

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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For the 24th year, the youth of First United Methodist Church Franklin, participated in the 30-Hour Famine, a global event to raise awareness of hunger and to collect food and donations to help end hunger. More than 60 youth and more than 70 volunteers were involved in the event. For the full story, see page 4.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Public health updates board on coronavirus

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

If someone presents at the Macon County Health Department with symptoms that could be the coronavirus, after a series of questions to determine travel exposure and the possibility of coming in contact with the disease, the health department has test kits available to test patients.

“We have three test kits,” Jennifer Garrett with the Macon County Public Health Department told commissioners at the Tuesday night board meeting. “But we can get more if needed.”

Garrett said that because of the limited number of test kits, people are not being tested for the virus if they present and are found to be asymptomatic, but if there is reason to believe someone could have been exposed, then they will be screened accordingly.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued a state of Emergency on Tuesday after the seventh confirmed case of

the virus was announced for North Carolina. According to health officials, the State of Emergency will open up more funding sources for research and prevention, as well as prohibit price gouging for things such as cleaning supplies, which is the public’s best defense against the virus at this point. There are no confirmed cases of the virus in Macon County.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale spoke Tuesday night and said that by chance, he and County Manager Derek Roland were scheduled to meet with Congressman

Mark Meadows in Washington last week, but due to a scheduling conflict, their meeting in Meadows’ office was cancelled. The following day, Meadows was quarantined after coming into contact with the virus. Meadows will be quarantined and monitored for symptoms for 14 days – he has not tested positive for the virus and the quarantine is about

“We have three test kits, but we can get more if needed.”

Jennifer Garrett, Macon County Public

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No concrete plans for super Ingles just yet



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Second graders put on annual wax museum



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Joey Logano gets second 2020 win in overtime

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UPDATE

Continued from page 1

caution. Beale noted that had he and Roland met with Meadows, due to CDC recommendations, they, too, would be quarantined.

Macon County Public Schools also sent letters out to parents last Wednesday with information on what is currently known about the virus, including symptoms, ways to prevent its spread, and steps to take if you have symptoms or feel ill.

Mission Health system activates additional visitor precautions

To protect patients and staff, Mission Health is actively reducing visitors to Mission Hospitals – including Angel Medical Center in a variety of ways:

- All patients and visitors are being screened upon entering AMC
 - Limited access begins at 7 p.m. (instead of the usual 9 p.m.) until 5 a.m. daily
 - During limited access, patients and visitors will need to use the emergency department entrance
 - Recommends no visitors younger than 12
- Screenings and access restrictions are also in place at all Mission Health regional hospitals and CarePartners.
- As a reminder to protect yourself and prevent the spread of illnesses:
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Stay home when you are ill

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often, using either soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

According to cdc.gov, coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed.

As of noon on Tuesday, the United States had 647 confirmed cases of the virus and 25 deaths. Of those 647 cases, 83 were attributed to travel, 36 related to person-to-person spread and 528 still under investigation with causes undetermined.

Meadows named WH Chief of Staff

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Republican voters will head back to the polls this Spring for a run-off election for the District 11 Congressional race. While Lynda Bennett was able to secure the majority of the votes, she did not meet the 30 percent threshold required to avoid a run-off race. Madison Cawthorn, who received the second highest number of votes, requested a runoff election which will take place across District 11 on May 12.

The runoff election will include early voting, which will begin on April 23. Macon County Board of Elections Director Melanie Thibault said that she is meeting with the local board of elections on Friday to discuss the full details of the early voting election. According to Thibault, it is up to individual county discretion as to how early voting during a runoff election is managed. The election is held at the expense of the county—so if the county elects to hold early voting in the same capacity as the initial primary election, which will be at Highlands and Franklin locations from 8 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., a full staff will need to be in place at both locations from April 23 until May 9. However, the county can decide to strictly hold the runoff election at the Board of Elections, which would mean that election staff could man the station and voting would be open during normal operational hours, 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m.

The runoff election for District 11 would only be for Republican voters or unaffiliated voters who pulled a Republican ballot during the primary.

The District 11 race could become further convoluted as Governor Roy Cooper could appoint someone to fill the District 11 seat in the interim since Incumbent Mark Meadows was appointed as President Donald Trump's new Chief of Staff last Friday. The appointment will leave his seat vacant and statute dictates the responsibility to fill it falling on the governor. Gov. Cooper could elect to leave the seat vacant until the November election, which would leave District 11 without a representative in Congress for more than eight months.

President Trump announced Meadows' new role in his cabinet via Twitter on Friday night. Meadows had already announced his retirement from Congress and stated he planned to continue working with the president but that he was initially unsure in what capacity.

"I want to thank the people of Western North Carolina," Meadows said in a press release on Friday night. "Serving you in Congress has been the honor of my life. It may be in a different role, but I'll continue working every day to deliver results for you—and main street Americans all over the country—in the months and years to come."

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PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	13,185
2019	Chevrolet	Impala	1,875
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	10,697
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655
2014	Ford	Focus	95,181
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655
2017	Honda	Accord	21,739
2003	Kia	Rio	
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599
2018	Nissan	Altima	45,634
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701
2018	Nissan	Sentra	44,573
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087
2017	Subaru	Outback	71,119
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,777

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	39,294
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363
2010	Chevrolet	Traverse	131,529
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	22,442
2018	Dodge	Journey	43,238
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,697
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316
2019	Jeep	Compass	35,635
2019	Jeep	Compass	46,307
2009	Jeep	Patriot	169,410
2018	Jeep	Renegade	21,426
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,773
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271
2019	Nissan	Rogue	37,642
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,419
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	78,342
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	68,442
2016	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	50,089
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,665
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281
2007	Dodge	Ram 1500	142,632
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376
2019	Nissan	Frontier	26,497
2019	Nissan	Frontier	27,911
2019	Nissan	Frontier	28,249

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	45,143
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093
2007	Honda	Odyssey	185,922

MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160
2017	KAWASAKI	VERSYS-X 300	2,863

25 PASSENGER BUS

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

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Youth group from FUMC participate in annual 30-Hour Famine

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

For the 24th year, First United Methodist Church (FUMC) was once again host to the 30-Hour Famine. This global event began in 1971 in Calgary, Alberta Canada by Ruth Roberts. Roberts was just 17 years old when she and several friends staged an event in her basement to see what it was like to be hungry and raise money and awareness for children suffering from hunger. Almost 50 years later, this event is still being held in 21 countries. This year, 64 youth from FUMC took part in the event.

Beginning on Friday, March 7, FUMC youth gathered at the church to begin their 30-hour fast. Aside from fasting, the group participated in several events. One such event was a simulation about what it was like to be homeless and hungry. Gathering in groups of six to eight, these youth were given roles to play out with the help of some community volunteers, such as MANNA, Daybreak Rotary and the Noon Rotary.

One group was to simulate what it was like to be homeless. In yet another simulation, a group of youth pretended that they were a family of four who did not have enough money to make ends meet. Braxton Miraknippel was the mother of two children in the

simulation. His family received a \$950 disability check every month. Braxton said that he was able to stretch his money in order to pay rent of \$300 and to buy food for the kids. In today's world, in reality, \$950 would not be sufficient to care for a family of three.

Caden Tyler, 16, participated in the famine for the first time. He also was in a simulation about being poor. "It is hard being in poverty and being poor."

Caden had other duties at this event that included a service project.

"We had to destroy some old steps leading to the cemetery at church. We took hammers and crowbars to smash the steps in order to make way to build new ones," he said.

Gracie Riddle experienced the famine for the first time. Gracie is in 6th grade and was also in a poverty simulation. She was given the role of being a mother of two. Although she worked at a part time job she was not able to meet her monthly bills because she had no



First United Methodist youth stand at an intersection raising awareness of hunger locally and globally. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

health insurance. One of her children was sick and in need of medicine. She struggled to stay afloat due to the lack of medical insurance and the high cost of the medicine her child needed.

