



Crowds lined the streets of Franklin for the first ever Mardi Gras parade. Proceeds from the \$50 per parade entry went to Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Pictured above are organizer Syndie Cassidy, AARC director Sharon Archer, and organizer Susie Colbert. For more photos of Mardi Gras, see page 12.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

MPP moves forward to expand affordable daycare

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Working families in Macon County may soon get some relief when it comes to finding affordable childcare.

Macon Program for Progress (MPP) closed on new property at the end of January that will be the future site of an affordable daycare center. MPP Director Chuck Sutton said the decision to purchase the property was to address current needs at MPP while planning for future expansion. The property is located on Old Murphy Road across from the Macon County Board of Education Central Office.

“The most immediate need is to replace three classrooms that MPP currently houses in a converted residence,” said Sutton. “It is aging and will soon require substantial resources to keep it in good enough condition to be a licensed child care facility – plumbing, electrical, roof, etc. Beyond those three classrooms, MPP hopes to add



The 10-acre site of the proposed Macon Program for Progress daycare is located on Old Murphy Road across the road from the Board of Education.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Board adds multi-use facility to MMS reno



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Historic Pine Grove still serving the community

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DAYCARE

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classroom space that will allow our agency to serve an expanded base of clients. We now primarily serve low-income families. We would like to serve private pay, state subsidized or even business or industry subsidized children that are not currently able to secure a slot in a licensed child care setting.”

Based on research completed for Macon County’s Comprehensive Plan, childcare in Macon County is costing families as much as \$784 a month. The growing deficiency is causing some working parents to be faced with choosing to either stay home or use an unlicensed facility—something that comprehensive plan has been focusing on due to the impact it has on the overall economy.

“You’re looking at almost as much as a house payment,” said Commissioner Ronnie Beale, who handles education and childcare, and will be one of the commissioners approving the plan and its recommendations in the coming months.

To be eligible for federally-supported child care, a family of three must earn less than \$21,330, combined. For state subsidies, a family can earn no more than \$40,176, and both parents must be working or going to school to be eligible.

Still, the Comprehensive Plan assessment, which started with the Macon County Childcare Issues Committee’s work in 2009, said nearly 70 percent of children lack child care due to capacity shortfalls in the county’s 19 licensed centers.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services lists about a dozen registered childcare families in Macon County who have spots available for 951 children under the age of 5. Those spots are primarily for children 3 or older, or preschool aged. Only 48 infant spots, 109 1-year-old spots, and 146 two-year-old spots exist in the county. At the last U.S. Census in 2010, Macon County’s under 5 population was at nearly 1,800.

MPP is the largest childcare facility in the county, currently serving more than 325 children in one or more programs including Head Start, NC Subsidized Child Care, NC Pre-K and Parents as Teachers. The expansion will not only provide additional spots to families in need of childcare, it will specifically cater to working families who make too much money for subsidy, but not enough for the private home daycare options.

“MPP’s vision for a facility at this time is in a very early stage,” said Sutton. “We would like to construct a facility to accommodate eight classrooms. That would be three classrooms to replace the existing aging facility and five more for expanding our reach to unserved children. It would also have space for the support functions such as a commercial kitchen.”

While future plans for MPP are still in development, Sutton said the newly acquired property is more than enough to address current needs and continue exploring options for the future.

“The new property is almost 10 acres. It is large enough for MPP to accomplish this first task and have room for more as time goes on,” said Sutton.

AG Josh Stein to HCA: ‘I want answers’

Neil Cotiaux – Carolina Public Press

N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein has told HCA Healthcare that he’s heard enough.

Now, he wants answers.

“The delivery of health care is truly a life-or-death issue,” Stein said in a statement issued late Tuesday as his office made public a letter addressed to Greg Lowe, president of the North Carolina division of HCA Healthcare.

“This is why my office took so seriously our responsibility to protect Western North Carolinians as we negotiated with HCA over its purchase of Mission. I am deeply concerned about what I’ve been hearing about HCA – and I want answers.”

Stein intervened a little more than a year ago in the negotiations between nonprofit Mission Health and for-profit HCA Healthcare, hammering out 15 distinct promises for which the Nashville, Tenn.-based health care giant is now accountable as part of its agreement to acquire Mission, the largest hospital operator in Western North Carolina.

Stein’s letter to Lowe focuses on four key issues raised during town hall meetings in communities served by Mission. The meetings were conducted between Jan. 28 and Feb. 13 by the independent monitor that Stein insisted be hired to ensure that HCA complies with its obligations.

Those meetings were attended by about 600 people in all, many of them HCA/Mission patients and employees feeling distraught and helpless as well as elected officials and other members of the community.

Three of Stein’s concerns – quality of care, sexual assault nurse examiner staffing and charity care – fall under some of the promises that HCA made, Stein submits. A fourth issue relates to patient billing.

Quality of care

With raised voices and some tears shed, many of HCA’s critics brought up numerous concerns about the impact of staffing cuts at Mission hospitals at the recent meetings, especially with regard to nursing and nursing support.

In addition, 30 written complaints have been filed with the attorney general’s office since Jan. 1, Stein said, and some of them are “harrowing.”

Stein, who is providing HCA with copies of the complaints, wants responses.

In addition, the attorney general said, he is sharing complaints with regulators at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services who investigate quality-of-care concerns.

Under the asset purchase agreement that HCA signed as part

of its deal, the corporation is required to provide many defined services such as “general medicine services” at the Asheville facility until 2029, Stein wrote.

“Widespread quality-of-care issues at Mission facilities would raise real questions about whether HCA is providing the services that it guaranteed,” he said.

Sexual assault nurse examiner staffing

At the independent monitor’s meeting in Franklin, a staff member of REACH, a regional nonprofit that assists victims of rape and other sexual abuse, said the emergency room at Angel Medical Center has not been staffed with a trained and certified nurse able to work with rape kits, resulting in the transporting of traumatized victims to Asheville and then having them face what she said were onerous bills. [See “Partnerships struggling under HCA merger” in Feb. 20 issue of The Macon County News]

In his letter, Stein cites a section of the purchase agreement signed by HCA that says it “shall not discontinue” any “emergency services” or “acute medicine services” at the Franklin hospital.

The support of sexual assault nurse examiners, or SANE nurses, is “time-sensitive and of critical importance,” Stein wrote, asking for a response by March 4.

Charity care

In nearly two full pages of his five-page letter, Stein dives deeply into concerns about a charity care policy that HCA had touted as being superior to what nonprofit Mission Health had adopted. Stein is skeptical of that claim.

HCA’s charity care policy “is not transparent about what services are covered,” he wrote, and the hospital system’s decision to focus on emergent care “appears inconsistent” with the asset purchase agreement.

Led by N.C. Sen. Terry Van Duyn, D-Buncombe, a group of elected officials told the independent monitor’s Asheville meeting on Feb. 10 that patients were being “billed for services that they thought would be covered and now cannot afford,” with some of them facing the wrath of collection agencies.

Stein is now asking HCA for nine specific items pertaining to charity care by March 11, including the dollar value of all write-offs or write-downs of patient bills provided under Mission Health System Inc.’s ownership and under HCA’s ownership and the overall percentage increase or decrease in charges for medical services since the effective date of the merger.



Town of Franklin Comprehensive Land Use Plan

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

The Town of Franklin is preparing a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan and we want to hear from you! This meeting is an opportunity for community members to have a say in the Town’s future growth, development and quality of life.

Public Meeting-Wednesday, March 4th
5:00-7:00 PM @ Tartan Hall

The meeting will be held at First Presbyterian Church’s Tartan Hall, 26 Church Street. There will be a short presentation at 5:30 and an open house to ask questions and provide comments on the draft plan before and after the presentation.



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Land Use Plan**



MEC student places in state essay contest

VFW Post 7339 announces that the local winner of the Voice of Democracy essay contest Macon Early College student, Analee Webb has gone on to win runner up in the state competition. After winning the local contest, Analee went on to the district contest featuring young writers from 11 different districts, winning that contest. She advanced to the state finals where she placed second. Analee was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship prize. Pictured (L-R) are Sandi Krebel, past auxiliary national president; Denna Long, state auxiliary president, Analee Webb, Craig Armstrong, NC State Commander; and Matthew Fritz Mihelcic, National Sr. Vice Commander.

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School Board begins budget process

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met on Monday for a budget meeting prior to the regular board meeting. Superintendent of Macon County Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin began by explaining how the budget has undergone transformation since 2008 with a steady decline in funding due to various factors such as salary increases, teacher benefits packages, retirement, the number of teachers in the county and overall expenditures for needed repairs. Reviewing the budget line by line, the numbers indicate that the board will see plenty of challenges meeting the needs of the district. The class size amendment will have a big impact on the number of teachers that will be needed in 2021-2022 school year.

Principals' Wish Lists

Principals submitted their wish list for what they deemed most important and for many, it was more teaching positions. Elementary schools share an art and music teacher right now and the request was to provide a teacher to be on staff full time at each elementary school to teach art and music. That would be an addition of four teachers since the four they have now rotate between

schools. Several schools were in need of more kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers. Depending on the enrollment for next year's kindergarten class, teachers might be able to move from kindergarten to first grade if enrollment in kindergarten is under 15 students. That number won't be available until the first week of school. South Macon and Iotla Elementary have two kindergarten classes right now but might only need one in the fall so a teacher can move up to teach first grade, dodging the need to hire a new teacher. STEM teachers were also requested at South Macon and Iotla Valley.

Student mental health a concern

A discussion regarding mental health ensued. Ten mental health positions were requested overall for MCS. School board member Fred Goldstein said that students who were involved in sports were less likely to suffer from mental health issues. He explained that although not every student is sports minded, many enjoy music and art which can also be therapeutic and help guard against mental health issues.

School repairs

Repairs were next on the agenda with sev-

eral areas that need immediate attention. The fuel tank in the school bus garage is in violation and needs to be replaced at the cost of \$128,000. Todd Gibbs, director of Secondary Curriculum and Auxiliary Services, explained that not only is it dangerous for the tank to be used without attending to repairs, there would be a steep fine that the state would impose if they do not make the necessary repairs. The HVAC system at Highlands School was also in need of repair and should be a priority along with the leaking windows. That cost would be \$500,000. The East Franklin Elementary roof still needs to be partially replaced to the tune of \$50,000. Several kitchen ovens and steamers are also in need of replacement at several schools which will cost a total of \$84,000.

The Macon Middle School (MMS) and Franklin High School (FHS) track was up for discussion once again. Goldstein again pointed out that the board has been discussing this issue for five years and something needs to be done. The big issue facing the repair of the track at FHS is the problem of flooding from the parking lot which means the drainage problem would need to be fixed before the track can be repaired or redone.

Board votes to increase Pre-K fee; adds locker rooms to MMS reno

The Macon School Board began their reg-

ularly scheduled meeting with a discussion regarding the mental health of Macon County School (MCS) students. Since there has been a rise in the number of MCS students needing mental health services, a discussion regarding the benefits of art and music, as an intended supplement to mental health, arose. Maggie Jennings, founder of Maggie's Music Academy, and stay at home mom, explained to the board that art and music are outlets for many students and can help decrease the need for mental health services among students. Board member Fred Goldsmith agreed that the arts could be a precursor to avoiding mental health issues as do sports. Having had requests for 10 more mental health counselors in Macon County Schools, reviving the arts may be a less costly way to ensure positive mental health for many students.

