recreational Area, starting at the backcountry parking lot, up Long Branch to the Appalachian Trail at Glassmine Gap, then north to Rock Gap, and returning by a Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 11 a.m. Drive 32 miles round trip. Visitors and dogs on leash are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call leader Katharine Brown, (828)421-4178.

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.

Arduino Club will meet on Saturday, Feb. 8, 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.

Franklin Bird Club Meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. The speaker Curtis 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 you can help through community science and advocacy as well as touch on how the new forest plan revision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest affect our Important Bird Areas. For more information, <https://franklinbirdclub.com> or (828)524-5234.

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.

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11, light dinner at 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., at the Post Home located at 614 W. Main St. All members and military veterans are encouraged to attend.

Gastric Bypass Support Group will meet at Angel Medical Center third floor conference room at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11. For more information call, Linda at (828)524-5635 or Betsy at (828)347-5244.

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.

Macon Medication Assistance Program located at the back of the First Baptist Church is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (828)524-5258.

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.

Mens Teen Challenge Needs Good Quality Lumber for its wood-working Shop. Pick up in Franklin area. To donate, call (828)369-1177.

Al-Anon is a Fellowship of Relatives and Friends of Alcoholics who believe their lives have been affected by someone's drinking. Al-Anon meets at the Macon County Public Library Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Macon Chips Local Wood Carving Club is dedicated to the techniques and methods of wood carving. The club meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., in the Franklin High School wood shop. Interested persons are cordially invited. For additional information, call (828)369-2144.

Franklin Golf Association meets on Thursdays, 9 a.m., at the Franklin Golf Course. For more information, call Franklin Golf Course at (828)524-2288.

Celebration of Mountain Music is held on Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin. Join them to jam, sing, dance or just enjoy traditional mountain music. For more information, call (828)524-3485.

Free Ping Pong at the Robert C. Carpenter Building on Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m., 441 So. in Franklin.

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

Email calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Windy Gap Baptist Church Singing will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. Featured singers will be Turning Home from Sylva. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Franklin First United Methodist Church meets Sundays for worship at 8:30 a.m. (contemporary) and 10:55 a.m. (traditional). Fellowship time is at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 a.m. Bible studies, group offerings, and gatherings occur throughout the week. The church is located at 66 Harrison Ave. The senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit www.firstumcfranklin.org

Mulberry United Methodist Church's Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. The church is located at 155 Mulberry Rd., Otto. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call Rev. Eric Henson at (828)342-0431.

Patton United Methodist Church Services are Sunday worship 9.45 a.m., Sunday school 11 a.m., prayer time Wednesday 6 p.m., youth group Wednesday 6 p.m., Bible study Wednesday 6.30 p.m. 119 Patton Church Road, Franklin pattonmethodistchurch.org

Memorial United Methodist Church regular Sunday services are held at 10:55 a.m. each Sunday, and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd., just off 64 West. For more information, call (828)369-5834 or visit our website at: www.memorialmethodistchurch.org.

Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Men's Bible Study is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Ladies prayer and Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465 or (828)421-4153.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

R	E	D	S	T	R	S	E	S
E	A	S	E	P	P	R	E	R
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T	L	E	T	C	A	R	A	R
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E	L	O	V	E	C	L	O	N
D	S	L	E	D	M	B	A	R

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Behind the scenes look at Night to Shine

Diane Peltz
 Contributing Writer

It's finally February and the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine for special needs guests is looming large.

This year the sixth annual Night to Shine Dance will happen this Friday, Feb. 7, at the Moss Valley Venue, formerly the Bloemsmas Barn. A Night to Shine is billed as an unforgettable prom experience for people with special needs, ages 14 and up. This event would not be able to take place if not for the 184 local volunteers willing to donate their time to assist in organizing the entire event.

The serious planning for this event begins in August-September, although many volunteers work on it the whole year. Cheryl Richter and Carol Anne Elliot have been at the helm as part of the planning committee for the past three years, organizing the many details. They meet once or twice a month depending on need, at Cartoogechaye Baptist Church, along with planning committee members Sandy DeNier, Linda Hill, Lori Macumber and Kathy Smith. The theme is chosen at the first meeting and plans for decorations are decided then also. Richter begins posting on Social Media in September to recruit much needed volunteers. This year 120 guests are signed up along with the 184 volunteers.