"This was a good experience. I found out that many needs are not met. It gave me a different perspective," said Gracie.

Sixth grader Jessica Keefer was also taking part in the famine for the first time. Jessica was in a simulation in a family in which the hus-

band robbed a bank because they did not have enough money to feed everyone. He did not get caught by the police in this particular simulation, so they wound up being able to eat for some time with the stolen money. She was not sure what they were going to do when that money ran out. Jessica remarked, "This was eye opening, to find out how many children have no food or no home."

In these simulations many youth found out how easy it was to turn to crime in a time of desperation. People who would not ever think of committing a crime often feel there is no other choice, if they were going to be able to keep their family from being hungry or homeless. Statistics show that one in every nine people in the world don't have enough to eat; 94 percent of these people live in developing countries. And for the first time in decades, the percentage of hungry people is rising. In 2017, there were 6 million more hungry people than the year before. In 30 hours, just over one day, more than 7,000 kids will die of hunger-related causes.

After the morning simulations were over the groups left the church to go out into the community to raise money and awareness. After spending about two hours standing on the street corners waving signs and asking for donations, they moved on to help other



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The younger kids of FUMC who did not participate in the famine, packed 450 food bags for CareNet's backpack program.

community agencies with their needs. One agency, REACH of Macon County, was in need of some new dog beds. When clients come to stay at the residential facility that REACH provides, residents often bring their pets. The group who went to REACH were in charge of making new beds for the pets. Several groups headed out to Mountain View Intermediate School and Cartoogechaye Elementary to help paint, clear some shrubs, and mulch. Still some other groups cleaned up the soccer fields, did some community service at Full Circle Recovery and assisted with the FUMC Bazaar donation pick-ups.

The younger children were not left out of participating in the famine. Although they were too young for the 30-hour fast, they did volunteer at CareNet to help bag food for their school backpack program. The group was given instruction on how to bag

the food in order for it to easily fit inside a student's backpack so it can go unnoticed. The group worked diligently filling over 450 bags to distribute to Macon County Schools.

In total, this event helped collect more than 5,900 cans of food and so far, around \$4,900. More than 70 adult volunteers helped make this event a success.



Following the 30-hour fast, the youth and the volunteers were treated to a meal.

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Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Town Council approves water, sewer allocation for old Walmart property

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Ingles Markets purchased the old Walmart property in the Holly Springs Plaza in 2015 and it has remained vacant ever since. While Ingles built the new Super Ingles on the other end of town, the future of the Holly Springs plaza has remained a mystery — and while there is still no concrete answer from Ingles as to the grocery chain's plans for the property, the one thing that is certain is that it will have water and sewer from the town of Franklin.

During last week's meeting of the Franklin Town Council, the board approved a water and sewer allocation request for the Holly Springs Plaza off US 441.

"What you have before you tonight is a water and sewer allocation request for the property located on 4501, Highway 441 Bypass, which is the old Walmart property," said Franklin Town Manager Summer Woodard.

Although the Town Council did approve the allocation request for the property, no official plans have been made to construct a new Ingles store at the Holly Springs Plaza location.

"It's really too early to discuss anything beyond what is in the allocation requests,"

said Ron Freeman, Chief Financial Officer for Ingles Markets. "We hope the municipal process continues to run smoothly so we can discuss more in the future."

The water and sewer request to the town included a proposed vision from Ingles Markets to "revitalize" the shopping plaza. John Cox with Land Planning Associates of North Carolina said, "The redevelopment will create a rework of the existing square footage on the site as well as the current use of each building."

Although Freeman didn't confirm plans for a new Ingles store, Cox's letter to the board included a water and sewer request based on estimated usage levels for each building in the plaza and specifically estimated water and sewer needs for an Ingles grocery store and an Ingles gas station.

Ingles purchased the Holly Springs Plaza property in 2015 for \$3.7 million and beyond confirming the purchase nearly five years ago, the chain has been tight lipped on plans for the future. Ingles opened a Super Ingles on the Georgia Road in the Fall of 2017. In addition to the 72,128 square foot shopping center, the property included 14,800 in additional space for retail shops. Since opening in 2017, those shops have remained vacant.

Volunteers needed for statewide Spring Litter Sweep

Volunteers across North Carolina are needed to help clean up trash along roads during the N.C. Department of Transportation's annual Spring Litter Sweep from April 11-25.

Each April and September, the department calls on volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. Volunteers from local businesses, schools, non-profits, churches and community groups play an important role in keeping North Carolina's roads clean.

"Every day, more people make North Carolina their home or do business here," said David Harris, NCDOT's Roadside Environmental engineer. "With that, comes increased litter and trash on our roads. We need others to help us keep our state beautiful and safe, and it starts with each of us doing our part."

Volunteers wear gloves and safety vests and are given cleaning supplies such as reversible orange and blue trash bags. People wanting to participate should contact their local litter management coordinator.

Last year, Adopt-A-Highway groups, NCDOT employees and other volunteers removed nearly 939,000 pounds of litter during the spring litter sweep.

Visit the Litter Sweep webpage for more information. Questions can be directed to Litter Management at 919-707-2970.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 17

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Tuesday, March 17

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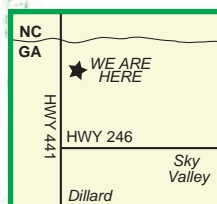
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AmeriCorps team stops off in Franklin

A group with the AmeriCorps NCCC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stopped in Franklin last weekend on their way to Washington DC. AmeriCorps partners with FEMA to train groups to help communities prepare for and respond to disasters. AmeriCorps is a 10-month program that so far has taken the team to New Mexico, New York City, Puerto Rico and now Washington DC. Pictured in no particular order are Gabryele Jordan, Maine; Ken Shafer, Connecticut; Devin Johnson, Virginia; Gideon Spikes, Vermont; Shelbi Patterson, Minnesota; Anna Morel-Paletta, Massachusetts; Christian Perry, Michigan; Samatha Sinclair, Michigan; and Sydney Gooder, North Carolina.



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Red Cross: Help keep U.S. blood supply stable

The American Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood or platelets to help maintain a sufficient blood supply and prevent shortages as concerns about the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, rise in the U.S.

Cold and flu season has already impacted the nation's ability to maintain its blood supply. As the number of coronavirus cases grows in the U.S., the number of people eligible to give blood for patients in need could decrease further.

"We're asking the American people to help keep the blood supply stable during this challenging time," said Chris Hrouda, president, Red Cross Blood Services. "As fears of coronavirus rise, low donor participation could harm blood availability at hospitals, and the last thing a patient should worry about is whether lifesaving blood will be on the shelf when they need it most."

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Franklin:

- Tuesday, March 17, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Beasley Flooring Products FNC, 41 Hardwood Drive
- Friday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Lowe's 0717 Franklin, Georgia Highway
- Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Drive

To make an appointment to donate blood, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Blood donors with type O blood and platelet donors are especially needed.

Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give or receive blood. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus, including this coronavirus, from a transfusion.

The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other eligibility requirements, available at RedCrossBlood.org. At each blood drive and donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols including wearing gloves, routinely wiping down donor-touched areas, using sterile collection sets for every donation, and preparing the arm for donation with an aseptic scrub. These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety in reducing contact with those who may potentially have this respiratory infection.