Pre-K private pay to get first increase in over five years

Carol Arnold, Consultant for the Homeless for Macon County Schools, spoke about the Pre-K program at the three elementary schools. There are 41 slots in the Pre-K program of which, 31 are private pay. These students go to class from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. five days per week and, receive a free breakfast and a snack. The tuition is \$389 monthly. This cost has not been increased for more than five years. Arnold expressed

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VOTE MARCH 3

concern that with today's rising costs, MCS simply cannot afford to operate within this budget. Jackson County charges school employees who have a child in Pre-K at their schools, \$500 month. Working parents who do not work in the school system are charged \$600 monthly. Other day care programs such as Great Beginnings charges a fee of \$550 monthly. MCS will need to raise the fee for private pay from their \$389 monthly to \$450. The board voted and agreed to the increase. The increase will not take place until the fall of 2020. Even with this price increase, MCS would still be charging the lowest fee within the surrounding counties. Those eligible for Title 1



An artist's conceptual rendering of the proposed multi-use facility at Macon Middle School.

and other services will not be affected by this increase. Arnold pointed out that the Pre-K program provides both academic needs and child care for working parents. She wishes the program could be expanded to meet the need of MCS students and parents.

Macon Middle School (MMS) Multi-Use facility finally coming to fruition

MMS will finally be getting a locker facility that will

allow students to have separate boys and girls lockers, showers and dressing rooms. This multi-use facility is currently undergoing contractual steps with Ritter Architecture PA. The hope is for the facility to begin construction in early spring. Chairman Jim Breedlove said, "they will move forward will all due haste." Other building repairs at MMS will get under way this summer and into the next school year under the contractual agreement with Narmour-Wright Design PA.

Town holding public input session on comprehensive plan March 4

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Over the last year, the town of Franklin has been working to develop a Comprehensive Plan to look at the needs of Franklin and develop a plan on how to manage growth and improve the quality of life for residents.

Franklin officials have reached the point in the planning process where public input is paramount moving forward.

"The Town of Franklin has been working on the proposed Comp Plan since last summer 2019," said Franklin Town Manager Summer Woodard. "It is important for all residents of Franklin and Macon County to participate in the public input process. The Comp Plan will help shape and develop the Town of Franklin for the next 10 years. The citizens can help shape and form this roadmap on future growth, housing, business and zoning by actively participating in the public input proportion of the Comp Plan."

A public input session will be held on Wednesday, March 4, at Tartan Hall and will serve as one of the final steps in the plan development.

"At this meeting we will have a presentation from our consultant team about the draft plan along with maps and findings from the process of the development of the plan," said Town Planner Justin Setser. "After this meeting we will have our final working draft on the plan from comments from attendees that will then be presented to the planning board on March 16."

After the board reviews the plan, a public hearing will be held in front of the town council during the April monthly meeting.

More can be found out about the plan at www.franklintownplan.com. Under "Resources" the current draft of the comp plan can be found along with a link to a survey to make further comments about the draft.



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- ✓ Fund VA (no privatization)
- ✓ Cannabis Hemp Legalization
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Republican candidates for Congress highlight campaign goals

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

The Constitution does not require candidates for Congress to live in the district they want to represent, so when North Carolina's Rep. Mark Meadows announced he wouldn't be seeking office, Republicans from across the state filed for office — the farthest from District 11 being Albert Wiley Jr., who lives on the coast. The following are those candidates who responded to the questionnaire.

Chuck Archerd

Chuck Archerd refers to himself as a committed Christian, who accepted Christ as his

University, practiced as a CPA with Price Waterhouse and was the managing partner of a local Asheville CPA firm. He has successfully started several small businesses including founding and leading a real estate investment company since 2001. He has created jobs, managed budgets, been accountable to his partners and investors.

"I am a political outsider who will answer first to my Lord and then to the citizens of the 11th District," said Archerd. "I will make decisions based on a foundation of conservative beliefs, 40 years of business experience, and love of our country. I will defend the Constitution. I will not bend to the political estab-

are trying to represent?"

"Yes — Buncombe County for the past 22-plus years," said Archerd. "Yes, this is very important, if you don't know the people, how can you represent them?"

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing District 11 and how would you address it if elected?

"Immigration and Border Security — I will be a warrior with President Trump to secure our borders, stop the flow of illegal immigrants, end catch and release," said Archerd. "I will draft new laws to end sanctuary cities and require cooperation of local and state law enforcement with ICE."

one he encounters overcome whatever adversity they face in their daily lives.

Today, Cawthorn is a small businessman. He is the owner and CEO of a real estate investment company. Cawthorn is also a motivational speaker. He challenges people across the nation to have faith, work hard, play by the rules and pursue the American dream.

A constitutional conservative, Cawthorn is committed to defending the values of faith, family and the freedom that have made America great. Cawthorn attends Biltmore Church in Hendersonville. He enjoys hunting, cooking, travel, fitness, photography and videography, and studying history. He is engaged to



Chuck Archerd



Madison Cawthorn



Jim Davis



Dan Driscoll



Wayne King

Savior more than 40 years ago. As he has followed Him, he has taught Sunday school, led community and Sunday school groups, served as an Elder and Deacon and shared his faith on several disaster relief mission trips.

Archerd and his wife, Anne, have been married for 37 years and raised four daughters while living in Asheville for the past 22 years.

Archerd worked his way through school earning a BSBA in Accounting from University of Florida, MBA from Southern Methodist

University, practiced as a CPA with Price Waterhouse and was the managing partner of a local Asheville CPA firm. He has successfully started several small businesses including founding and leading a real estate investment company since 2001. He has created jobs, managed budgets, been accountable to his partners and investors.

Do you live within District 11? Do you think it is important to live within the District you

For residents of Macon County, it's status quo for leaders to forget about our small community. If elected to Congress, how do you plan to be a voice for the entire district, even the small western-most counties like Macon?

"As your representative to the People's House (US House of Representatives) I will have a continual presence in the 11th District including Macon County," said Archerd. "We will also develop ways to open communications with the rural areas to ensure that their voices are heard."

What is your stance on marijuana legalization?

"No do not believe that marijuana is beneficial to our society and should not be legalized," said Archerd.

Any other issues or information you would like your voters to know?

"Moral values — Our world is upside down right now; we are in a battle of good versus evil," said Archerd. "I will fight for the rule of law, defend our gun rights and stand for our pro-life and pro-family values."

Madison Cawthorn

Madison Cawthorn is an 8th generation resident of North Carolina's 11th Congressional district. His ancestors have served Western North Carolina communities for more than 200 years including in the Revolutionary War.

Cawthorn was homeschooled in Hendersonville and was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy by Rep. Mark Meadows in 2014. However, Cawthorn's plans were derailed that year after he nearly died in a tragic automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed and in a wheelchair. Cawthorn's ordeal built his faith, made him a fighter, helped him appreciate every day, and inspired him to help every-

be married to Cristina Bayardelle.

"I am running for Congress for three main reasons," said Cawthorn. "First, we need term limits on Congress so that there is incentive within the House. More will be accomplished if there are term limits. Second, we need a balanced budget amendment. It is immoral to place this kind of debt upon ourselves and the upcoming generations. The third and most important reason is that we have to combat the rise of Socialism in this country."

Do you live within District 11? Do you think it is important to live within the District you are trying to represent?

"I grew up and live in the 11th district," said Cawthorn. "This is my home. You shouldn't be allowed to represent the district if you don't live in it. How do you know what's best for the district if you don't even live there?"

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing District 11 and how would you address it if elected?

No response from the candidate.

For residents of Macon County, it's status quo for leaders to forget about our small community. If elected to Congress, how do you plan to be a voice for the entire district, even the small western-most counties like Macon?

"When someone is elected, it is their duty to represent each resident of the district," said Cawthorn. "It is most important to stay in touch with all communities and people of the district."

What is your stance on marijuana legalization?

No response from the candidate.

Any other issues or information you would like your voters to know?

"I'm a fighter who has overcome great adversity, and I believe America is worth fighting for!" said Cawthorn. "Check out my website to find out more about who I am and what I believe."

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Jim Davis

James (Jim) Wayland Davis, 73, has been married to his wife Judith since 1972. Together they have two sons, Jeff Davis, 43, (wife Rebecca and daughters Carly and Megan), and Joshua Davis, 42. Davis earned a BA in Biology in 1969 from Southern Adventist University; DDS 1974 Loma Linda University School of Dentistry; MS Orthodontics 1989 Loma Linda University Graduate School. He practiced general dentistry from 1974-1986 in Franklin, NC and practiced orthodontics from 1989- present in Franklin.

Davis served on the Macon County Board of Commissioners from 1996-2000 and from 2004-2010. He has served in NC Senate District 50 since 2011. In the Senate, Davis has served as the Chairman Joint Legislative Committee Transportation Appropriations; Chairman Senate Transportation Policy Committee; Member Senate Finance, Health Care, and Judiciary Committees; Member Appropriations/Base Budget

"I am running to continue my public service to the citizens of western North Carolina," said Davis.

Do you live within District 11? Do you think it is important to live within the District you are trying to represent?

"I have lived in the district for the past 45 years except when attending graduate school from 1987-89," said Davis. "I do not understand how anyone who does not live in the district can claim to know the citizens and their needs."

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing District 11 and how would you address it if elected?

"The biggest issue in District 11 is the availability of well paying jobs with good benefits," said Davis. "I would advocate for continued tax and regulatory reform to incentivize the continued creation of those jobs."

For residents of Macon County, its status quo for leaders to forget about our small community. If elected to Congress, how do you plan to be a voice for the entire district, even the small western-most counties like Macon?

"During my public service I have remained a champion of local government so I challenge your assertion that it is "status quo" for leaders to forget about small communities," said Davis. "I will never forget from whence I came."

What is your stance on marijuana legalization?

"I am opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana," said Davis. "Recent scientific studies have shown how harmful its use is to adolescents. I voted for the the limited medical marijuana law passed by the North Carolina legislature in 2015."

Any other issues or information you would like your voters to know?

"I am the only candidate in the race who has served in elected office," said Davis. "Consequently, I have a 19-year record for folks to examine. Should voters give me the privilege of continu-

ing my public service they have ample evidence on which to base their opinion."

Dan Driscoll

Dan Driscoll is a third-generation combat veteran and spent much of his childhood in Banner Elk. He attended Appalachian Christian School and Watauga High School where he met his high school sweetheart, Cassie, who is now his wife. They have two kids, Daniel Jr., 4, and Lila, 2.

Driscoll graduated from UNC and joined the U.S. Army. After completing officer candidate school and graduating from Ranger School, he joined the 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division in Fort Drum, N.Y., where he served as a Cavalry Scout Platoon Leader for the next two years. Driscoll was deployed to Iraq in 2009.

Upon returning from Iraq, he enrolled at Yale Law School on the GI Bill. During his time at law school, he felt called to serve the veteran population. Driscoll worked for Yale's Veterans Legal Services Clinic, providing free legal counsel to veterans of our nation's wars. After graduating he felt the pull to go home, to return to where he was raised, and make a difference for those around him.

Since returning to North Carolina, Driscoll has been working for an investment firm that helps build small businesses across the state. He has been involved in the creation of new jobs across North Carolina, including his latest project opening a new home maintenance business in Hendersonville.

"I'm a third-generation wartime veteran," said Driscoll. "This upbringing instilled in me a focus on hard work and a love of country. While a freshman at UNC, with the country in the throes of the War on Terror, I gave up the typical college experience so I could enlist in the military as quickly as possible. That military experience cemented in me the desire to live a life of public service. With the country at another tremendous crossroads, it feels like now is the time to serve again. As a small business owner in North Carolina, I know first-hand the struggles of creating a business in the current regulatory environment. I believe that a pro-business environment and well-trained citizenry creates more stable, higher paying jobs, and I'll advocate for both. Additionally, the infrastructure in rural America generally, and the NC-11 specifically, is in massive need of an upgrade. We are not well prepared for the tectonic changes that are coming with advancing technology. This weak infrastructure is significantly hindering the ability of many Americans to start and grow businesses. I'm passionate about helping bring federal spending and innovation to these areas."