Prom clothes are collected throughout the year from donations, and are sorted out by size and reserved for guests to try on for prom night. Items may need alterations and several of the volunteers who are on the alteration/fitting team take them home to adjust for the guests. The volunteers keep in mind that if they alter something they may need to re-alter it again for the next guest, so they try not to cut any material. Taking up a sleeve is easily let out again when tucked in correctly. Linda Hill is the clothing coordinator, who has altered many suits and dresses.

"Working with the wardrobe, we get to see the excitement in



Davis Moffitt gets fitted for his tux.



Lisa Annis gets a tailored fit for her big night.

both the girls and the boys," said Hill.

Keeping track of the clothing is an enormous task. The items, including shoes and jewelry, get inventoried and placed into a large clear bag, labeled, and kept for next year if the guest hasn't grown. Patty Gowen is another seamstress who works with Linda and says, "this is the highlight of the year. This is her third year volunteering. This year her family is coming from Loganville, Ga., to help out. She says it also means so much to the parents. Brenda Elliot read about the event on Facebook and this is now her second year helping out with the wardrobe.

"I read about it and I had to do it," said Brenda.

Aside from the wardrobe crew there is a buddy volunteer group. Every guest is assigned a buddy, who helps out the guests during the prom. Buddies learn all about their guest and stay with them throughout the entire event. This assures that no guest is never without help, if needed. These volunteers also attend several meetings. They learn some general tips for communicating with guests, preventing and handling uncomfortable situations

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 and
 Lost and Found in Macon County on Facebook




This was our home burning down on December 17 - Just over a month ago. It also burned our cars.



So many of you - friends and strangers alike - have brought us clothes, food, and money along with hugs and prayers. We were so addled in the beginning that we may not have thanked everyone properly. So, we want to do so publicly here.

Thank You
 to everyone who helped us through this very difficult time. Franklin is such a wonderful community, and we are so lucky to call this area home.
 We are forever grateful

God Bless You
 Patti Lee & Kenny Genawese, 1577 Nickajack Road

and "people first" language so all participants are respected. Their duties include providing companionship as not all guests want to get up and dance. Some like to sit and watch, so buddies sit with them. Buddies eat dinner with their guest, take them to photo ops, dance with them, and crown them King and Queen of the Prom at the designated times. Every single guest gets crowned King or Queen. They also take the guests to special areas if they want to do such things as, Karaoke, shoe shine, touch up makeup, glamour face, arm painting and limo rides. The objective is to treat the guests as if they were the most valuable and important people in the room and the intent is for them to have the most memorable time.

This Year, the Person First Services group of guests from Sylva,



Jimmy Vanhook tries on a little bling for his big prom night.

Photos by Ellen Randall & Diane Peltz

will be attending the event for the first time. Person First Services provides assistance to individuals with disabilities. Several of the workers at Person First have volunteered to be buddies this year.

"It is good for them to have that moment and get all dressed up," said volunteer Makayla Bryson. Miranda Bryson, another buddy says of the experience, "It is great to see the smiling faces, happiness and excitement about dressing up."

The decorating team is responsible for setting up everything and decorating at the Moss Valley Venue, on the Thursday before the event. With the theme being "An Evening in Paris" this year, there will be beautiful lighting, an Eiffel Tower Backdrop for guest portraits and lighted Eiffel Tower centerpieces on each table.

Check-in teams are responsible for signing in each volunteer as they arrive, distributing their name badges, and attaching a wristband. No one is allowed in the venue unless they are on the volunteer list and have their wristband on. All volunteers are required to fill out a volunteer registration form and are given a background check before they are allowed to help. The Sheriff's office



Jacob and Elizabeth all decked out and ready for the prom.

provides the background checks for free, for each volunteer.

A food service team assists in serving the catered dishes and a parking team of volunteers, to help with traffic issues, which ensures a successful event. This year an outside heated tent will also be an addition, so that a warm and safe place will be available for the guests to take a break from the festivities when needed. As the guest list continued to grow the need for the tent grew too. A security team will also be assigned to all entrances and exits to assure everyone's safety.

If anyone is interested in donating clothing, jewelry, shoes, ties or money email franklinnighttoshine@yahoo.com or message Cheryl Hart Richter on Facebook. To keep up with Night to Shine information you can join their Facebook

Group: Night to Shine - Cartoogechaye Baptist- Franklin, North Carolina. They are especially in need of xxxlarge tuxes, suits, black dress pants and white dress shirts and shoes and women's plus size dresses. They can arrange for pickup of clothing or Curvy Girl Consignment on Highlands Road is their drop off point in town. Just tell Bonnie they are for "Night to Shine" and she will hold them.