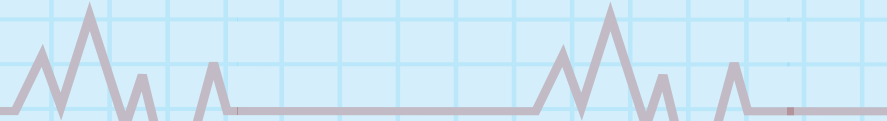
Red Cross committed to blood supply safety

The top priority of the Red Cross is the safety of our valued staff, blood donors and blood recipients, and we are committed to transparency with the American public during this evolving public health emergency. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus, from a transfusion.

Nonetheless, the Red Cross has implemented new blood donation deferrals out of an abundance of caution. Individuals are asked to postpone their donation for 28 days following:

- Travel to China and its administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as Iran, Italy and South Korea;
- Diagnosis of COVID-19, contact with a person who has or is suspected to have the virus.

As the situation evolves, the Red Cross will continue to evaluate all emerging risks in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and industry partners to determine if additional intervention strategies are needed.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Just because we live on a remote and somewhat isolated mountain plateau, there is still a possibility that the coronavirus will appear and even spread. We are a tourist community and have many folks coming and going to multiple locations which makes us vulnerable to transmission of the virus. Also, as a retirement community, a significant portion of our residents could be vulnerable to coronavirus complications.

Our town staff is monitoring the situation. Staff members attended a strategy meeting with Macon County Emergency Services and the public health department that was reported in last week's paper. I have also spoken with EMS Director Warren Cabe. There are protocols in place to address the spread and containment of the coronavirus. As of last week there were no reported cases in Macon County.

I have also talked with Tom Neal, the executive director of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital. HCA is implementing protocols to control the spread of the virus at their facilities. They already screen visitors to the hospital to make sure they do not have cold or flu symptoms. This screening is a standard practice during annually occurring flu season. Tom has informed me that the hospital has all the equipment, materials and staff to deal with a coronavirus outbreak should one occur.

Tom emphasizes that the best line of personal defense against any virus is thorough hand washing. He stresses that folks sometimes forget to wash thumbs and between fingers, and that washing with a good soap should last a minimum of 20 seconds.

Be assured the Town of Highlands realizes this is a serious issue, and we will work with these agencies in a coordinated response. I will be meeting with a representative of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce to discuss the issue of the opening of the season which brings large events to the town. It is anyone's guess as to how long this virus will remain active. It may dissipate as warmer temperatures return.

I do have the authority to declare a state of emergency if a situation warrants it. As with other emergency declarations, I depend on guidance from experts in the county to advise me as to when to take such action. County officials are in constant contact with state and federal officials who are tracking and analyzing the spread of the coronavirus.

A real problem with this medical crisis is unwarranted fear and misinformation. The spread of COVID 19 virus has without a doubt impacted the world economy, the civil, social and cultural infrastructure. There are no easy solutions such as putting up gates and closing off Highlands to the outside world.

On the other hand, we can use best personal practices to mitigate this potential crisis. I recommend visiting the websites of the American Red Cross or the World Health Organization. Both websites identify practices that can minimize exposure.

Letters to the Editor

What has happened to us?

Late last year I had decided to give up writing letters to the editor. The rancor and ad hominem attacks of recent letters has exhausted me, maybe you too.

What has happened to us?

Prior to the 2016 election, when it came to politics, members of different political parties simply agreed to disagree. However, back then, we all also agreed on mostly the same facts. Now, we only look for facts that support our opinions. We call people who disagree with us "traitors" and "bad people." We have decided that all those "other people" must be evil, ignorant, stupid, fascist, socialist, communist liars.

Why has this happened to us?

Some blame goes to the way social media platforms and certain news outlets facilitate tribalism by making it easy to pick sides. We tend to only talk with the members of our own tribe. We demonize the other tribes. We look only for facts that support our opinions. We no longer listen to what the other side says, we only talk among ourselves, only to the people that already hold our opinions. We have decided we cannot learn anything from many of our neighbors anymore.

In my previous letters, I made an honest effort to support my opinions with facts I have myself researched, from original sources. Many times I have used footnoted attributions for these facts which I have gathered from multiple sources. I try to use common sense when considering the validity of these facts and forming my opinions.

For example, common sense tells me that if Medicare for All is implemented, our taxes will go up, maybe a lot, there is no disagreement on this. On the other hand, our medical expenses will be reduced to the same levels members already pay on the current Medicare plan, and that may offset the tax increases. The operative word here is may. I am on Medicare. It is a fairly good system that can administer health care provider reimbursement payments cheaper and fairer than for-profit insurance companies can. However, I, for one don't think Medicare For All will be implemented in the near future because of the tremendous amount of infrastructure planning needed to happen first. Current Medicare payments amounts are just not enough to keep rural hospitals open if Medicare for All is implemented and if reimbursement amounts are not adjusted upwards. We need to solve this problem before we expand Medicare eligibility.

Sometimes knowing the truth about what is happening in our government is not easy. For example, a recent letter claimed that the Democrats held secret hearings regarding corruption in the Executive Branch, and that the Democrats prevented Republicans from participating in these hearings. To understand the veracity of this claim, I went to the US.GOV website to try to understand some facts about these hearings. What I learned is that these hearings were the combined effort of three Congressional House committees: Judicial, Foreign Affairs, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I fol-

lowed links to the home pages of each of these three committees to find out more.

This was a little detective work, but I now know: 1) these meetings were held in the Congressional Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) which happens to be on a lower level of the Capitol Building; 2) SCIF regulations require that all recording or electronic devices be surrendered upon entering the SCIF; 3) any and all SCIF-held meetings are restricted to invited persons; 4) these committee hearings were on the Congressional Calendars of all Committee members, which are accessed every day by every member of both parties; 5) all Committee members were dutifully expected to attend these hearings, including the Republican members; 6) there are 41 Republican committee members between all three committees, all of who were eligible to attend these hearings and were invited to these hearings by the Democrat Committee Chairpersons.

All that research was required to understand these facts, and to debunk the claim that the hearings were secret, were held a secret basement room, and that Republicans were barred from attending these hearings.

How can we return to a way to share our opinions without resorting to insults and personal attacks?

Until we agree on what the facts are, we will never be able to re-establish a dialogue that allows us to simply agree to disagree about our opinions. Researching the facts may require us to leave our information bubbles, our comfort zones. We should search out information from many sources, in the hopes of compiling corroborating evidence in support of our opinions. I, for one, am eager to return to real debates with my WNC neighbors about what makes good government. Who knows, I may learn something.

I wrote this letter to ask for more civility, more respect for each other when we share our opinions. Matthew 7:12 says, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." I try to keep this verse in mind when I am debating opinions. I hope you will too. Thanks,

John Barry – Franklin, N.C.

Lack of medical care to rape victims 'appalling'

As a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and retired FDLE (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) Special Agent, I am appalled beyond words.

A victim of a sexual crime of rape is required to not only drive to Asheville for an examination but is required to pay \$1,000 for a rape kit. This was reported in a recent newspaper article. [MCN - Feb. 20 "Partnerships struggling under HCA merger"]

Really, would your wife, mother, daughter, or sister report this crime knowing this?

This practice sets Macon County in the dark ages of victim advocacy.

Shame on Angel/Mission and HCA.

Barbara McLellan – Franklin, N.C.

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Senator Schumer's threats irresponsible

Calling for violence against the Supreme Court is the least of [Sen. Chuck] Schumer's flaws. Schumer stood on the same stage and said it was okay and promoted the torturing and killing of innocent babies and that no one could stop them even up to the instant they are born. Murdering innocents is even more radical and disgusting than calling for violence against the SCOTUS [Supreme Court of the United States]. Future societies will look back in 100 years and wonder how the Democrats could be so barbaric and so against giving the most helpless among us even the most basic of human rights, which is life. Then they will look even further back in their past and see it was the same Democrats that fought a Civil War to be able to keep other groups of humans as slaves and treat them as their property. History will be justifiably harsh on the Democrats.