Do you live within District 11? Do you think it is important to

See CONGRESS page 8

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CONGRESS

Continued from page 7

live within the District you are trying to represent?

“My wife and I grew up in western North Carolina, and I recently moved to Buncombe County,” said Driscoll. “Since leaving to serve in the Army, I’ve had a number of addresses but am happy to be back where my wife and I are excited to raise our children in the community that raised us. I do believe that it is important that you live within the district you represent, as I believe the mountain values of hard work, faith and family are important when representing the families of this district.”

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing District 11 and how would you address it if elected?

“I know first-hand the struggles of creating a business in the current regulatory environment,” said Driscoll. “I believe that a pro-business environment and well-trained citizenry creates more stable, higher paying jobs. I’m passionate about helping bring federal spending and innovation to this area.”

For residents of Macon County, its status quo for leaders to forget about our small community. If elected to Congress, how do you plan to be a voice for the entire district, even the small western-most counties like Macon?

“Frequently, candidates say one thing to get elected and then do another once in congress,” said Driscoll. “The Army Ranger Creed talks about leaving no man behind. As your Congressman, I will aspire to that same level of commitment to all my constituents.”

What is your stance on marijuana legalization?

“I stand with President Trump and agree that it is a state issue,” said Driscoll.

Any other issues or information you would like your voters to know?

“I’ll never forget the first words out of my platoon sergeant’s mouth when we first met: ‘Sir, they will never care what you know until

they know that you care.’ Fresh out of initial training, I didn’t know how to respond, or, really, what he meant. I knew from my Army training that me and my non-commissioned officers’ efforts to tactically prepare our unit would have a meaningful impact on our ability to complete our mission—and would be critical to bringing everyone home,” said Driscoll. “My platoon sergeant’s advice has since become the single most powerful bit of leadership wisdom in my life, one that has influenced virtually every decision I made as a platoon leader and, later, as a business owner. Although it’s been more than a decade since that first meeting between a seasoned platoon sergeant and me, a fresh lieutenant, I hear his voice in my ear daily: to me, serving with honor means working every day to show your family, friends, co-workers and constituents that you care before anything else. And, as I found in the Army and afterward, you cannot show those you represent you care if they and their welfare aren’t above your own.”

Wayne King

Wayne King, 39, has one son, Noah, 11. He served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Mark Meadows’ office for the last seven years. He has supervised the entire NC11 district team who helps constituents on a day to day basis with issues involving the federal government. King previously was the elected vice-chairman of the N.C. Republican Party during the 2012 election cycle.

“I am running for Congress because I love Western North Carolina, our state, and our great nation, because I believe we need more strong conservatives in Congress who will stand and defend President Trump, and because I am gravely concerned that our Constitution, our freedoms, our values and our way of life are under attack,” said King. “I believe the people of WNC deserve a Congressman who is a fighter and who has proven that they have the experience and the ability to get the job done. Anyone who knows me well knows that I am a fighter, that I will always stand up for what is right, and that I won’t back down. My track

record from my seven years serving as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director to Congressman Meadows shows that I have the experience and ability to get the job done for the 11th District and for our nation.

Do you live within District 11? Do you think it is important to live within the District you are trying to represent?

“I think it is essential that the person elected to represent the 11th District in Congress have a clear understanding of the values of the people across the district and the understanding of the unique challenges and issues facing each of the 17 counties,” said King. “I also think it is essential that they have strong existing relationships across all 17 counties. I have spent the last seven-plus years either working in District 11 as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director or, since December, as a Republican candidate for Congress. During this time I’ve traveled nearly every inch of this district meeting with law enforcement, veterans, ministers, farmers, elected officials, business owners, retirees, blue collar workers, and just every day regular people. I’ve solved problems, big and small, for people, businesses, and local governments across the district. I’ve built relationships with key stakeholders from one end of the district to the other. I’m also a proud native of Western North Carolina. While I don’t presently live in the district, there is no one running for this office that has spent more time traveling this district than I have over the last seven years, and no one that has a deeper understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of all 17 counties.

What do you see as being the biggest issue facing District 11 and how would you address it if elected?

“The biggest issue facing the 11th District and our country is that our values and our freedoms, the very principles our country were founded on, are under attack,” said King. “Eroding our rights and freedoms are not the answer. Socialism is not the answer. I will solve this by standing up for our Constitution and fighting to preserve our freedoms and values. I will always stand up for what is right, and I won’t back down. I believe in America and the

American people. If we stay true to the principles our country was founded on our best days are still in front of us.”

For residents of Macon County, it’s status quo for leaders to forget about our small community. If elected to Congress, how do you plan to be a voice for the entire district, even the small western-most counties like Macon?

“During my seven years as District Director and Chief of Staff for Congressman Meadows, I made an effort to regularly travel the entire district, to spend meaningful time in every county, to develop a relationship with elected officials and business and community leaders in every county, and to ensure that unique issues and challenges facing each county were dealt with quickly and fairly no matter the size of the county,” said King. “As your Congressman, I will do the same. You will see me and my staff on a regular basis in Macon County and you will never feel forgotten or left out. I will strive to be both the most accessible and the most visible Congressman Macon County has ever had.”

What is your stance on marijuana legalization?

“I am opposed to marijuana legalization,” said King.

Any other issues or information you would like your voters to know?

“In Congress, I will continue stand with President Trump, defend him from both the left and ‘Never Trump’ Republicans, and work hand-in-hand with our president to Keep America Great,” said King. “While ‘Never Trump’ Republicans including some who pretend to support him now, refused to support President Trump against Hillary Clinton, I travelled across our state campaigning for and with President Trump, and since he’s been elected I’ve consistently been a strong voice defending our president and working to ensure his agenda and his vision for our nation become reality.”

Lynda Bennett, Steven Fekete Jr., Dillon Gentry, Joey Osborne, Vance Patterson, and Albert Wiley Jr. were either unable to be reached as of press time or did not return candidate profile questionnaire.

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Early voting ends Saturday; primary Tuesday, March 3

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

In less than a week, voters across North Carolina will be heading to the polls to cast their ballot in the primary. Early voting wraps up Saturday, Feb. 29, at 3 p.m. in Macon County at both the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building and the Highlands Civic Center. Polls will open again on Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., for Primary Election Day.

As of Monday evening, 1,868 people have taken advantage of early voting in Macon County. Of those nearly 2,000 votes, 603 cast Democratic ballots and 1,262 cast Republican ballots. Two Libertarian ballots were cast as well. The male/female demographic for early voters in Macon County was nearly equal with 927 females and 932 males have voted. As of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 2,509 had voted.

Election Day Voting will take place at precincts across the county beginning at 6:30 a.m. and will continue until 7:30 p.m. Due to a court order, a photo ID will not be required to vote in the primary election.

Precinct locations in Macon County are:

- North Franklin - Franklin Town Hall - 95 Main Street
 - South Franklin - Macon County Public Library - 149 Siler Farm Rd.
 - East Franklin - Macon County Environmental Resource Center - 1624 Lakeside Drive
 - Iotla - Macon County Airport - 1241 Airport Road
 - Union - Macon County Community Building - 1288 Georgia Road
 - Millshoal - Holly Springs Community Building - 2720 Cat Creek Road
 - Ellijay - Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue - 104 River Road
 - Sugarfork - Pine Grove School - 38 Peeks Creek Road
 - Highlands - Highlands Civic Center - 600 North 4th Street
 - Flats - Scaly Mountain Fire Department - 169 Hale Ridge Road
 - Smithbridge - Otto Community Building - 60 Firehouse Road
 - Cartoogechaye - West Macon Fire and Rescue - 564 Charles Nolen Road
 - Nantahala - Nantahala EMS Building - 1096 Junaluska Road, Topton
 - Burningtown - Old Burningtown Fire Department - 30 Daves Creek Road
 - Cowee - Cowee School - 51 Cowee School Drive
- For more information, call the Macon County Board of Elections office at (828) 349-2034.

Town officials attempt to prioritize budget needs

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

The Franklin Town Council spent last weekend working in a budget retreat to begin the process of developing the town's 2020-2021 budget.

During the retreat town leaders directed Franklin Town Manager Summer Woodard as to what they believed to be the top priority moving into the next fiscal year.

"The biggest priorities for the Town for FY 20-21 will be to continue working on the repair and maintenance of Town sidewalks and evaluate ways to create more recreation opportunities at the Jaycee Park in Town," said Woodard.

The town is in the middle of finalizing a Comprehensive Plan that will lay out future infrastructure needs such as sidewalks. The final draft of that plan will play a huge part into the town's overall budget, which sits at just over \$4 million.

After receiving direction from town officials during the budget retreat, Woodard will establish a draft budget to present to town leaders next month.

"The Town Council will be given a proposed budget schedule to look at and vote on during the March 2, Town Council meeting," said Woodard. "The Town will have a revenue budget planning session in April and then a full budget work session in May."

County government are in full swing in regards to their budget as well, with various departments throughout the county such as school board and public safety developing budgets to present to the county manager.

"On Feb. 13, we held the Department Head Budget kickoff meeting where department heads were given their individual budget workbooks," said County Manager Derek Roland. "I am currently awaiting submittal of these by each individual department. FY '21 departmental budgets will be submitted in early March and meetings will then be held with individual department heads to discuss their respective budgets and any changes."

The county's budget topped \$52 million last year and included a tax increase that raised an additional \$1 million specifically for public education priorities, something commissioners advocated for. According to Roland, priorities in the upcoming fiscal year will also be determined by the board.

"The main priority is to be sure the budget reflects the goals set

forth for this organization by the Macon County Board of Commissioners," said County Manager Derek Roland. "With this in mind, the driving force behind preparation of every recommended budget is to be sure that Macon County citizens are being provided effective public services in the most efficient manner possible."

While the budget planning process for the county is in its early



Town workers finish up a sidewalk project on East Main Street. The Town Council has made revamping sidewalks a priority. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

stages, one significant project being planned for are renovations to Macon Middle School. The complete building overhaul will have an estimated price tag of \$15 million – so financing such a significant project will have to be part of the annual budget.

Commissioners debated different funding avenues during last month's county commissioner meeting. The county's overall debt load sits at \$25 million currently – \$22 million of which is directly attributed to school construction. The middle school project could add another \$15 million to the debt load if the county decides to take out a loan for the project.

Other funding possibilities include looking at placing a referendum on the November ballot for residents to vote on a quarter cent sales tax that would allow additional revenues to be raised to be specifically earmarked for public education. Deciding the best avenue to take will likely be the focus during the remainder of the budget planning process.

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Gibbins Advisors provides update

Ronald Winters
Gibbins Advisors co-founder



Ronald Winters

Our firm, Gibbins Advisors, is the Independent Monitor appointed in connection with HCA's acquisition of the assets and healthcare operations of Mission Health. I am responsible for this engagement. I am writing this to further update the Mission Health communities on our progress. As described below, since beginning this work in October 2019, we met or otherwise heard from a significant volume of community members who voiced comments and questions. We are grateful to everyone for the feedback.

Overview of Community Meetings

We have now completed the in-person community engagement meetings for all the Mission Health hospitals, and in total we estimate more than 600 people attended those meetings.

At each meeting we made a presentation explaining:

1. A summary of HCA's forward-looking commitments under the scope of the Independent Monitor;
2. Our role as Independent Monitor, the role of six Advisory Boards of each of the hospitals and the role of the Seller entity (ultimately Dogwood Health Trust in mid-2020).