Night to Shine depends entirely on donations to fund the event every year and they could not do it without the help of other churches, businesses, and citizens in the community. All donations go directly into funding the prom.



Susie Keener picks out jewelry to go with her party dress.



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Prayers Against Drugs held first Friday of month

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

In January 2017, several Macon County young people were lost due to drugs. Carol Anne Elliott realized that something needed to be done so she contacted several people who she thought would like to be involved in praying, and the “Prayers Against Drugs” event was born the following February. Townsfolk have been meeting outside the courthouse since then, every first Friday of the month, to pray for those suffering from addiction and the people who love them.

“There are faithful people that come every month to pray. So many are out there doing good things to help stop the drug addiction epidemic, but with God on board great things happen. People need to know that if you or someone you know is suffering from drug addiction, people are praying for you. We come together, pray, and sing. Everyone, of all ages, is welcome,” said Elliott.

Mike Barres is the executive of Teen Challenge of the Smokies, a program that provides men with an effective and comprehensive Christian, faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society. When Elliott contacted him regarding her idea about praying against drugs, he was all on board.

Barres explains. “We believe that prayer changes things,” he said. “We pray as a large group and in small groups. We pray for the addiction problem in our area and also pray for individuals who are wrestling with addiction or are in recovery. We pray

for family members and for those who have lost friends and loved ones due to addiction. We also pray for addiction recovery programs, law enforcement, chaplains, hospitals, and churches.”

Barres feels that genuine surrender to Jesus Christ and discipleship in His Word, and recovery programs are things that can be done to help reduce the number of folks who use drugs.

Barres works closely with “No Wrong Door,” a program, run by Sheila Jenkins, that tries to coordinate referrals to all agencies and organizations wanting to help.

“Most people would say that there are not enough resources here or anywhere else in our state,” said Barres.

No Wrong Door is helping to change that.

Prayers Against Drugs is a Christian non-denominational event. It is held at the courthouse every first Friday of the month at 6 p.m., regardless of the weather. This gathering is not for speakers, education,

program development or promotion or demonstrating. Their only agenda is to pray. Those wrestling with addiction need all the love, help, hope, prayers, and support they can get. Elliot would like anyone needing prayers against drugs, to come out to the courthouse on Friday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. and join with the community and pray together.

Barres urges, “Please support nonprofits who are trying to help with this huge problem. Keep praying, keep reaching and never give up. Matthew 19:26 says ‘but Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”



Prayers Against Drugs is held in downtown Franklin on the first Friday of the month at 6 p.m. The public is invited to participate this Friday, Feb. 7.



Deaths & Funerals

Pamela Barden Ibaugh

Pamela Barden Ibaugh, 58, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., she was the daughter of the late James Barden and Myra Jane Childers Welch. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by special niece, Crissy Sutton. She loved to cook and babysit. She was Methodist by faith.

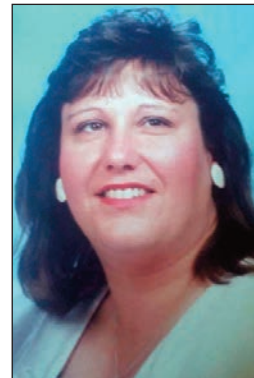
She is survived by her husband, William “Bill” Ibaugh Jr. of Franklin; two children, Samantha S. Charles of Franklin and Daylon Kyle Hurst of Franklin; two brothers, Alan Sutton (Linda) of Woodstock, Ga., and James Barden Sr. (Darlene) of Cudahy, Wis.; one granddaughter, Kiara Jane Carroll and three nephews, Paul Sutton, James Barden Jr. and Cody Barden.

Funeral service will be held Friday, Feb. 7, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jason Morgan will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1-2 pm, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Jordan Morgan, Jesse Langston, Jake Langston, Mark Langston, Brett Guy and Christopher James Ensley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Macon Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses, 261 Iotla Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



Pamela Ibaugh

Donald Edward Muehlfelt

Donald Edward Muehlfelt, 80, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.