If we needed a pristine example of why justices are bestowed lifetime appointments and shielded from the intimidation tactics of unethical politicians, Sen. Chuck Schumer has now provided us with one. Speaking to pro-abortion protesters in front of the Supreme Court this week, the Senate minority leader threatened (there's no other way to put it) two sitting justices with repercussions if they uphold a Louisiana law aimed at protecting babies who survive abortions. He said: "I want to tell you, Gorsuch, I want to tell you, Kavanaugh, you have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

It's possible that Schumer (who doesn't have the slightest interest in protecting abortion survivors) can't think of any good reason for hospital-admitting privileges for abortion providers, as the Louisiana law requires. But treating that as an "undue burden" is just an example of the Democrats' abortion extremism. Threatening justices over the case is hysterical. This is an unprecedented attack on Supreme Court justices. You won't be able to unearth an instance in modern history of a member of Congress threatening a justice (by name, no less) for ruling against his wishes.

Chief Justice John Roberts felt the need to release this statement: "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous. All members of the court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter."

Twelve senators, included our own Senator Thom Tillis, have appropriately sponsored a bill to censure Schumer for his rash threats against Kavanaugh and Gorsuch. If anything ever comes of these threats, Schumer should be held criminally responsible.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Loyalty to Trump is a one-way street

I read with great delight the announcement of Mark Meadows new job. Chief of Staff to the president will be an exciting, drama-filled experience. If the best indicator of future behavior is past behavior, (and it is), then he is in for a challenging workplace to say the least. His talent for ingratiating himself with Individual 1 and his ability to grab at photo ops will be difficult to balance to his boss's satisfaction.

I read that he and his lovely wife have attached themselves like limpets to the DC social scene and are enjoying all that the capitol can offer in the way of entertainment. The POLITICO article also says they are "keeping a place" in North Carolina while they move on to greener pastures. Good thinking! Ask poor old Mick Mulvaney how much he loves the idea of being "envoy to Northern Ireland." (That'll teach him to cough while his excellency is being interviewed). With Donald Trump, loyalty, while valued for obvious reasons, is definitely a one-way street and this as well

as any other facet of the moral sense, is foreign to him. Having a fallback home is essential, Mark.

I am constantly amazed at the number of people of supposed intelligence who have been taken in by the scammer-in-chief. If we could have seen just a few years ago that our country would be in the hands of a man who couldn't survive on an inherited fortune, couldn't make a living conning gamblers, selling vodka, water, steaks, a false "University" to teach others how to scam, and just outright stealing from his siblings, his father, people who worked for him and most of all, the U.S. government, we would not have believed it. Donald Trump knows as much about being a conservative as he does anything else. Nothing. He managed to stack the court, even if it was, by and large, with men of little qualifications and no talent or principles. He survives on a huckster's instincts. He learned what to say to the crowds who come out for the show to keep then roaring but gives them no substance at all. McConnell and Company show their utter contempt for the voter by allowing the stooge to be hoodwinked. An hour spent researching him and his methods online is well spent. I'm not talking about biased sites either, look at the lists on Business Insider at the end of the year of his "accomplishments," and at the records of the lawsuits he has been involved with, both as plaintiff and as defendant. Who in the world is involved in 3,500 lawsuits? His ignorance is appalling, his selfishness and ego knows no bounds.

When we elect something like this low-grade con, truly, the electorate gets what it deserves. As we cower in fear before this new virus attack while he tries desperately to turn it to his advantage, those who voted for him as well as those who didn't will have the opportunity to rethink our decisions.

Meantime, Mark, enjoy your moment in the sun. Relieved of the burden of having to pretend to serve your constituency, you can concentrate on perfecting your pucker.

Susan Clark – Franklin, N.C.

Secular Socialism is not the solution

The Grammy award winning song "Hotel California" was recorded by the Eagles in 1976, the same year I moved back from dental school in Southern California to my future home in Western North Carolina. So thankful I did!

It was a song about a mythical Hollywood hotel which was their journey from innocence to experience or "a loss of innocence." It was "all about American decadence and burnout, too much money, corruption, drugs and arrogance; too little humility and heart. ... It has also been interpreted as an allegory about hedonism, self-destruction, and greed in the music industry of the late 1970s."

"There is a fine line," Don Henley said, "between the American Dream, and the American nightmare."

Well, his prophetic statement is not mythical but a reality. "Hotel California" is an overwhelming collection of thousands of people living on the streets in third world conditions for many reasons including Henley's list above. Sadly, there is a compounding of this misery with the governmental solutions proposed. Tough love redirected some of our ships when we were young but accommodation absent certain fundamental rules of right and wrong leaves society rudderless.

The whole notion that secular Socialism is our solution lets us start with the glorification of Cesar Chavez on kid's tee shirts and end up with starving people, firing squads, and Hotel Californias!

David Silverstein – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

This isn't the way it's supposed to be

Many of us get caught up in issues of life and the world in which we live. The confusion of what seems a disorder of things that doesn't seem right, or there's little reason or foundation for life. Things feeling out of place, disjointed or out of norms. The constant display of hate and dislike towards life and those we disagree with and the momentum that our culture's self absorption within electronic media begins a dissolving process within the heart and soul of many of us. We seem to be more brave or deviant behind a glaring screen, than a face-to-face contact in our human exchanges. We've exchanged the hard work of personal interaction in working out our relationships for the simplicity of relationships behind social media. Not to say the internet is unuseful, but it does replace meaningful relationships for strictly electronic relationships.

Just as seen in a recent interview, our relationships with human-like robots will see a dramatic increase, even within the realm of sexual pleasure, which will take pornography to unexpected levels and the uneasiness about where this will lead. The fears of relationships which we have placed upon ourselves drives us ever so deeply into isolation of a world of "self."

This isn't the way it's supposed to be. We seem to be our own worst enemy, but we do so with open arms seeking the freedoms which do nothing but entangle us into a continued breakdown of family, community, and the fabric of our own society, and of who we once were. We intuitively know we are made for something better, deeper, and more meaningful.

I've often wondered why in the days leading before the Holocaust and the killing of so many Jews, why were the Jewish people so hated, except for false propaganda given to the German people by the leadership of who they followed, and did so blindly. No reason is found for a highly educated people that was the benchmark of all Europe. Like today, they placed their hope and trust into educational and political systems which push God into the margins of society and life in general, even religious systems bent to the sways of political pressures instead of opposing and holding steadfast in a faith and God who died for all humanity, and all being equal whether Jew or Gentile.

This also came to our own shores, but in different ways in the bitterness of slavery, and even now towards those whose voices are silent and at the mercy of those more powerful – the unborn at the forefront of abortions being the norm and promoted in our society. None of this is the way it's supposed to be, and many seem to sense this. It's as though we are made for something better but this betterment also seems a mystery to us as well. If there is no God, where and why is this mystery part of us? Just maybe we were intended to be better than what we see ourselves and who we've become. The fall of mankind is just that, fallen and obviously humanity should be better than what we are. God intended to be within the very heart of mankind but we've belittled God out of everything, and we wonder why He's seems absent.

Is this the way you want it to be?