We spent most of the time listening to the community and gaining insight from local people about their experiences and concerns. Additionally, we explained that at this juncture our role is principally to monitor compliance with the 15 commitments HCA agreed to that fall within our scope. We emphasized that the Independent Monitor is not involved in resolving individual or group concerns or grievances, but to the extent those comments are indicative of compliance issues that fall within our scope, they will be used in our evaluation process. Whether or not concerns voiced relate to the HCA commitments within our scope, we are logging the information and channeling to HCA on an anonymized basis.

The content of our presentation at the community meetings and other useful information (including directions on how to contact us) is on our website www.independentmonitorMHS.com found within the useful links and information tab.

Monitoring HCA's Compliance with its 15 Commitments

In addition to the community meetings, we have received community feedback by email, phone, meetings with local interested groups and submissions from the portal on our website: www.independentmonitorMHS.com or through our email independentmonitor@gibbinsadvisors.com.

We'd like to reassure you that if you'd like to submit anonymously, you can do so and forego sharing your name or infor-

See GIBBINS page 11

Letters to the Editor

'Democratic Socialism' explained

As I read some of the letters to the editor published over the last few months, it occurred to me that some writers may have confused readers with the fast and loose use of various political, governmental and economic terms. I am certainly no political scientist, but I am confident that I can back up some basic statements, such as:

1. The word "Socialism," as in "Democratic Socialism," is not synonymous with dictatorship or authoritarianism. Most of the Western world and some countries even in Africa have a form of democratic socialistic government. This includes France, Germany, Finland, Denmark, and many others. Citizens generally have personal freedoms similar to those we enjoy in the U.S.; they elect their representatives; their economic systems are heavily capitalistic. In addition, they generally outrank or closely compare to the U.S. in educational attainment, rank in the top of the "happiness" index based on many factors including low crime levels, and generally enjoy some form of universal health care. I haven't heard anything about their liberal governments banning cheeseburgers (in fact, McDonalds is alive and well in most), and I haven't noticed mass emigration from those countries to the U.S.

2. Communism and Socialism are not synonymous, either. In fact, there are very few examples of pure Communism in the world today. China, for example, is the largest communist country but relies heavily on capitalism to achieve its economic goals. Although its citizens do not even approach the level of freedom that we enjoy here in the U.S., China has a rising middle class with disposable income. Most people have the ability to travel freely as tourists, as anyone who has traveled to Europe recently can attest to, based on the observation of buses full of Chinese citizens wanting to experience the same sites that we visit.

3. We should not forget that the U.S. also has programs that are considered socialistic, mainly Social Security and Medicare. I, for one, am so grateful for these two programs and will fight tooth and nail to keep them. No matter how hard many have worked during their lives, they have been unable to amass enough wealth to see them through retirement. Some of them never earned enough money to save sufficient funds to live on until death; some have made good money and saved for retirement, only to see that nest egg quickly depleted by economic downturns, medical catastrophes, or just plain bad luck. How wonderful that everyone pays into a fund that puts a safety net under us. We pay taxes for social programs and infrastructure that benefit the common good and make our country a better place for all of us. And there are ways to protect these programs, or possibly even expand them, if we do some simple things like removing the income caps on paying into the social security system.

4. Please do not attempt to compare what might happen

after the possible election of a Democrat in the U.S. to the situation in Venezuela. Venezuela, more akin to Russia than a Democratic Socialistic country, has an authoritarian oligarchical government that claims to have some Socialist programs, such as state-owned petroleum and other industries. Unfortunately, these programs do not serve the people. The power there, like Russia, is in the hands of a few thugs who are intent on keeping it and amassing personal wealth to the detriment of its citizens. There is not a single person running for the president of our country as a Democrat who has any aspirations to undermine our form of government with its three branches of government and the checks and balances that are inherent in it. To suggest otherwise is at best misleading and unfair.

I do agree with those letter writers who suggest that we choose our next president very carefully. We are at serious crossroads in many areas, and we should be sure our information sources are factual and not supporting a hidden political agenda. Our favorite talk show hosts and news channels may not be the most reliable sources for this data. Instead of relying on CNN or Fox News for all our information, maybe we should occasionally listen to NPR or BBC America, known for being more objective media. The internet can be helpful, but only if we understand who sponsors the information that comes across our screens.

I am neither a Democrat or a Republican. I am Unaffiliated (Independent). The terms Democrat and Republican are somewhat restrictive, serving mainly to get someone on a ballot and noticed enough to get elected rather than being indicative of what a person really stands for. Generalizing that "all Democrats believe or do this" or "all Republican believe or do this," or "all liberals are this" or "all conservatives want that" is not helpful and simply isn't true. We must judge any person who wishes to serve our country by his/her character, actions, and willingness to protect and serve all citizens for the common good.

Sandy Deakins - Otto, N.C.

Voter info for March 3 Primary Election

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Perforative statements do not a case make

In a recent letter by David Snell, published [last week] in the MCN, he made several false, unsupported accusations and errors of fact.

First, the title alleged that senators chose to disregard the Constitution. He's right. But it wasn't the Republicans, as he implied. The Democrat senators voted to call more witnesses. This would have been over-stepping their bounds, because Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 says, "The House of Representatives ... shall have the sole Power of Impeachment." The word "sole" as an adjective, means "only." That limits the duties, such as calling witnesses, and establishing a rock-solid case proving a charge of treason, high crimes, or misdemeanors, to the House. The Senate's role is also stated: "The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments." (Article I, Section 3, Clause 6) Thus, the roles of both House and Senate are clearly delineated.

By the way, it was Adam Schiff, (D), who testified for President Trump, by lying about what the president said in his phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and not the president himself, as alleged by Mr. Snell. Adam Schiff was as surprised as anyone, when President Trump released the transcript, which was witnessed by many others who were actually on the call with the two presidents. Read it! President Zelensky also stated several times that he was under no pressure from President Trump, and that he didn't even know that the aid to Ukraine had been delayed at the time of the call (the absolute right and responsibility of any president).

Name-calling and defamation of character do not make a case. Facts do. Mr. Snell should stick with those. He also needs to establish that he is more qualified than Alan Dershowitz (a Democrat), and a former professor of law at Harvard, before he uses harsh adjectives and pejorative statements to attempt to marginalize Dershowitz' testimony.

I watched most of the impeachment proceedings. I found the arguments by Jay Sekulow and many others defending the president to be thoroughly convincing. It seemed to me to be a partisan attack from the git-go.

The House Democrats held secret meetings in a SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility) in the basement of the Congress building. Republicans were denied access. The president was denied the right of every U.S. citizen to face his accuser. What were the Dems trying to hide? Was it the fact that they had no treason, high crimes, or misdemeanors with which to charge the president? Or was it to hide the fact that the witnesses were not on the call with Zelensky, but were merely disgruntled former employees who had been, or would soon be, fired by the president (the absolute right of any president, for any reason)? Or was it because they didn't want the Republicans to expose by cross-examination, the fact that the "whistleblower" was a CIA agent, and Schiff staffer, Eric Ciaramella, who had no right to anonymity, because he had no evidence to support his charges against the president?

Mr. Snell, like all of us, has a right to his own opinions. But no one has a right to their own facts. And we all need to admit when we are stating an opinion, and we should support even those with facts, not slurs.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Why do we have racism?

Why do we have Racism? The reason we have racism is because the Evolutionists have convinced mankind that races are divided based upon the color of one's skin.

Darwin made that quite clear in Chapter 6 of his book "The Descent of Man" where he wrote:

"At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will most certainly ex-

terminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world...The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, even than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as the baboon, instead of as now between the Negro of Australia and the gorilla."

For obvious reasons, another of Darwin's books, commonly known only as "The Origin of Species," is never referred to by its full title, "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life."

Compare that to what the word of God says in Genesis 9:18,19. Following the flood that destroyed all of mankind, the three sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth, repopulated the world, "and of them was the whole world over-spread."

What does that tell us? It tells us that there is only one race, the human race and we are all related.

Unfortunately, our secular educational system teaches the evolutionary theory as fact without any definitive scientific proof, and over the years our secular society has begun to treat God's word concerning our beginnings as myth.

I believe the separation within mankind is not based solely upon the "perceived" racial differences based upon skin color, but just as much upon culture, religious beliefs, creeds and ideology.

In that regard I believe the Church can be a very strong force in combating the beliefs and ideology of the secular world by exposing the false teachings of evolution and presenting the scientific evidence supporting the truth of God's word.

God's word tells us that in the beginning He created the heavens and the earth and according to the chronology of the Bible, He did it just a few thousand years ago. Man's word tells us that in the beginning there was an extremely condensed state of matter that exploded, created perfect order and over billions of years, all plants, animals, and humans evolved. Which one is true? What does science tell us?

I have researched and studied this topic for the past 30 years and can state emphatically that scientific evidence supports God's word.

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

GIBBINS

Continued
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interested groups and submissions from the portal on our website: www.independentmonitorMHS.com or through our email independentmonitor@gibbinsadvisors.com.

We'd like to reassure you that if you'd like to submit anonymously, you can do so and forego sharing your name or information on our contact form. We are logging the information from all sources, evaluating concerns and will share with HCA as well as Dogwood Health Trust as it prepares for the role of enforcing compliance.

We are engaging in a regular dialogue with HCA regarding compliance matters and will be requesting information from them based upon we have learned thus far. We expect a report on compliance from HCA by the end of April 2020 which will then commence a timetable regarding compliance discussions. Pursuant to the prescribed timetable, we expect to be back in each of the communities again to conduct hospital site visits before the end of June this year.

Keep updated on our activities

We'd like to thank everyone who has attended our meetings and reached out to us for taking the time share their perspective and information.

Please continue to do so and refer to our website www.independentmonitorMHS.com to stay updated on our progress and to access more information about our important work as Independent Monitor.

Mission, we have a problem

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Houston, no, I mean, "Mission we have a problem." It is not simply at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital, nor just at Angel Medical Center, it is the entire system that HCA now owns and operates Western Carolina. The problem does not bode well for Western North Carolina citizens.

It's not just me, a little voice in the mountain wilderness, that is expressing concerns. At the recent round of meetings held by Gibbins Monitors, a letter of concern about Mission HCA was signed and presented by a number of state representatives and county commissioners. The mayor of Asheville also signed the letter.

Their concerns centered about HCA aggressive costs cuts, a diminution of services, loss of staffing including reduction of CNAs and custodial workers, increases in nurse to patient ratios, and hidden fees and erroneous billing. There is now a Facebook page called Mission Maladies with over 2,000 followers.

My concern is that what happens with HCA in Asheville will impact the entire system including Highlands Cashiers Hospital. Our residents have been told for a number of years that while services like surgery can't be sustained locally, those services would be available by way of transport to the larger units in the system. There will be a ripple effect throughout the system if the larger units decline in service and operation.

The people of Asheville, and for that matter the entire region, have always had confidence in the quality and achievements of their hospital system. Before the sale to HCA, folks were assured that Mission was in the top tier of national healthcare systems. With recent monitor meetings and community feedback, people are worried that may no longer be the case.

I stated at the Highlands monitor meeting held last month that I envision community partnerships with our HCA hospital that can advance area healthcare access. I am still committed, but there also needs to be a frank and honest assessment of the situation.

A recent article in the [local] newspaper had the headline, "Rape victims struggle to get services at HCA." I have looked into the situation as it pertains to our hospital, Angel and Macon County. The Highlands Police Department has up-to-date Sexual Abuse Evidence Kits. They are used in collecting evidence in sexual abuse crimes, including rape. To collect the evidence, a Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner (SANE) needs to do the procedure using the provided kit. The problem is that we have no SANE nurses assigned to Angel Medical Center or Highlands Cashiers Hospital. A number of years ago that was not the case. We may have one SANE nurse residing in Macon County, but that nurse is assigned to a facility in another county. Therefore, it is very likely a victim of sexual abuse would have to be transported to another facility, probably Asheville, where SANE nurses are available. The situation is totally unacceptable. A victim of such a crime doesn't not need the trauma of long waits and traveling long distances. I am certain HCA will work with law enforcement and the community in resolving this problem, as well as others.