Born in Aurora, Ill., he was the son of the late Alfred Adam and Bertha Josephine Barnick Muehlfelt. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four sisters, Marilyn Mork, Joanne Gruber, Barbara Peterson, and Mary Ann Matthews. He was an Army veteran, who served during the Cuban Crisis. He was very active at Resurrection Lutheran Church, where he had previously served as an usher and the assistant to the pastor. He loved Nascar, model cars and was an associate member of the FOP. He worked in customer service at Ingles for 10 years.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Renate G. Muehlfelt; stepchildren, Mary Ann Boyd Wegner of Franklin, Dr. Daniel C. Boyd (Synthia) of Martinez, Ga., and William J. Boyd (Cathy) of Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m., at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Pastor Patrick O’Neil and Pastor John Brunner will officiate. The family will have a gathering of family and friends following the service in the fellowship hall.

Memorial donations can be made to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 38 Wayah Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Donald Edward Muehlfelt

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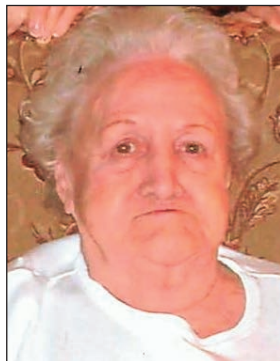
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Deaths & Funerals

Ethel Louise Crane Penland

Ethel Louise Crane Penland, 94, went home to be with the Lord Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. She was born in Macon County Aug. 28, 1925, to the late Ed Crane and Olive Burrell Crane. She was raised in a good Christian home in Highlands, N.C. She was a homemaker and was of the Baptist faith. She was an Army and Air Force wife moving all over the country. She loved reading her Bible, listening to gospel music, and listening to Dr. Charles Stanley. She was preceded in death by her husband, James N. Penland; four sisters, Etta Ellis, Maggie Bell, Hazel Keener, and Edna Corn; and five brothers, Thad Crane, Floyd Crane, James Crane, Raleigh Crane, and Fred Crane.



Ethel Louise Penland

Survivors include her daughters, Louise Munné of Franklin, N.C., Evelyn Hicks (Wilson) of Gainesville, Fla., and Norma Hoefs of Franklin; a son, Gary Penland of Otto, N.C.; five grandchildren, Heather Roberts, Lesley Hicks, David Munné, Ryan Hoefs, and Michael Hoefs; four great-grandchildren, Paul Munné, Shelby Cornell, and Carley Lyn Hoefs; and a special friend, Gene Webb of Otto.

A celebration of life service was held Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Kevin Chapman officiating. Burial followed in the Addington Cemetery.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Penland family.

Leona 'Lee' Richey

Leona "Lee" Richey, 97, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

A native of Ashland, Ky.; she is the daughter of the late Charles and Cosy Berry Sanger. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, James E. Richey Sr.; and a brother, George W. Sanger. She served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. She is a member of Christ's Community Church; enjoyed sewing, reading and painting. She also served as a Girl Scout leader and Cub Scout leader.



Leona 'Lee' Richey

She is survived by her two children, Karen Smith (Mike) of Franklin and James E. Richey Jr. (Marg) of Lucasville, Ohio; four grandchildren, Jeremy Smith, Melissa Dentel, Ryan Richey, and Heather Robinson; eleven great grandchildren, Bryson Richey, Grant Robinson, Gabe Robinson, Della Robinson, Carlee Robinson, Tyler Smith, Chloe Smith, Lillie Fryer, Seth Fryer, Esther Dentel and Elijah Dentel.

The family will have a private celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Macon County Senior Center.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Beatrice Bernice Deweese

Beatrice Bernice Deweese, 99, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Grady and Annie Bryant Wilkes. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Cornell Deweese; two brothers, Herman and Clifton Wilkes and two sisters, Leona Wilkes and Frances Passmore. She was the oldest active member of Burningtown Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sisters, Eugenia Dills of Franklin and Kay Houston (Mike) of Highlands and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 1, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jim Kinard and Rev. Charles Stevens officiated. Burial was in the Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, C/O Eddie Simonds, 279 Edwards Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Scott Roderick

Scott Roderick, 68, died Jan. 28, 2020, from a heart attack.

Born in Chicago, he did a tour of duty in the Air Force before moving to Grand Rapids, Mich. where he became a skilled classical chef. He joined his mother here in Franklin in 1998. He retired from Paoletti's Restaurant and enjoyed nearly seven years of his perfect retirement that included music, pool, and of course, food.

He was predeceased by his parents and son. He is survived by his loving companion of 21 years, Charlene St. John. He was a friend of Bill's for 22 years.