Re-thinking living,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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East Franklin second graders put on annual Wax Museum



Ben Holland and Weston Mace as John Wayne



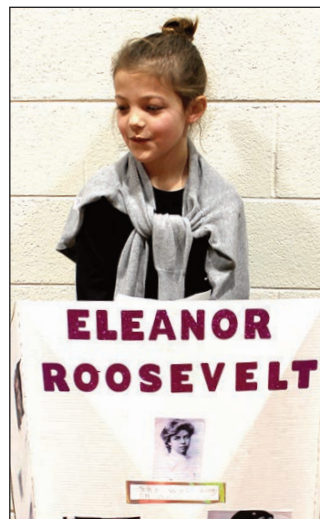
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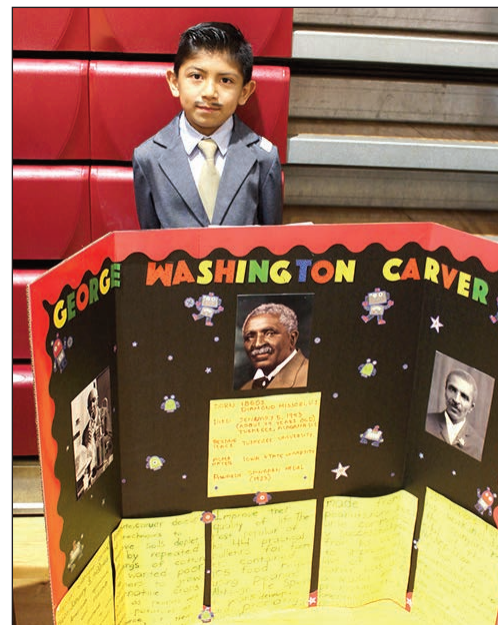
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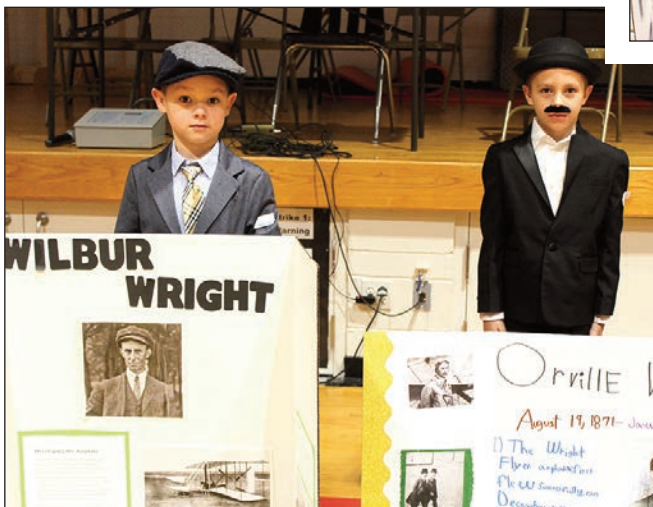
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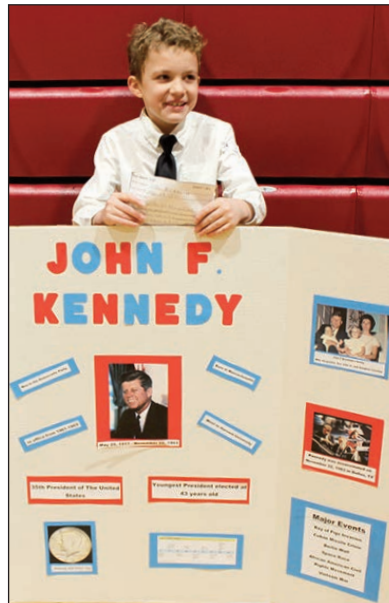
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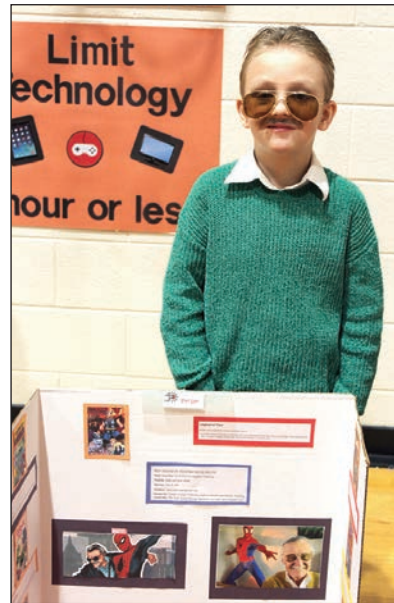
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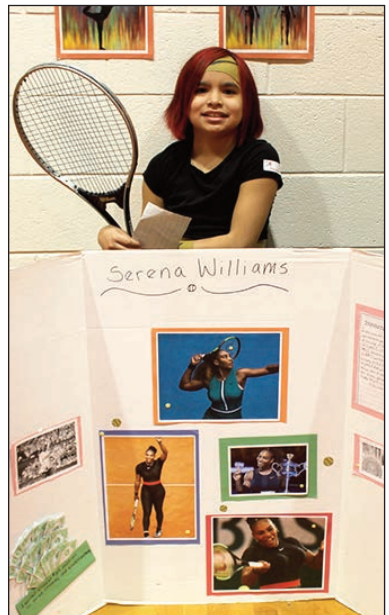
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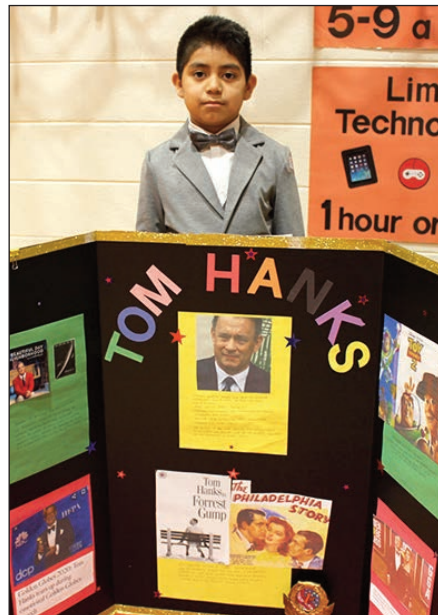
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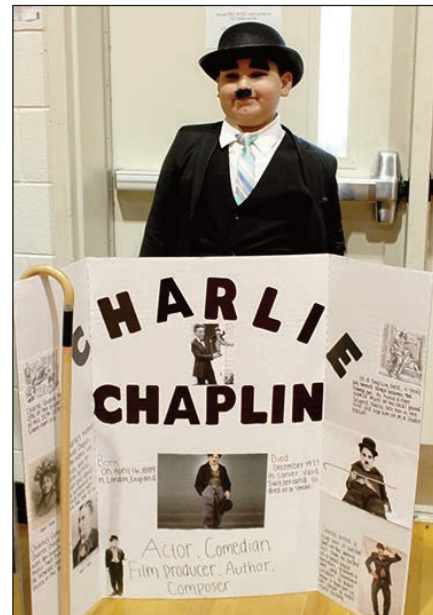
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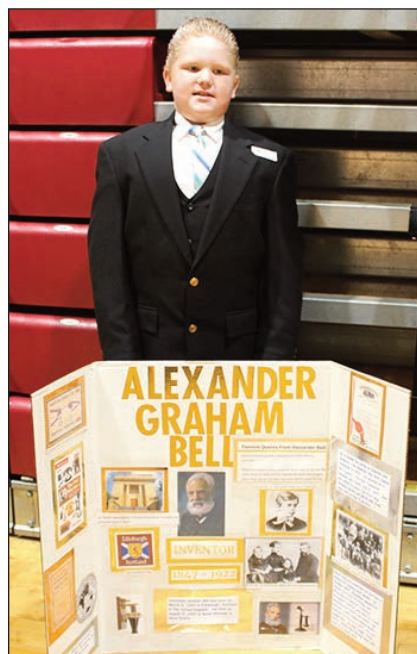
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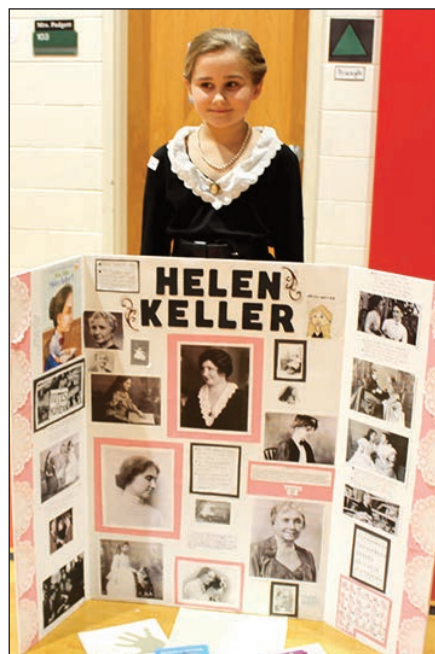
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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 28 - March 9. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 7