I hope the community will work together with HCA on other initiatives also.

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Winners of the Kids Costume Contest, from left, Atticus McClesky,, Zia Leger, Vincent Demico, Ellis Demico, and Sam Harkin.

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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 February 14 - February 21. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 20

Robert Ryan Oteri, 30, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Dallas Giles Dishman, 27, of Franklin, was charged with methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Kaz Ryan Heaton, 31, of Franklin, was charged with possession with methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Selena Renee Nicole Lewis, 22, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jack Travis Echols, 38, of Franklin, was charged with safe-cracking, second degree trespass, breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter, possession of stolen goods/property, injury to personal property, second degree trespass, warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction, breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Sean Taylor Hall, 27, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

February 21

Kelly Kristina Bates Mayhorn, 48, of Franklin, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Kathy Chatham, 56, Toccoa, Ga., was charged with aid and abet operators license violation. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Ted Joseph Holland, 28, of Toccoa, Ga., No operators license. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set. James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

February 22

Axel Magana, 20 of Franklin, was charged with felony larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, obtaining property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Jack Travis Echols, 38, of Franklin, was charged with felony breaking and entering, felony larceny, injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Michael Shannon Gibson, 40, of Franklin, was charged with habitual misdemeanor assault. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

February 23

Daniel Caleb Pait, 30, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, forgery of instrument, misdemeanor larceny, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Kara Nicole Ervine, 22, of Franklin, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 14

Ethan Garrett Owen, 26, of Norway Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to signal, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

February 15

Thomas Matthew Saxon, 44, of Main St., Hardeeville, S.C., was charged with resist a public officer, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Colby Edward Henry, 23, of Hillcrest St., was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Ryan Francis Mangold, 26, of Riverbend Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Latosha Leeann Burns, 18, of Charles St., Kings Mountain, was charged with simple assault. A secured bond \$500 was set.

Daniel Wayne Warren, 37, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. No bond was set.

February 16

Geilsha Irizarry, 29, of Peppermill Rd., was charged with communicating threats, assault on a female. No bond was set.

Fernando Esau Alvarez-Blanco, 17, was charged with failure to appear for breaking or entering, simple affray, disorderly conduct on a school bus, assault inflicting serious injury, break or enter a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen goods/property, resisting a public officer, disorderly conduct, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, speeding, no operators license, reckless driving to endanger, first degree trespass enter/remain, consume alcohol under 19 years of age, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, assault on school employee/volunteer. A secured bond of \$58,550 was set.

Zachary Martin Bombay, 25, of Blockhouse Rd., was issued an order for arrest for felony larceny, misdemeanor probation violation, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Anthony James, Elton, 54, of South Hwy, Tuckasee, was charged with failure to report new address for sex offender. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Lily Marie Webster, 33, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

February 17

Amanda Irene Keene, 33, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Jasmine Leigh Bernhisel, 23, of Shut In Creek, Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Nicholas Arthur Homan, 37, of Oak St., St. Cloud, Fla., was charged with dimple possession of marijuana, posses-

sion of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

February 18

Martinez Arturo Hernandez, 34, of Indigo Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Ida Michelle Cisson, 42, of Locust Creek Rd., was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, identity theft. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Whisper Nicole Cogdill, 26, of Hwy 107, Glenville, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Tracey Lynn Manis, 52, of Lambert Branch, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 30, of Too How Rd., Whittier, was charged with second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Jacqueline Beatrice Moore, 31, of Grove Rd., was charged with simple possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$17,500 was set.

Wayne Jerry Mathis, 57, of Triangle Rd., Tuckasee, was charged with assault on a female, injury to personal property. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Nathan Karl Brady, 37, of Old Pheasant Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with fictitious/altered title/registration card/tag, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, rear lamps violation, misdemeanor child abuse, possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Jessica Gail Conway, 34, of Old Pheasant Creek Rd., was charged with misdemeanor child abuse, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Megan Dawn Wilnoty, 26, of Teaster St., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

February 19

Daniel Ward Owen, 35, of Rainbow Dr., was issued a child support purge, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A \$9,832.36 bond was set.

Stephanie Hughes Byous, 39, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for failure to exhibit/surrender license, no operators license. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Shelby James Davis, 38, of Slab Town Rd., Cashiers, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Steven Cody Moore, 28, of Fisher Creek Rd., was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass, injury to personal property, larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Rayelita Dawn Long, 27, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with felony probation violation, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Shelby James Davis, 28, of Slab Town Rd., Cashiers, was charged with felonious larceny, breaking and entering. No bond was set.

February 20

Samuel Otter Sneed, 18, of Beetree Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for first degree trespass. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Laranzo Daniel Wilnoty, 32, of Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set.

February 21

Robert Lee Wheatly, 51, of Larkspur Lane, Cullowhee, was issued a governor's warrant from Florida. No bond 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.

Friends of the Greenway New Program Series Naturally Green Initiative will be shown on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., at FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main St. The multi-award winning documentary will be *The Need to Grow – Save the Soil...Save the World*. Frank Smith will facilitate the discussion.

Democratic Women of Macon County and the Macon County Democratic Men's Club will hold a combined meeting on Thursday Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m., Noah's Play and Train, 486 West Palmer St. The guest speaker will be Dawn Todd, director of the Pretrial Justice Project of Macon County. This meeting is open to all Democrats and unaffiliated voters.

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will meet Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin. Speaker will be Larry Ellert, museum curator.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on Saturday, Feb. 29, with an elevation change of 800 ft., from Sawmill Gap, following Forest Service RD 7134 to Rocky Bald Ridge, then to Wine Springs on the Appalachian Trail and down the Bartram Trail to Sawmill Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information or reservations, call leader Gail Lehman at (828)524-5298.

American Red Cross Blood Drives in Macon County will be held on March 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Franklin Bi-Lo, 245 Macon Plaza Dr.; and in Highlands March 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main St. Blood types, especially type O, are urgently needed. For more information, call (800)733-2767.

"Going viral. How serious of a threat is the coronavirus?" is the topic for the Franklin Open Forum on Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Franklin Open Forum is a moderated discussion group, meeting at the Rathskeller Coffee Haus & Pub, located Downtown at 58 Stewart Street, Franklin. (Below and behind Books Unlimited.) Those interested in an open exchange of ideas (dialogue, not debate) are invited to attend. For more information, call (828)371-1020.

Kick-off for the 2020 Relay for Life Event will be held on Tuesday, March 3. Those interested in being on the committee to help organize the events for this year, are invited at 5:30 p.m. at the Depot Room at the Factory. If you have a team and would like to participate, come at 6 p.m. at the Depot Room. Pizza and drinks will be served. For more information, call Deanna Wagner at (828)306-2146 or Tony Young at (828)399-9560.

Tuckaseegee River Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited will meet on Tuesday March 3, dinner 6:30 p.m., at the United Community Bank, 1640 E. Main St., in Sylva. The speaker will be Ed Saleem a retired water and energy conservation manager. He will discuss the hazards that may be encountered while fishing in the wild along with methods preparation, prevention and survival.

Mountain Discovery Charter School now accepting applications through March 2020. They are a free public, K-8 charter school is accepting applications for enrollment. They are located in Bryson City, serving students from Swain, Jackson, Macon, Haywood, and Graham counties. They utilizes experiential learning, creativity, and high personal and academic expectations. They foster a love of the natural world through its focus on outdoor education. All students are actively engaged in learning that has value and consequence beyond the classroom. For more information and enrollment, go to www.mountaindiscovery.org

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.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Newman Chapel Baptist Church in Otto Singing will be held on Sunday March 1, 6 p.m. featuring Echoes of Mercy from Anderson, S.C.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday March 1, 11 a.m., musical service featuring Hungrytown, singer/songwriter folk duo from VT. The church is located at of Franklin 89 Sierra Dr.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m., Michael Murphy Burke will speak on "The Newfound Acceptance of Vibrational Sound Therapy." Movie night is held every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., potluck held afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Victory Baptist Church Evening with the Bob Jones University Sacred Music Team and Dr. Steve Pettit, president of BJU on March 1 at 6 p.m., in the church auditorium. Victory is located midway between Dillsboro and Franklin on highway 441. Everyone is welcome.

Grace Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m.; Sunday evening at 6 p.m., and Wednesday evening prayer meeting at 7 p.m. Pastor is Frank Rodriguez. The church is located at 143 Setser Branch Rd.

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

Y	E	L	P	W	E	E	E	M	C	E	E
O	K	R	A	S	O	U	T	R	U	S	S
J	O	U	S	T	B	R	A	U	R	I	A
C	H	A	N	E	L	F	I	G	U	R	E
A	H	E	M	C	I	A	C	I	A	A	
E	A	T	E	R	S	U	S	A	F	N	O
I	C	I	N	G	D	R	I	B	T	O	G
R	I	C	O	A	N	T	R	A	S	C	A
U	T	A	H	T	A	S	K	T	R	A	M
C	U	T	G	I	R	O	A	N	E	M	I
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L	A	B	O	R	R	I	M				

Historic Pine Grove School finds purpose as community building

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While many of Macon County's abandoned historic homes, schools, and country stores succumb to nature's intrusion, Pine Grove School was restored close to 15 years ago by concerned citizens. Since that time, the building is not only a voting station – and will house upcoming polls in March, August, and November – but is also used for student field trips, plays, reunions, music events, birthday parties, anniversaries, meetings, and more.

The original Pine Grove School operated across the street from the current location from mid 1800s to 1900, when the first school burned. The current building was built in the early 1900s and closed in 1950 when Cullasaja School was completed. When schooling ended in the existing building, it was still used as a voting site. However, in 2000, the building was deteriorating and a fire hazard. It was abandoned, and for a few years the polling location was moved to the Cullasaja Fire Department. When the surrounding community learned that the old school would most likely be torn down or allowed to deteriorate, they rallied to save it.

"People in Buck Creek, Peeks Creeks, the Sugar Fork District, and all over this area started talking about what to do," said Kathy Kahler, a former president of the Pine Grove Community Association. "We spread the word out all over Macon County through fliers and word of



Pine Grove School was restored in 2006 and is now used as a community building.

mouth. A lot of new people to the area didn't even know the school was there. At least 25 showed up initially and decided they wanted to help restore the school. Many other people expressed that they wanted it to be saved and helped in some way."

Pine Grove School Restoration Society was

formed, and at least \$15,000 was raised through spaghetti dinners, selling commemorative plaques to affix to the old school desks, auctions, and many more fundraiser events. Macon County agreed to match that amount.

The "Fantastic Four," as they were referred to by Pine Grove School Restoration Society, were Isaac Dills, Wayne Haire, Lyman Lance Jr., and Steve Kahler, Kathy's husband. "They and many others made the cabinets, did the plumbing, did construction ..." she said. "Most of the labor was donated. Some of it was offered at discounted rates."

Rotten floorboards in one section were replaced. Foundation beams also had to be replaced for a new foundation to be established. The metal roof and the interior and exterior were painted. Plus, volunteers added a kitchen and two bathrooms so that the building could be used as a modern community center. An industrial blower heating system and handicap parking and a ramp were added. While the school was originally separated into two rooms, the partition was taken down during the renovation process so that the space could accommodate larger groups.

"The workers saved all they could," said Kahler. "Windows could not be saved, nor the outhouse. But the original pine floors were taken up during the renovation, sanded, refinished, and then replaced."