Burial will be in the Schuyler Lake Cemetery this coming summer.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Schuyler Lake Cemetery Association, PO Box 135, Schuyler Lake, NY 13457.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Scott Roderick

Rebecca Garcia Richards

Rebecca Garcia Richards, 66, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, she was the daughter of the late Santos Garcia. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her three unborn children, Michael, Christina, and Anthony. She was an employee of the U.S. Postal Service and very active in St. Francis Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, William Harold Richards Jr. of Franklin; four children, Andrea Smith (Brian) of Jacksonville, N.C., Christopher Richards of Hiram, Ga., Wendy Youngman (Troy) of Austin, Texas, and William H. Richards III (Xochitl) of San Diego, Calif.; one sister, Lucy Rose Garcia of Corpus Christi, Texas; one brother Eugene Garcia, also of Corpus Christi, Texas; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass was held Tuesday, Feb. 4, at St. Francis Catholic Church. Father Tien Duong officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Knights of Columbus, 8363 Council, to help with God's Unborn Children.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Rebecca Garcia Richards

Richard Stanley Robb

Richard Stanley Robb, 96, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Born in Hinckley, Ohio, he was the son of the late Walter Alton Robb Sr. and Alma Damon Robb. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Jo Robb and brothers, Ramon L Robb, Herbert J. Robb and Walter A. Robb, Jr. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served during WWII, receiving three Battle Stars. He was a Juvenile Detective Officer with the City of Sarasota. He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church.



Richard Stanley Robb

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Catherine Wintermute Robb; daughter, Cheryl Ann Bottorff (Earl) of Sarasota, Fla.; son, Richard S. Robb, Jr. (Kathleen) of Seneca, S.C., and five grandchildren, Myrick Robb, Victoria Reynolds, Kaitlin Robb, Bruce Bottorff and Steve Bottorff; seven great grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held at Macon Funeral Home on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. Rev. Davis Hooper will officiate with full military rites conducted by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108. Burial will be in the Maple Hills Cemetery in Hinckley, Ohio, at a later date. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorial donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice, Four Seasons Development Office 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28732.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



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NASCAR Hall of Fame welcomes Class of 2020

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

This NASCAR Hall of Fame ceremony Friday night carried a distinctive vibe – of mutual respect, and a real professional connection among the esteemed honorees. And it made for an especially warm air of success on a chilly Charlotte night.

The 2020 Class of Buddy Baker, Joe Gibbs, Bobby Labonte, Tony Stewart and Waddell Wilson were formally inducted and duly celebrated. All five of these gentlemen shared important times in their career with one another – to an extent not always seen in recent Hall of Fame classes.

Baker, who passed away in 2015, earned his 1980 Daytona 500 victory with Wilson as his crew chief. Baker's Hall of Fame father Buck Baker ran a stock car driving school that Stewart attended as he transitioned from a championship IndyCar career into NASCAR.

Wilson worked on the Busch Grand National car Stewart drove in his earliest stock car starts. Stewart made his Cup Series debut with the Gibbs team, where Labonte was already racing and winning. Only a short time later the teammates would earn the famed Super Bowl-winning coach Gibbs his first three Cup championships – Labonte in 2000 and Stewart in 2002 and 2005.

"Well, Bobby and I are going to tell you that he's been riding our coattails, that's how he got here is off of us," Stewart joked in an interview just before the ceremony. "But if it weren't for Joe; Bobby and I wouldn't be here, by far. I think that's probably in all reality the most special part of this deal for us, the fact that we're all three doing it together."

It was the unmistakable shared sentiment of the evening.

All the Hall of Famers acknowledged their connections and in listening to them speak about their careers, the interconnections were evident and multiple. And well-appreciated. This week – and induction night in particular – featured a steady stream of back slaps and favored old stories. The grins never left their faces. And it was a contagious joy.

"I've got probably 50 stories about Tony, but I couldn't tell half of them because I wouldn't want him mad at me," Gibbs said grinning. "But he and Bobby and the emotion of them racing, I think that's sometimes what people miss. The emotion it brings out and hard it is in all pro sports. I think that's why the fans like it because it's a test. The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat. It's all there."