Nathan Shane Humphries, 27, of Franklin, was charged with fugitive out of state felony. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

March 9

Justin Wayne Nicholson, 32, of Walhalla, S.C., was charged with violating a domestic violence protective order violation, theft by taking, possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$8,000 was set. Stephanie Robbins made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 28

Courtney Page Reynolds, 52, of Lake Emory Rd., issued an order for arrest for driving while license revoked. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Abraham Daniel Pichal-Mendoza, 22, of Dillard House Lane, Dillard, Ga., was charged with driving under the influence. A \$1,500 bond was set.

March 1

Erica Nicole McConnell Nicholson, 28, of Iotla Valley Park Rd., was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A \$1,000 bond was set.

March 4

Gina Tallent Franks, 63, of Garland Buchanan Rd., was charged with failure to appear. No bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 3

Paul Anthony Namotka, 55, of Sparks Rd., was issued a child support purge order. A \$5,471 bond was set.

Martin Gary Noone, 56, of Molly B. Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

Kenneth Lee Standingdeer, 28, of Wolfe Town, Cherokee, was issued a fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Earland Rebel McKay, 40, of Bumgarner Cemetery Rd., Whittier, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain, communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

March 4

Reggie Scott Stanberry, 45, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with failure to appear for habitual felon, larceny of a motor vehicle, break or enter a motor vehicle. No bond was set.

Eric Lashawn Dodson, 43, of Arnold Hill, was charged with failure to report new address for sex offender. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Dakota Jordan Watty, 28, of Tradewinds Lane, was

charged with failure to appear for school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Callie Elizabeth Rogers, 27, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass/shoplifting concealment of goods, possession of methamphetamine/possession of drug paraphernalia, domestic criminal trespass/injury to real property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Dr., was charged with driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Katrina Lynn Cook, 32, of Goose Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony possession of schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Callie Elizabeth Rogers, 27, of Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for domestic criminal trespass/injury to real property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Christopher Todd Jones, 33, of Cloudy Valley Dr., was charged with driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

March 5

Thomas Tlenn Mancini, 39, of Walton Dr., was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Shelby James Davis, 28, of Slab Town Rd., Cashiers, was charged with Failure to appear for felonious larceny, failure to appear for first degree trespassing, larceny of a motor vehicle, misdemeanor probation violation, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

James Tyler Griffin, 28, of Searcy Rd., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Dustin Michael Aykroyd, 28, of Gerald Lane, Murphy, was charged with drive left of center, failure to appear for failure to stop for steady red light, speeding, driving while license revoked, failure to maintain lane control, drive wrong way on dual lane, flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, drive while license revoked, break or enter a motor vehicle, reckless driving speeding, resist/obstruct or delay, possession of stolen property, procession of stolen motor vehicle, possession of stolen firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, misdemeanor larceny, attempted larceny, misdemeanor larceny, injury to personal property, attempted larceny, injury to personal property, attempted larceny. A secured bond of \$87,000 was set.

March 6

Rebecca Lee Cedillo, 33, of Little Circle, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Thomas Eugene Pheasant, 41, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for driving while license revoked not impaired. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Tracey Allen Watson, 38, of Cheerful Cove Rd., Cullowhee, receive stolen goods/property, possession of stolen goods/property. An unsecured bond \$2,500 was set.

Christian Ryan Sammons, 26, of Toby Bryson Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with simple assault. A \$500 bond was set.

March 7

Jorge Paredes Martinez, 27, of 51st Ave Dr. W., Bradenton, Fla., was charged with driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

March 8

Anthony James Elton, 54, of South Hwy, Tuckasegee, was charged with failure to appear for failure to report new address for sex offender. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Nantahala Hiking Club will meet Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. Jason Love, associate director with the Highlands Biological Station, will present "Micro Plastics in our Ground Water." Refreshments and fellowship to follow. The public is invited.

Macon County Master Gardener Volunteer Association will meet March 13, 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Environmental Resource Center at 1624 Lakeside Dr. Adam Bigelow, a local horticulturist with a broad knowledge base, is speaking. The public is welcome to attend.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 7-mile hike on Saturday, March 14, with an elevation change 950 ft., on Ridge Trail at Coweeta Hydrological Lab, starting behind the wet lab and hiking to Dyke Gap, with views of Albert Mountain fire tower. Descend on the old Gage Trail to Shope Fork and return to the office complex. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m., drive 16 miles round trip. Visitors welcome to attend. For more information and reservations, call leader Gail Lehman, (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike with very little elevation change on Sunday, March 15, in the woods at the west end of the Macon County Library in Franklin, following the bicycle path to the Greenway, walking along Cartoogechaye Creek to the Community Garden and returning. Meet at the library at 2 p.m. Call leader Mary Stone, (828)369-7352 for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Holly Springs Community Development Association will meet on Monday, March 16, at 6 p.m., at the community building at 2720 Cat Creek Road. A potluck supper will begin at 6, followed by a guest speaker from Macon New Beginnings/The Serving Spoon. The evening will conclude with a short business meeting. Everyone is welcome.

American Red Cross Blood Donation Opportunities in Franklin will be held on these dates: Tuesday, March 17, 12 to 4 p.m., at Beasley Flooring Products, 41 Hardwood Dr.; Friday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lowe's 0717, Georgia Hwy.; Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Discover Church, 47 Macon Center Dr. To make an appointment to donate blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, calling (800)733-2767. Blood donors with type O blood and platelet donors are especially needed right now.

Gem Country Republican Women's Club will meet on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies. Come and be informed of current issues. Treasure table is anything green.

Friends of the Greenway Naturally Green Initiative Program Series will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 7 p.m., at FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main St. The program will be on "Soil Regeneration - Healing the Planet to Heal our Bodies." Faye Streiff, N.D., a Naturopath, herbalist, writer and farmer; and Allan M. Streiff, a soil scientist, international ag consultant and farmer will present the program.

Tai Chi for Veterans will be held on Thursday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Amelia Capaforte Jones will lead a demonstration class, a talk and a Q&A. The 10:30 a.m. class is geared to seniors but open to all, and the 6 p.m. class is geared to veterans of all ages but is also open to all.

American Legion Post 108 St. Patrick's Day Dance will be held on Saturday, March 21, 7 p.m., with the music of Crossfire. Small admission charged. Finger food will be provided.

Macon County Republican Party's Annual Convention and Precinct Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1028 Georgia Rd. Registration begins at 9 a.m., gavel at 10 a.m. Open to Macon County voters who were registered as Republicans as of January 31, 2020.

Mountain Discovery Charter School is now accepting applications through March 2020. Mountain Discovery is a free, public, K-8 charter school located in Bryson City, serving students from Swain, Jackson, Macon, Haywood, and Graham counties. They utilize 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

Vagabonds RV Camping Club are seeking additional members for the 2020 season. The new schedule is available now for those who are interested. They camp one weekend per month, April thru November. Usually within 100 miles from Franklin. All ages are welcome. Any type camper is welcome. No dues, no structured activities. Just an enjoyment of the outdoors, fellowship, good conversation, pot luck dinners and a roaring campfire. For more information, call Lillian at (828)369-6669 or lilnau@aol.com

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

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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m. Rita deMain-tenon will share on "I Don't Really Know - The Blessing of Uncertainty." 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.