The restored Pine Grove School Community Building opened July 8, 2006. Besides the 70-plus student desks and teacher's desk, the interior of the building includes such historic classroom touches as vintage school books, a chalkboard, a (non-functioning) wood stove, a dunce hat, metal lunch pails, and photographs of former students and teachers, one of whom was Lyman Lance Jr.'s father, Lyman Lance, Sr., who rode a horse to the schoolhouse to substitute teach when he was not traveling and preaching.

Isaac Dills, 85, went to Pine Grove School from the first to the sixth grade, 1942-1949. It was there that he met his wife, Virginia Berry Dills, 81, who went to the school from 1946 to

1949, through the third and fourth grades. The couple married in 1955, with Isaac having completed the eighth grade at Cullasaja School before leaving to work on his family's Peeks Creek farm. Only attending school through eighth grade was commonplace in mid 20th century rural Western North Carolina, as families needed children to help on family farms and with other businesses.

Isaac said he remembers that the boys in the two classrooms at Pine Grove took turns carrying wood in for the two woodstoves. His wife walked three miles from Walnut Creek to attend school. The couple remembers playing basketball together on a court that is now paved over by Peeks Creek Road.

Memories from individuals who attended the school reveal that many students walked to school from up to three miles away, and many were not allowed to wear shoes until the weather turned cold because their parents could only afford one pair of shoes a year. Children sometimes did not attend if there was a garden to plant or other seasonal chores at home.

"One of my memories is of chasing kids in the school yard during recess and I made a turn around this building and ran into a boy," said Virginia. "I didn't know it did me any harm at the time, but years later I learned that my nose had been broken." The couple also remembers playing baseball, jacks, marbles, and jumping rope with other students. And Isaac admitted he was bestowed the dunce hat a time or two.

After school, students would sometimes shop at the only available store, Gneiss Country Store, which still exists across the street on Highlands Road, but closed in the 1950s and has been left



Virginia Berry Dills and her husband, Isaac, have been married for 65 years and met as students at the Pine Grove School in the 1940s.

to deteriorate. "It had the basics," said Virginia, "and sometimes we would get a piece of candy or gum." Trips into "town" (Franklin) for students were rare.

"We've seen everything from horse-drawn wagons to vehicles in this area," said Isaac; he and Virginia have lived less than a mile from the school on his family's land as well as attended

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Friday, March 6 @ 7pm & Sunday, March 8 @ 3:30pm



Some of the items in the restored Pine Grove School include an antique lunch pail, books (pictured below is Kathy Kahler), and a flag, dunce hat, and chalkboard.



Pine Grove Baptist Church during their 65 years of marriage. The couple said they regularly attend events hosted in the Pine Grove School building, where they once learned, and they are glad the school building was saved.

At the school is a memorial plaque for individuals who lost their lives because of a mudslide caused by Tropical Storm Ivan on Sept. 16, 2004. The slide that flattened 16 homes and killed five went within 100 feet of the Dills' house. "Homes were washed off their foundation," he remembered.

The Pine Grove School Community Building at 38 Peeks Creek Road in Franklin is a rentable space, and association meetings are held the first Monday of each month during the months of April through October. A calendar of events will be available after the first meeting of the Pine Grove School Association in April; or, contact Kathy Kahler at (828)371-1554 or the N.C. Extension Service – Community Rural Development to learn of upcoming spring, summer, and fall activities at the school.

Stillwell headliner of 'Legends' show

For the last 24 years, the Macon County Sheriff's Office's Shop with a Cop Program has been providing Christmas for children in need in the community. The program, which was started by Sheriff Robert Holland and his wife Marci as a way to help a single family around the holidays, has grown to now serve more than 400 children a year. Shop with a Cop is completely funded by the support and financial contributions of individuals.

To raise money for the Shop with a Cop program, the Macon County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary has organized a benefit concert scheduled for Friday, March 13, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. The concert, A Night with the Legends, begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature local musicians performing legendary country, bluegrass, and rock classics.

This year's headlining act will be Jackson County native, Matt Stillwell. Stillwell, a nationally touring country music artist from Sylva, is an independent country music artist. Before he jumped into music, he played baseball at Western Carolina University where he was an All Conference player on the Catamount's Southern Conference Championship Baseball team. He has recorded seven full length albums, opened for numerous country superstars, and toured the country. He lives in Knoxville, Tenn., with his wife Lindsey, and two girls, Carolina and Ruby.

The event's emcee, 99.9 KISS FM Country's Eddie Foxx, will entertain between eight different performances spanning decades and covering classic hits from a range of genres. Audience members can expect local musicians performing legendary songs from artists such as Patsy Cline,



Matt Stillwell

Jamey Johnson, Hank Williams Jr., Reba McEntire, and more.

Local musicians include Limited Distance, Michaella Hedden, Seeds of Faith performing with Curtis Blackwell, Chelsi Reynolds, The Hackers, Brent Ledford, and Carey Deal. Dwayne Cabe will perform the National Anthem.


One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Shop with a Cop Program. The benefit concert will also serve as an opportunity to raise awareness about the organizations and agencies who volunteer each year to make Shop with a Cop a success.

Tickets will be available beginning March 2 at the MCSO Annex building and at the Macon County Detention Center and will be sold at the door beginning at 6 p.m. on March 13. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children 10 years and under are \$10 each and children 5 and under are free. A limited number of VIP tickets will be sold for \$50. VIP tickets include reserved seating and a meet and greet with Matt Stillwell before the show.



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MANNA Food Bank holds monthly pop-up

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Right here in Franklin, many families fall within that definition. The MANNA FoodBank, which has been providing free food in Franklin monthly for the past several months, set up shop at the old Kmart plaza on Monday, giving away two truckloads of fruits, vegetables, canned goods, juices, snacks and bread through their pop-up market. MANNA is a private, not-for-profit service organization, that links the food industry with over 200 partner agencies in 16 counties of WNC. MANNA is an acronym and stands for Mountain Area Nutritional Needs Alliance.



Volunteers set out the groceries and other supplies along tables in the old Kmart building just before MANNA's pop-up market opened at 2 p.m. More than 500 people lined up to take advantage of the free food. Photo by Diane Peltz

Folks started lining up in front of the old Kmart at 8 am, even though the event didn't start until 2 p.m. Many feared that there would not be enough food for all the residents who might show up, because that was the case at last month's pop-up market. As hard as they try to estimate the needs of those who suffer from food insecurity, sometimes event organizers fall short. An estimated 650 residents lined up at the Community Center last month, for January's pop-up market. The folks at MANNA had not been prepared for the onslaught of families in need, due to underestimating how many folks would come out to get free food in the cold and rainy weather. The food ran out before everyone in line was able to get some.

The folks at MANNA promised that at February's pop-up market there would be plenty of food for all who showed up. They made good on their promise providing more than enough food for the more than 500 residents who braved the cold, windy rain to get food for their family that they would otherwise not be able to provide, without this assistance from MANNA.

One family who was on line at the pop-up from 11 a.m. spoke about why she is so grateful for this free food from MANNA. A.B. is a mother of two young boys, ages two and four. Her husband works as a law enforcement officer with the Park Ranger Services. She stays home to take care of the two children.

"We just barely make ends meet and having the chance to get some extra food allows us to be able to pay our bills, that we might not be able to afford without this help," she said. "Last month I was not able to get to the pop-up market, but I did go to some local churches that were kind enough to help me out with some extra food for the kids. This event is a lifesaver for my family."

R.B. is another stay at home mom with four children and

one on the way. She has also been showing up at the pop-up market for the past several months. Her husband works as a carpenter but earns enough money for only the basics.

"Last month I had to leave when they ran out of food. Although I was there early, the line in the community center was confusing and I was pushed to the back of the line. They ran out of food before I was able to get any. Coming here is a big lifesaver for my family as I am able to get my children some extra juice and vegetables that otherwise they would have to go without," she said.

Monday's event was much more organized than last month's market. Felicia Roberts, Family and Communications Outreach Specialist at MPP began handing out numbers to those who showed up early and the only way to get into the market was to show your number to the volunteers. Once inside there was no limit on the amount of food you could take home. Many folks came with folding carts to lug all the groceries to their car. Several senior citizens spoke about how difficult it was to stretch their Social Security money every month. Grandparents who were caring for their grandchildren were also grateful for the extra help this pop-up market offered them. Volunteers from all over town were available to help cart the food to residents' cars. MANNA is dedicated to continue to provide this pop-up market for as long as it is needed and as long as they are able to provide the food. This pop-up served 598 individuals including 177 households and some community resource agencies as well. MANNA distributed more than 18,000 lbs. of food at the market.

The next pop-up market will be in March and fliers will be posted at schools, the library and on Facebook announcing the time and place of the next MANNA pop-up market.

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Deaths & Funerals

Alan E. Marsh Sr.

Alan E. Marsh Sr., 90, passed away Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, in Highlands, N.C., after a short illness. He was born Sept. 22, 1929, in St. Petersburg, Fla. He graduated from the University of Kentucky. When he returned to St. Petersburg he married his "Sweetie" Patty Elliott and they were married for 68 years.

He purchased his first home in Highlands in the 1970s. He spent much of his time gardening and was an active member of Highlands United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Patty Marsh; his children, Alan Marsh Jr. and his wife Varsy, Sue Crawford and husband Rick, and Mitchell Marsh and his wife, Leslie; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Friends and family were invited to a visitation to honor and remember his life at the Highlands United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

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

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



Alan E. Marsh Sr.

Eugene 'Vic' Wood

Eugene "Vic" Wood, 90, of Highlands, N.C., went to be with the Lord Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

Born in Cashiers, N.C., he was the son of the late Eugene C. and Mary Houston Wood. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Speed Wood; a son Michael Wood; sisters, Catherine Wood Jennings, and Juanita Wood Burnette and brothers, Ray Wood, Charles Wood and Larry Wood.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing and growing a beautiful garden every summer.

He appreciated all nature and its beauty. He was a member of Shortoff Baptist Church in Highlands and served as choir leader for many years, Sunday School Superintendent and was a member of the Board of Trustees. He was employed by Alvin C. Crowe Builders for many years and was a co-owner of the company at the time of his retirement. He served on the Board of Trustees for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 1977-1981. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He attended a Military Academy in Etta Jima, Japan, where he was trained as a specialist in chemical, biological, radiological warfare. He then spent his time in Pusan, Korea. He was a member of American Legion Post 108. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He made many friends along life's journey.

He is survived by his son, Scott Wood of Scaly Mountain; grandson, Quinton Michael Wood of Clayton, Ga.; sister, Jean Wood Taylor of Dillard, Ga.; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m., at Shortoff Baptist Church. Rev. Andy Cloer will officiate. The family will receive friends from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Memorial donations can be made to the Shortoff Baptist Church. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Eugene 'Vic' Wood

Patricia 'Lynn' Corbin Wright

Patricia "Lynn" Corbin Wright, 55, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Born in Franklin, she was the daughter of Carolyn Estes Clouse (Jim) and the late Earl Max Corbin. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Carl Wright who passed away in 2016. She worked in the IT Department for Macon County and will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her. She fought a courageous battle with colon cancer and was passionate about supporting Relay for Life. She was also active with FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and was a Christian of faith.

In addition to her mother and step-father, she is survived by her son, Justin Zeke Wright of Franklin; two sisters, Debbie Ray (Dennis) and Michelle Brooks (Jamie) both of Franklin; one brother, Joey Clouse (Amy) of California; her grandson, Brayln Zeke Wright; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., at Cullasaja Assembly of God. Rev. Steve Reeves and Rev. Forest Jones will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the "Lynn Wright Memorial Fund" at First Citizen's Bank to support Relay for Life Colon Cancer Research, 114 Westgate Plaza, Franklin, NC 28734. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Patricia Wright

Mary P. Cathey

Mary P. Cathey, 70 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

Services will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Frank Thornton Saunders

Frank Thornton Saunders, 98, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, at a local hospital.