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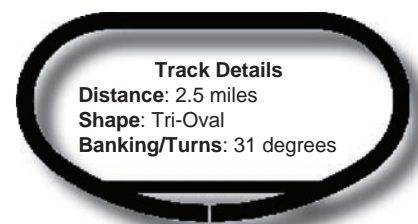
Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Cup Series Race: Busch Clash

Race Details

Location: Daytona Beach, Fla.
Date: Feb. 9th, 3:00 p.m.
Last Year's Winner: Jimmie Johnson

Daytona International Speedway



Track Details

Distance: 2.5 miles
Shape: Tri-Oval
Banking/Turns: 31 degrees

Race Preview

The Busch Clash is an exhibition event held the weekend before the Daytona 500. The event originally consisted of a 20-lap/50-mile, "all-out sprint" for the previous season's pole position winners (considered the de facto "fastest drivers on the circuit"). In its current format it is made up of two segments, a 25 lap start that then culminates in a 50 lap final segment. Like the All-Star Race held at Charlotte, the race awards no championship points but instead offers a large cash purse, which is supposed to encourage an all-out driving style not seen in regular-season races.

Top News Stories

John Andretti died at 56 after battle with colon cancer



John Andretti, a longtime competitor in NASCAR, IndyCar and sports-car racing, died Thursday. He was 56. The Andretti Autosport team confirmed his passing after a long battle with colon cancer, which he was diagnosed with in 2017. "We will forever carry with us John's genuine spirit of helping others first and himself second," a statement from the Andretti team read in part. "John Andretti embodied the spirit of a champion and inspired an entire fan base through his courageous battle with cancer," NASCAR President Steve Phelps said in a statement. "He was a fierce competitor throughout his life, and we are saddened by his passing. The entire NASCAR family extends its deepest condolences and prayers to John's family." Andretti won twice in 393 starts in NASCAR's top division from 1993-2010, both victories coming with NASCAR Hall of Famers as his team owners. He prevailed in July 1997 at Daytona International Speedway for Cale Yarborough Motorsports, then won again two years later in car owner Richard Petty's No. 43 at Martinsville Speedway. John Andrew Andretti was born into one of the nation's most accomplished racing families. He was the son of Aldo Andretti, the twin brother of Mario Andretti, who is the only driver to win the Daytona 500, Indianapolis 500 and the Formula One driver's championship.

Tony Stewart inducted into NASCAR Hall of Fame



Tony Stewart was one of five inductees Friday night into the 11th class of NASCAR's Hall of Fame, a group that is essentially a celebration of Joe Gibbs Racing.

The three-time NASCAR champion was inducted alongside Joe Gibbs, his former team owner, and Bobby Labonte, his first NASCAR teammate. Also inducted was Waddell Wilson, an engine builder and crew chief who coincidentally was team manager of Stewart's first foray into NASCAR. The late Buddy Baker, who raced 33

years before transitioning into a broadcast role, was also inducted and Stewart has early ties to him, too. During his speech, Stewart noted Labonte's training regimen in those early days, a stark contrast to Stewart, who notoriously avoids fitness and dieting. "I saw Bobby on a bike, training for like the Tour de France or something, eating health food, talking about living a healthier lifestyle, and I took a giant swig of Coke, grabbed a bag of Oreos and decided to do my own thing," Stewart said. "Turns out, both lifestyles can get you to the Hall of Fame."

NASCAR is changing stage lengths of 16 races in 2020

NASCAR announced changes to the stage lengths at 16 Cup Series races for the 2020 season. The adjustments primarily involve reducing the number of laps in the third stage to ensure enough fuel at the finish, adding more strategy at certain races and eliminating green-flag pit stops at others. "Last year, we went to a 550 horsepower engine for superspeedway tracks," NASCAR spokesman Mike Forde said. "We adjusted the stages so it wouldn't become a fuel mileage race. We don't want cars to be running out

of gas towards the end of the race." This is the first year NASCAR is tweaking the stages. The idea for the changes came about during an internal meeting between NASCAR personnel, teams and manufacturers after the end of last season. "Drivers and teams definitely had input," Forde said. "I think we were feeling the way they did. We also wanted to add strategy to those mile tracks and we didn't want to tighten up that final stage (at the speedways). We were all on the same page on that."

Racing Trivia

Which driver has the most wins in the Busch Clash?

- a) Dale Earnhardt c) Tony Stewart
b) Carl Edwards d) Jeff Gordon

Answer: a) Dale Earnhardt won the Busch Clash six times.