Newman Chapel Baptist Church is holding revival Sunday, March 15 to Wednesday, March 18, with Rev. Chris York. Sunday at 6 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m. Special singing each night.

Arise & Shine Women's Recovery Center Public Informational Presentation will be held on Thursday, March 19, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., at Son Rise Fellowship, 462 Depot St., in Franklin.

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

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church Divine Liturgy is held on Sundays, 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. The church is located at 23 Hickory St., in Murphy. For more information, call Fr. James Blomeley (828)361-1464 snocmurphy@gmail.com

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

First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship Schedule: Contemporary Worship at 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by a Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Traditional Worship at 10:55 a.m. (childcare provided) at First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave, Franklin. Call (828) 524-3010 / franklin.org

Prentiss Church of God Sunday services include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10:30 a.m. On Wednesday, pre-service prayer begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. Pastor Kevin Chapman invites the community to attend. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Divine Worship with Holy communion is held on Sunday 10:30 a.m. Rev. Fred Balke is the pastor. The church is located one block north of SR 64 next to BP Station. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (828)369-1006 or web site gslc-franklin.com



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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

6	7	3	4	1	6	2	5	8
4	2	8	3	9	5	6	7	1
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7	8	6	5	9	3	1	4	2
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Models have been chosen for Women's History Trail Sculpture

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

For the past two years, renowned sculptor Wesley Wofford, who resides in Cashiers, has been at work on the various stages of a Women's History Trail sculpture, which will eventually be installed somewhere near the Nikwasi Mound at the Little Tennessee River. Most recently, models were selected to

oxena taking a basket of corn and apples from Salley, the African American. "I tend to call it 'Three Women,' for short," said McRae.

Wofford was commissioned in 2018 as the sculptor for the project and has so far created a marquette and is working on the next stages of the project, which will be a third-scale model possibly by this summer and full-size figures by this fall. A

studio in Cashiers is amazing; he was super personable and showed me the Women's History Trail marquette and explained a little about the project."

A few weeks later, Wofford contacted Cunningham to ask her if she would be interested in modeling for Timoxena. "Instantly I said 'yes.' I know how hard it can be to find a model, and when you find someone to fit the part, it's great." Cun-



The models have been chosen for the Women's History Trail sculpture, which is currently in its marquette stage.



Delphine Kirkland, lead singer for local band Blue Jazz, will model Salley, a slave, for the Women's History Trail sculpture, being sculpted by Wesley Wofford. At right, Angela Cunningham, chosen to model Timoxena Siler Sloan, a white woman, for the Women's History Trail sculpture, is an artist and sculptor.



represent the three important figures in the sculpture.

Sculptor and artist Angela Cunningham will model Timoxena Siler Sloan, a white woman; Blue Jazz lead singer Delphine Kirkland will model Salley (last name unknown), a slave; and, Wahlah Brown of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians will model Rebecca Morris, a Cherokee woman.

Barbara McRae, vice mayor for the Town of Franklin, who is on the leadership team for the Women's History Trail, a project of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County, said Wofford refers to the sculpture as "Sowing Seeds for the Future" because it shows the Cherokee figure, Rebecca, pouring corn into the hands of little Timoxena, and the grown Tim-

grassroots campaign to raise funds to pay for the more than \$300,000 sculpture has generated donations not only from the Town of Franklin, but also from local philanthropists and individuals, and ongoing monies contributed through volunteer-organized sales of cookies, native plants, lemonade, books, etc.

Wofford said the process of finding the models to represent important historic figures for the sculpture has been "serendipitous." He has already discussed individually with each model such aspects as clothing, hair styles, poses, etc.

Cunningham, who has lived in Asheville for the past seven years, met Wofford through a sculptor friend. "When I learned about him and his work, I wanted to meet him," she said. "His

ningham, 42, paints and sculpts out of her home and in a space at The Mills at Riverside in Asheville. Plus, she has begun assisting Wofford on some projects and may assist on the Women's History Trail sculpture. She pointed out that both modeling for and working on a sculpture that will include her likeness will be an "interesting" endeavor, but she said, "I'm pregnant for the piece, and I've never been pregnant before, so my family is getting a kick out of it. It's a beautiful marquette already and it's going to be such a great and beautiful thing for Franklin. I'm really impressed. I've never worked on my own on a piece that big, so for me it's a really great learning experience, and I am looking forward to all I will learn from Wesley."

"I told my husband I'm literally going to be in Franklin forever," quipped Kirkland, soon after she was asked by McRae to be the model for Salley. "I'm a history buff, write historical fiction, and have an interesting history growing up in South Carolina. So I didn't have to think about whether or not I wanted to do this. Although there isn't a lot of history about her specifically, I am able to help fill in because of my knowledge and background. And, despite the circumstances of her being a slave, I want to honor her."

Besides wardrobe, a main consideration for the accuracy of portraying Salley involves hair. "It's a big deal. She's being presented as on her 'day off' so she will be wearing clothing that is different from the traditional slave uniform, so her hair would be different as well."

Brown and her family have been involved for many years in educational outreach through historic clothing and living history demonstrations at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and at schools, colleges, and organizations throughout the Southeast.

"I was super excited when they asked me to model," she said. "Not just anyone gets to model for a sculpture." Her father, Diamond Brown Jr., now deceased, modeled for sculptures, and sister Dakota, has modeled for a bust. Both Brown and her sister were also chosen recently by an Australian muralist to be featured in various works.

Brown said Wofford and his wife, Odyssey, who is studio director for Wofford Sculpture Studio, "had a general understanding of the time period, but we [Dakota and her mother, Sandra Brown] were able to talk about how the baby would be tied on or how the belt should hang. Details are important."

Brown said she realizes the process is long. "I've never done a statue before, but I understand modeling for it may take a year or more."

She added, "It's important to me to keep history alive. Not everyone on the reservation does this stuff, but many do. I

wore my first authentic outfit when I was 10, so it's been a part of my life and my family's life. I know others who might work full time during the day, but then come home at night and do bead work, or make baskets, or make a ribbon skirt. That's what is so cool about Cherokee culture. We hang onto it ... anything tied to our people that we can hang onto."

Very soon, the three models will gather for one of the first "dress rehearsals."

"We are in the process of having their wardrobes built for them," said Wofford.

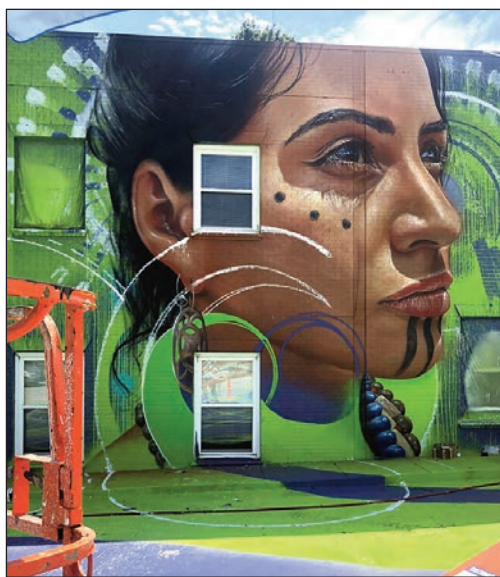
Kathryn Sellers, Franklin-based historic costume designer and seamstress, is assisting to make certain that clothing is historically accurate. Brown's mother is hand-making her daughter's clothing. Others are involved in the process of bringing the clothing to fruition.

"It was the 1700s time period, after European contact," said Sandra "Sandy" Brown, referring to the clothing her daughter will wear. She explained that she learned to make period clothing for their part-time educational endeavors. She is a finger weaver using plant fibers, and she has made buckskin leggings, finger-woven belts, pucker-toe moccasins, and much more.