He was born to the late Charles Henry Saunders and Mamie Dowdle Saunders on March 18, 1921. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brothers, Robert (Beverly) Saunders, Lewis Saunders, Fred (Laura) Saunders and his sisters, Emma Jane Phillips (Nat) and Edna Henry (Napoleon).

He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served aboard the battleship USS South Dakota, which was present in Tokyo Bay when the treaty to end World War II was signed. After the war, he returned home to Franklin to help his widowed mother on their farm and remained a farmer for the rest of his life. He was a truly good person, kind and generous to everyone.

He is survived by his foster son, Clayton Brewer of Franklin, N.C.; his nieces, Jean McCollum and Dr. Sandra Saunders of Franklin, Jeannie Allen (Eddie) of Sevierville, Tenn., and Sheila Ellis of Knoxville, Tenn.; nephews, Max Phillips and Richard Phillips of Asheville and Charles Saunders and John Saunders. He also had several great nieces and great nephews.

Graveside service will be held at Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery on Saturday, Feb. 29, at 2 p.m., with full military honors by VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108. He was a proud member of both Posts.

Donations may be made to the Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery fund.

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

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



Frank Thornton Saunders

Beverly Jean Cochran

Beverly Jean Cochran, 61, passed away Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020. She was born April 7, 1948, in Hillsborough County, Fla., to the late Bennie Frank Chancey and Margaret Lucille Thomas Chancey who survives. She was a teacher's assistant for many years before retiring; she loved to travel and spend lots of time with family and friends.

Survivors include her mother, Margaret Chancey of Franklin; a niece, Denise Fleming and husband, Michael of Franklin; and two great-nieces, Kayla Wright and Kristin Wright.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. The family will receive friends following the service.

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

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



Beverly Jean Cochran

Wilma Joan Hicks

Wilma Joan Hicks, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Born in Butler County, Mo., she was the daughter of the late Charles Mitchell and Ollie Eason Mitchell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Brian Edward McDowell and Jim McDowell; one brother, Chuck Mitchell and sister, Joyce Vancuren. She enjoyed ceramics.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Edgar Hicks; one son, Billy McDowell; four sisters, Fay Whitner, Doris Anstead and Evelyn Church all of Michigan and Donna Siler of Missouri; six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

No services have been planned at this time.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



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Joey Logano defends his win in Cup race at Vegas

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

LAS VEGAS – In a final two-lap scramble that ended with a multicar crash on the frontstretch at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Joey Logano found a way to defend last year's victory in Sunday's Pennzoil 400 NASCAR Cup Series race.

Logano sped away after a restart on Lap 266 of 267 and led runner-up Matt DiBenedetto to the finish under caution to win for the second time at Las Vegas, the first time this season and the 24th time in his career, breaking a tie with Ricky Rudd for 35th all-time.

Logano was one of seven lead-lap drivers who stayed out on older tires when Ross Chastain's spin in Turn 2 brought out the eighth caution of the afternoon on Lap 261. That yellow flag changed the complexion of the race.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. finished third, the beneficiary of excellent pit strategy by crew chief Brian Pattie. Austin Dillon ran fourth, and Jimmie Johnson came home fifth, the highest finisher among drivers who pitted for fresh tires under the eighth caution. The top-five run was Johnson's first since he ran third at Daytona in July of last year.

But it was Logano who celebrated in Victory Lane after taking the white flag with cars crashing behind him as he started the final lap. Interestingly, because of accidents and pit strategy, the two drivers with whom the driver of the No. 22 Team Penske Ford battled for much of the race—teammate Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott—weren't in the mix at the finish.

After running solidly in the top 10 in the third stage, DiBenedetto, whose Wood Brothers team is affiliated with Penske, was right there at the end, matching his career-best finish in his second ride with his new team.

"I'm not really sure what I was supposed to do (on the last pit call), but, boy, we fought hard for this one today," Logano said. "Man, what a battle between Blaney and I and Chase Elliott and the 19 (Martin Truex Jr.) earlier in the race, and then to see this finish with Matt finishing second is great day for Wood Brothers and for Team Penske."

"Man, nothing like winning the Pennzoil 400 in front of this amazing crowd with this awesome yellow car right here in the front. Man, this is a huge win, and nice to kick off the season with a 'W.'"

A push from Stenhouse on the final restart gave Logano the space he needed to pull away.

"You get a good start like that, and I watched him, he pushed me and then he shoved me ahead, which was great, and then the block on the 24 (William Byron), that was the winning move, I was able to get down in front of him and then be able to separate myself a little bit from the field."

"Clean air was going to be key with old tires. If I got swallowed up by a couple cars, I was just going to fall backwards really quick. Being able to get that clean air, secure that. Man, this is



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Pennzoil Ford, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Feb. 23, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nev. At left, Logano leads a pack of cars during Sunday's race.



race-high 92 laps but finished eighth after taking tires under the decisive caution. Elliott was out front for 70 circuits and Logano had the point for 54.

Elliott won the first two stages but finished 26th after spinning into the Turn 1 wall with a flat left rear tire on Lap 220.

Chase Briscoe closes the deal at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

LAS VEGAS – Before the 2020 NASCAR Xfinity Series season started, Chase Briscoe suggested he could win as many as eight to 10 races this year.

In Sunday's rain-delayed Boyd Gaming 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Briscoe got No. 1 in his second start of the season, winning the battle between the only two Fords in the race.

The driver of the No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Mustang held the lead after the final restart on Lap 170 of 200 and won going away, beating fellow Ford driver Austin Cindric to the finish line by 2.874 seconds.

The victory was Briscoe's third in the series and his first at a 1.5-mile intermediate speedway.

Ryan Sieg finished third, followed by Noah Gragson and Harrison Burton.

great getting back in Victory Lane."

DiBenedetto took the second spot after he and Byron made contact on the restart. Suffering from a tire rub on his No. 24 Chevrolet, Byron fell back to 22nd during the melee on the penultimate lap.

"This is all just too surreal," DiBenedetto said. "Tough to be that close, but, hey, this is only the second race of the season. So it was the strength of this team. It's so cool to have the backing of all the people that allow me to drive this thing."

Kevin Harvick, whose cars had excellent short-run speed, led a

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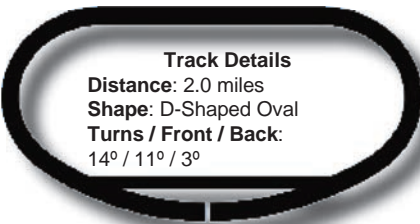
Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Cup Series Race: Auto Club 400

Race Details

Location: Fontana, Calif.
Date: Sunday, March 1, 3:30 p.m.
Last Year's Pole: Austin Dillon
Last Year's Winner: Kyle Busch

Auto Club Speedway



Track Details

Distance: 2.0 miles
Shape: D-Shaped Oval
Turns / Front / Back:
 14° / 11° / 3°

Race Preview

Auto Club Speedway opened its doors in June of 1997 with the inaugural NASCAR Cup Series California 500 presented by NAPA. More than 90,000 guests watched as Jeff Gordon won the 500-mile race. Auto Club Speedway stands on the historic site of the former Kaiser Steel Mill. The speedway stretches across 568 acres, including 131 acres in the infield and a 30-acre parking lot. Current points leader, Ryan Blaney, finished 5th in last year's race. Kyle Busch has been the dominant driver at this track. He has 7 top ten finishes in the last 10 races at Auto Club Speedway. The race will be shown live on FOX on Sunday, March 1st at 3:30 p.m.

Top News Stories

Ryan Newman confirms head injury from NASCAR crash

Ryan Newman was injured in a crash as he crossed the finish line in the Daytona 500. Newman was leading when he threw a block on Ryan Blaney. The aggressive block was in defense of the Daytona 500 victory, just a few hundred feet from the the finish line. The 42-year-old NASCAR driver was turned into the outside wall at 200 mph. He bounced off the wall and flipped down the banking. Corey LaJoie struck Newman in the driver's side door as he was upside down. After the crash, NASCAR rushed emergency vehicles to the scene. Tarps were placed behind the car to block the grandstands from viewing the medical crew and the driver they tended to. Newman was transported to a local hospital. His injuries remained a mystery to racing fans. A few days later, Newman was released from the hospital. Last weekend, when NASCAR visited Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the No. 6 seat was filled by Ross Chastain as Newman sits out due to injury. Currently, there is no timetable for Newman's return to the sport. However, ahead of the race on Sunday, Newman released a statement regarding his injuries. "I was fortunate to avoid any internal organ damage or broken bones. I did sustain a head injury for which I'm currently being treated," Newman wrote. "The doctors have been pleased with my progression over the last few days."

Last Weekend's Race: Joey Logano won at Las Vegas

Joey Logano is the back-to-back Pennzoil 400 champion after his No. 22 Pennzoil car claimed Sunday afternoon's 2020 running of the race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Logano improved dramatically from placing 26th at the Daytona 500 and clinched his first 2020 NASCAR Cup Series points. Matt DiBenedetto came in second place and secured Wood Brothers Racing's first top-five finish since June 2018. Chase Elliott won Stage 1 and Stage 2 to capture three of four stages to start this season.

Joey Logano
 Born: May 24, 1990
 Crew Chief: Todd Gordon
 Car: Ford

Year	Wins	Top 10s	Avg. Finish
2020	1	1	13.5
2019	2	21	10.8

2020 Standings

Cup Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Ryan Blaney	85	1
2) Joey Logano	82	1
3) Kevin Harvick	81	2
4) Kyle Larson	70	2
5) Ricky Stenhouse, Jr.	66	1
6) Chase Elliott	65	0
7) Austin Dillon	63	1
8) Chris Buescher	61	1
9) Denny Hamlin	60	1
10) Matt DiBenedetto	60	1

Xfinity Series Top Ten

Drivers	Points	Top 10s
1) Chase Briscoe	92	2
2) Noah Gragson	85	2
3) Harrison Burton	80	2
4) Michael Annett	77	1
5) Brandon Jones	76	2
6) Austin Cindric	75	1
7) Ryan Sieg	73	2
8) Justin Haley	73	1
9) Justin Allgaier	70	1
10) Brandon Brown	61	1

Racing Trivia

What year did Joey Logano win the Cup Series Championship? ?

- a) 2016
- b) 2017
- c) 2018
- d) 2019

Answer: c) Joey Logano won the 2018 Cup Series Championship.

"It's definitely nice to get one early," Briscoe said. "Now maybe we can go to California next week and win on a two-mile track (Auto Club Speedway)."

The race was delayed by rain after completion of the first stage, won by Briscoe, on Saturday afternoon. The resumption came at 4:50 p.m. PT Sunday after completion of the Pennzoil 400 NASCAR Cup Series event, with Joey Logano taking the checkered flag in NASCAR's premier series.

Justin Allgaier took the lead after the start of Stage 2, but Cindric grabbed the top spot on Lap 124, powering past Allgaier on the inside near the start/finish line. Cindric retained the lead after a cycle of green-flag pit stops, but when contact from Gragson's Chevrolet sent Myatt Snider spinning on the frontstretch on Lap 162, Briscoe had the opportunity he needed to regain the lead on the final restart.

Allgaier led 63 laps and Cindric 39. Briscoe leaves Las Vegas with a seven-point series lead over Gragson, last week's winner at Daytona.