Stewart, who has always revered the great history of his sport, seemed especially affected by the closeness of his class. He spoke frequently about the ways he'd come to know each and how such a special honor was even more impactful because of it.

"I remember the day we all were announced and two of us were announced and I thought, 'that's cool,' then the third one was announced and I was like, 'you've got to be kidding me.'

"I don't know how it could be better at least for me to have the three of us go in together like this. I came in with them. To get into the Hall of Fame with these guys is more than anyone could ever ask for."

"Last night's dinner with the guys already in the hall, to have that intimate dinner with them, I felt like a little kid tagging along," Stewart said. "I never said a word, I listened."

Stewart said it was a great reminder of how so many of the sport's greats – such as his fellow 2020 Hall of Famers Baker and Waddell – succeeded by the seat of their pants. It was less computer and engineering degree and more "feel," talent and determination. Stewart was always one of those

racers.

And this class was a good representation of back-in-the-day meets new era in NASCAR.

"Bobby [Labonte] and I were talking about this after the ceremony was over, how we really were a part of this at the best time of the sport," Stewart said. "To be able to race with guys like Dale Earnhardt, Rusty Wallace, Dale Jarrett, Mark Martin, Jeff Burton and these guys then get to race with Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin and the younger guys that came up.

"I had a cool period of time I got to race with them and a mixture of generations. There was everything intimidating when I came into the sport with the group of guys I looked up to.

Wilson also, was a part of two generations of competition in NASCAR – leading greats such as Baker, and Hall of Famers Benny Parsons and Cale Yarborough to victory and then helping get a young Stewart settled into what became a championship career as well.

"What an incredible journey this has been," Wilson said. The feeling shared by all.

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ACROSS

- 1. *Abélard to Héloïse
- 6. C.E.O.'s degree
- 9. a.k.a Snowmobile
- 13. Make amends
- 14. Over, poetically
- 15. Garlic unit
- 16. ___ lazuli
- 17. New, prefix
- 18. Bumpkin
- 19. *St. Valentine's Day Massacre city
- 21. James Bond's drink of choice
- 23. Building annex
- 24. Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ___"
- 25. MD, familiarly
- 28. Land of Nod, in relation to Eden
- 30. Hire for work
- 35. Part of an eye
- 37. Feudal laborer
- 39. Request from Amazon
- 40. Waterproofed canvas
- 41. Bunch of bees
- 43. Black cat, e.g.
- 44. Apollo of "Rocky"
- 46. Roofed colonnade
- 47. X in a letter
- 48. Medicinal herb
- 50. Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid
- 52. Tennis barrier
- 53. Hold as a conviction
- 55. End of a fuse?
- 57. * ___ Valentine, a.k.a. humorous Valentine

- 61. *One of star-crossed lovers
- 65. Beyond's occasional partner
- 66. E.T. transporter
- 68. Wombs
- 69. Hansen's disease patient
- 70. Young canine
- 71. *Flit
- 72. *They used to be each other's Valentines
- 73. Attempt
- 74. Passover meal

DOWN

- 1. Barber's supply
- 2. Arizona's neighbor
- 3. Serengeti antelope
- 4. *Like a bottle of champagne
- 5. "Goodwill Industries" business

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- 6. *Unfortunate consequence of kissing?
- 7. Busy as a what?
- 8. *Pleasant bouquet smell
- 9. Vegas bandit
- 10. Mischievous Norse deity
- 11. ___-tempered
- 12. Sub station
- 15. *Roxane's pen pal
- 20. "Heart of ___," Blondie's hit
- 22. Well-kept secret, for some
- 24. Strata, sing.
- 25. *Go ____, or split the cost of a date
- 26. Estrogen maker
- 27. The smallest dwarf planet
- 29. Uses a Singer
- 31. Get the picture
- 32. Short for administrator
- 33. Goslings, when they

- grow up
- 34. *German artist or Young's partner
- 36. "Singes" in "La Planète des Singes"
- 38. *Mr. Right, pre-kiss
- 42. Tiny European republic
- 45. Jackie Robinson, e.g.
- 49. Princess tester
- 51. "My two cents," pl.
- 54. Do like Vesuvius
- 56. *Héloïse to Abélard
- 57. Wide river valley
- 58. Wild goat
- 59. Uh-uh
- 60. "The Three Faces of ___," pl.
- 61. Printer button
- 62. Old paint hazard
- 63. Gaelic tongue
- 64. *Wedding cake layer
- 67. "___ Elise"

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