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QUIET 2BD/1BA Completely Furnished, with W/D. Private Setting. Close to Town Outside Porch. Storage Building. \$695/monthly, 6 month lease required. Security Deposit. Suitable for couple, No pets, Non-smoking. (828)342-4897.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT 1BD/1BA Ground Level Apartment, \$575/monthly, Utilities Included. Service Animals only. (828)421-3016.

Notices

NOTICE FOR BIDS: Wright Cemetery is accepting bids for lawn care for the cemetery. Deadline for bids is March 11. Contact Tommy Nicholson (828)371-2341 for more information.

Garage & Yard Sales

YARD SALE Feb. 29, 8am, 80 Hurst Circle Dr. Household and Miscellaneous Items.

Help Wanted

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

OLD EDWARDS Hospitality has the following positions open: Restaurant Four65: Part-time servers, full-time Hostess, AM/PM Sous Chef, Cook and Utility, Dishwashers needed (Full-time year round, and seasonal), Seasonal Servers, Seasonal bellmen. Banquet Bar Supervisor. Assistant Inn Manager, Server, and Full-time Junior Sous Chef for Half Mile Farm. Old Edwards: Front Desk, Bellmen, Front Desk Supervisors, Spa attendants & concierge, Housekeepers, Laundry, Experienced servers & server assistants, Reservationist. Full-Time On-Site Graphic Design and Layout Professional. Graphic Artist Full-time Temporary. Maintenance Engineer. Please send resume in pdf format to ptturnbull@oldedwardsinn.com or apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

CNA/PCA NEEDED Apply in person at Grandview Manor Care Center or call Hannah. (828)524-4425, ext. 207.

COMPANION HEALTH CARE Now Hiring: CNA's and Experienced Caregivers Needed for in Home Care. Call (828)524-6444.

Misc. For Sale

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

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

"STOW DON'T TOW" Store your boat or RV at the lake instead of towing over the mountain. 10x30 covered units \$65/mo. Open storage \$35/mo. Enclosed storage 12' x 36' \$125/mo. Summer special: 1-month free w/ 12-month lease. Lake Chatuge Storage corner of 64E & Cold Branch Rd. Call: (828)342-3058.

WANTED TO BUY U.S. and Foreign Coins. Call Dan (828)421-1616. Any Quantity, Coins Also For Sale.

Community Fundraisers

FISH FRY Friday, Feb. 28, 4:30- & 7:30pm, St. Francis Catholic Church, 299 Maple St., Take-outs Available. Adults \$12, Children \$6.

4-H PLANT SALE Macon County 4-H. Orders will be taken through Thursday, March 13. Apple Trees, Cherry Trees, Blackberry, Blueberry, Raspberry and Strawberry plants, Grapes, Peach Trees, Pear Trees and Plum Trees, Bee Food Seed Pack. (828)349-2046.

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.

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.

Services

PAINTING & STAINING Residential, Interior/Exterior, Repaint, Pressure Washing, Deck Repair, Locally Owned & Operated, Franklin/Highlands Area, 30 Years, Excellent References, Free Estimates, Insured, Chandler Contracting. (828)369-5104, (828)226-3792.

CNA TRAINED Caregiver, In Home Aid, Run Errands, Dr. Appointments, Light Housekeeping. References. Over 10 Years Experience. (828)342-3750.

GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT Cleaning and Repair. New Installation, Leaf Guards. No Job Too Small, Free Estimates. (828)524-5475.

TILE-TILE-TILE-TILE Floors, Backsplash, Custom Showers. 38 Years Experience Call for Free Estimates (828)369-2209.

HILLBLAZER PROPERTY Maintenance/Management: Pressure Washing, Repairs, Painting, Debris Removed, Insured, Property Inspections, Monitoring (828)371-6844 US Navy Veteran Retired.

HANDYMAN HOME REPAIRS Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Gutter Cleaning, Decks, Drywall, Painting, Electrical/Plumbing, Repairs of any kind. 40 Years, Fast/Reasonable/Reliable. (828)332-7247.

BLADES OF GLORY Lawn Care, Landscaping Services, Moving Services, Free Estimates. Evan Klatt. (828)421-2901.

NEED YOUR HOUSE Cleaned. Call (828)347-6284. Honest, Reliable and Experienced.

ALL PHASES OF Remodeling, Trim, Paint, Decks, Furniture Finishing and Repair, 30 Years of Experience. Call (828)421-8639.

STALLSWORTH PAINTING Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Handyman, 35 Years Experience. (239)860-0117.

C & C PUMPS Well Pump Sales, Service & Installations. Iron Removal Filter Systems. Call David Cheek (828)369-5176.

J&D HOME REMODELING & Re- pairs, 35+ years experience in Kitchen and Bath Remodels, Exterior & Interior Painting, Decks, Tile Work, Etc. Have References. (828)424-1795. Ask for James.

NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC. Spring landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

PROFESSIONAL KNIFE and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

GARY BROWNING'S HOME Repairs, Decks, Pressure Washing, Interior Remodels, Painting, Etc. No Job Too Small, Prompt Response. (828)342-4039.

CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. No Job Too Small. Home (828)349-9087, Cell (828)371-9754.

GRADING, FINISH GRADING Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

PIANO INSTRUCTION Bill Grimmitt, bill@grmt.net (404)641-1801 (text message, or voice mail). Master of Music Degree in Piano Pedagogy, Member Music Teachers National Association.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

ALL AMERICAN TREE Service, Full Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Pruning, Storm Cleanup, View Cutting, Excavating, Bush-Hogging, Gravel-hauling, Firewood. Fully Insured. Free Estimate. (828)506-8480.

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 mtpropertiesofwnc@gmail.com

Matt Iannuzzi
 Broker/Associate

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.

Classifieds
\$8.00 20 words or less

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NEWS
 & Shopping Guide

maconcountynews@gmail.com
(828) 369-6767

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
WOMEN INNOVATORS

ACROSS

- 1. Cause for September celebration
- 6. Net holder
- 9. Island near Java
- 13. "PokEmon," e.g.
- 14. *Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman wrote its first version in 1923, acr.
- 15. Archeologist's find
- 16. Synagogue scroll
- 17. Bag in Paris
- 18. "Behind ____ Lines"
- 19. *Aviation pioneer
- 21. *She rebelled against sentimental novel
- 23. Nurses' org.
- 24. Deceptive maneuver
- 25. Director's cry
- 28. Snow and cycling helmet manufacturer
- 30. Low hemoglobin
- 35. Bryce Canyon state
- 37. Something to do
- 39. Lady's Bella Notte date
- 40. Puerto ____
- 41. Bone hollow
- 43. Slang for heroin
- 44. Cake cover
- 46. ____ and drab
- 47. Roman robe
- 48. "Purple People ____," pl.
- 50. Defender of skies, acr.
- 52. Easter lead-in
- 53. Attention-getting interjection
- 55. Pres. Truman's 1947 creation, acr.
- 57. *She originated the little black dress
- 60. **"Hidden ____"
- 64. Knights' feat of strength
- 65. *Mary Phelps Jacob patented the 1st modern one
- 67. Dickens' Heep
- 68. Ladies' fingers
- 69. Three strikes
- 70. Actress Rene
- 71. Crowd-sourced review platform
- 72. Lilliputian
- 73. Master of ceremonies

DOWN

- 1. Better than never?
- 2. a.k.a. midget buffalo
- 3. 100 cents in Ethiopia
- 4. D-Day beach
- 5. Move a picture
- 6. Breather
- 7. Investment option, acr.
- 8. Last European colony in

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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\$1,499*

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- China
- 9. Crooked
- 10. Sheltered, nautically
- 11. Trace or outline
- 12. Slippery surface
- 15. Feel indignant about something
- 20. Indian cuisine dip
- 22. *Sally Ride was 1st woman in space for this country
- 24. Speaker's platform
- 25. *1st person to win two Nobel Prizes
- 26. Carthage's ancient rival
- 27. Implied
- 29. *She developed philosophy of Objectivism
- 31. Formerly, formerly
- 32. *Home of Wesleyan College, first college chartered to grant degrees for women
- 33. Insect, post-metamorphosis
- 34. *Inventor of a newborn screening test
- 36. Use a whetstone
- 38. Caitlyn Jenner's ex
- 42. Primitive calculators
- 45. Ulysses and Cary
- 49. Female
- 51. *Singular of #60 Across
- 54. Tennis-affected joint
- 56. Gold, to a chemist
- 57. Pepsi rival
- 58. Fling
- 59. Rush job notation
- 60. Inevitable occurrence
- 61. Reduced instruction set computer
- 62. Alleviate
- 63. Old Woman's home
- 64. *Jennifer Lawrence played her in eponymous 2015 movie
- 66. Rivoli in Paris, e.g.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2016	Chevrolet	Camaro	27,114	PRICE DROP!
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016	LOCAL TRADE!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC!
2017	Chevrolet	Corvette	16,113	LOCAL TRADE!
2013	Chevrolet	Impala	118,535	LOCAL TRADE! \$6,360
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,216	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222	LOCAL TRADE!
2012	Chevrolet	Volt	85,273	LOCAL TRADE!
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	SOLD!
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD!
2003	Kia	Rio		\$1,000
2005	Mazda	Mazda3	206,231	SOLD!
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701	JUST IN!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2009	Subaru	Impreza	112,770	\$6,000
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087	JUST IN!
2017	Subaru	Outback	71,294	JUST IN!
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,189	PRICE DROP!

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020	LOCAL TRADE!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	136,375	SOLD!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	139,498	SOLD!
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055	\$17,480
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,316	LOCAL TRADE!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	78,342	\$23,400
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,215	JUST IN!
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	68,435	LOCAL TRADE! FRESH ON THE LOT
2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	210,299	\$10,000 DIESEL!
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	29,423	LOCAL TRADE! DIESEL!
2001	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	168,903	SOLD!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281	LOCAL TRADE! DUALY! DIESEL~
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542	LOCAL TRADE!
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317	SOLD!
2019	Ford	F-150	35,396	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747	JUST IN!
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306	LOCAL TRADE! \$18,960
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED DIESEL! PRICE DROPPED!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	26,497	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	27,911	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	22,199	JUST IN!
2003	Toyota	Tundra	230,992	\$7,960!

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585	PRICE REDUCED!
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485	PRICE REDUCED!
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	\$5,000
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	MUST GO! PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Traverse	19,524	DEAL PENDING!
2010	Chevrolet	Traverse	131,529	\$7,500
2017	Chevrolet	Trax	61,185	SOLD!
2019	Dodge	Durango	23,521	JUST IN!
2018	Dodge	Journey	38,351	THIRD ROW! ROOM FOR THE WHOLE FAM!
2018	Ford	Edge	37,096	LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285	THIRD ROW! ROOM FOR THE WHOLE FAM!
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483	SOLD!
2019	GMC	Acadia	13,433	PRICE REDUCED!
2011	GMC	Acadia	163,390	SOLD!
2017	Honda	Pilot	30,865	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,689	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	SOLD!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742	LOCAL TRADE! \$11,999
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unlimited	4,489	A MUST SEE!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511	PRICED TO SELL!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969	PRICED TO SELL!
2018	Mitsubishi	Outlander	35,408	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Nissan	Murano	38,296	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271	JUST IN!
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403	JUST IN!
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712	JUST IN!

MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261	LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
2007	HARLEY DAVIDSON	SCREAMING EAGLE	20,600	ALL MOTORCYCLES MUST GO!
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160	PERFECT TIME OF YEAR!
2017	KAWASAKI	VERSYS-X 300	2,863	LOW MILES! ALL LOCAL TRADES!

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899	A GREAT FAMILY VEHICLE!
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916	LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	41,978	YOUR FAMILY NEEDS THIS!
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093	SOLD!