"As soon as the clothing is completed, I will bring all the models into the studio and do some preliminary sessions and photographs,"

said Wofford. "The broad-stroke of this process is that you're essentially building a representation of history, so you want it to be authentic. There is a lot of front-end history we have to learn about ... expressing the different cultures within the piece authentically and honorably. You don't want to put someone in clothing that doesn't make sense. These three women are representing individual women but also three entire cultural populations."

Wofford added, "This project specifically has more history involved and it's fascinating for me. Because a sculpture technically has a forever shelf life, it's time consuming to get it right, but it is so important to do so."



Wahlah Brown, who was selected as the model for the Women's History Trail sculpture, has been involved in Cherokee history projects with her family since age 10. Recently, her and sister, Dakota, were selected to be involved in a project with an Australian muralist.

Millie's patrons invited to 'name that book store'

Millie's Used Books, a fixture of Franklin for the past 12 years, is asking the community to help rename the store.

In 2007, Millie and Earl Griffin opened the doors of Millie's Used Books. They started out in a building two miles south of Franklin, but as they expanded their selection of books they decided to move the store to its current location at 1781 Georgia Road. Millie's Used Books has been a fixture in this spot for the past 10 years, consistently serving the Franklin community with warmth, a smile, and great books.

The bookstore was purchased last year by Liz DeWandeler (pictured), and over the past six months she has worked hard to get to know the loyal patrons of the store and make some impressive improvements. The newly redesigned children's reading area has been a huge hit, as well as the addition of a coffee station and comfy chairs. DeWandeler also began offering bi-weekly story times and a monthly visit from the magical Fairy Grandmother.

Now the new owner is inviting the community to provide Millie's with a new name.

"I couldn't imagine renaming this fixture of our town without the support and input of the very folks who make it so special. I consider it a huge responsibility and a great honor to be able to continue the legacy of community and love that Millie and Earl built here in this store," says DeWandeler.

The bookstore will be giving away prizes by random drawing to those who submit a name, and \$50 cash to the person whose name idea is chosen for the store. The deadline to submit your ideas is April 4. The new name will be announced soon after, and a Grand Re-Opening celebration will be held to coincide with Independent Bookstore Day on April 25.



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Deaths & Funerals

Lola Mae Stiwinter Stewart

Lola Mae Stiwinter Stewart, 82, passed away March 6, 2020, in Highlands, N.C. She was born Jan. 14, 1938, in Jackson County to the late L.C. Stiwinter and Ruby Fox Stiwinter. She was married to the late Odell Stewart who preceded her in 2016. She was a care giver for 15 years for several people and she worked for Cashiers Plastic for 19 years. She was a member of the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church and in recent years she attended the Cashiers Church of God. She loved to garden, go to flea markets, and thrift stores. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Lola Mae Stewart

Survivors include her son, Jay Stewart (Laura) of Cashiers, N.C.; two grandchildren, Julie Stewart Bennett and Karl Stewart (Malori); eight grandchildren, Jordin Dominique, James Madden, Marisa Cole, Justine Dominique, Evan Pressley, Maddox Stewart, Garett Stewart, and Evelyn Bennett; a sister, Ronnie Dean Lowing of Franklin; and a brother, Jack Stiwinter of Charlotte.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, T. W. Stiwinter.

A funeral service was held Monday, March 9, at the Cashiers Church of God with Revs. David Hall and Ricky Potts officiating. Burial followed in the Evitt Cemetery. T

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

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

Rita Dolores Trein Bleier

Rita Dolores Trein Bleier, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Born in Chicago, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Charles and Stella Trein. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra Helen Prisco and a brother, Rick Trein. She worked in banking for many years, as well as NABI-Biotest of Boca Raton, Fla., for 15 years, where she was director of First Impressions. She was an active member of Resurrection Lutheran Church.



Rita Dolores Bleier

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Ronald William Bleier; three children, David Bleier (Priscilla) of Sunrise, Fla., Mark Bleier (Jeanne) of Franklin; Kenneth Bleier of Plainfield, Ill.; one sister, Dolores Jucius of Salem, Wisc.; one brother, Charles Trein of Rhinelander, Wisc.; eight grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m., at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Pastor Patrick O'Neill will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 38 Wayah Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Hazel Boggs Davis

Hazel Boggs Davis, 83, of Franklin, N.C., passed away March 4, 2020. She was born Oct. 9, 1936, to the late Henry Crawford Boggs and Nellie Griffith Boggs in Roane County, West Virginia. She worked many years in Real Estate in Macon County and in the Chicago area. She volunteered as a bookkeeper at the Humane Society, Toys for Tots, Kiwanis and helped with the start of the Greenway in Franklin. She was full of life and lived every day to its fullest. She was of the non-denominational faith.



Hazel Boggs Davis

She is survived by a daughter, Susan Davis Wiesmayer of Suwannee, Ga.; three sisters, Helen Berkshire, Hallie Johnson, Sue Ferrebee; three grandchildren, Amanda Mimms of Milton, Ga., Adam Wiesmayer of Dawsonville, Ga., and Becky Wiesmayer of Cummings, Ga.; four great-grandchildren, Noah Mimms, Emma Mimms, Abby Mimms and Joey Mimms is expected to arrive in April 2020. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, James Davis; five brothers, Howard Boggs, Ernie Boggs, Garret Boggs, Ray Boggs and Robert Boggs.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m., at the Cowee Baptist Church with the Rev. Ronnie Branson officiating. Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m., prior to the service. The family would like for attendees to bring a favorite picture of Hazel to share.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to the following of your choice: Alzheimer's Association, Main Stream Conservation Trust, or the Humane Society.

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

Nikki Whitenton

Nikki Whitenton, 75, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at home with her spouse and pets on Friday, March 6, 2020. She was born and raised in Florida and moved to Franklin 17 years ago where she was a member of the Franklin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

She devoted her life to helping animals, children, and the elderly. She worked as a mental health counselor and as a special education teacher in Florida. For the past 12 years, she answered the Macon County Friends of Animals phone helpline. She was instrumental in finding homes for more than 1,000 neglected dogs and cats in Macon County.

She loved laughter, visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, playing cards, reading, watching movies, loving on her many dogs and cats, discussing politics, and listening to the oldies.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Marie Leon; and many special pets including Eugene, Candy Cane, Kendal and Cooper.

She is survived by her husband, Joe; daughter, Mary Johnson (mat) of Florida; granddaughter, Emma Johnson; sister, Paula Thompson of Georgia; and brother, Stephen Reilly of Florida.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, March 14, at 1 p.m. at the Franklin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 85 Sierra Drive.

In lieu of flowers, please offer an abandoned dog or cat, food and water.

Online condolences at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Simons family.

Lois Virginia Jacobs Meadows

Lois Virginia Jacobs Meadows, 98, born Feb. 2, 1922, of Franklin, N.C., passed away in the early hours of Friday, March 6, 2020.

Born in Franklin, she was the daughter of Eugene L. Jacobs and Bessie B. Baldwin Jacobs.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William V. Meadows; her parents, Eugene (Gene) Jacobs and Bessie B. Baldwin; her beloved twin sister, Kate Jacobs Cowan; her brothers, J. C. Jacobs, Radford Jacobs and Carroll Jacobs; sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Meadows, Lilly Meadows Myers, Pauline Meadows Gillespie and Catherine Meadows Rogers; and one brother-in-law, Zeb Meadows.

With the exception of living in northern California for several months with her husband and young daughter, she has always made Franklin her home. She loved the N.C. mountains, and especially Franklin and her community.

She was a business owner for over 45 years. She and her husband owned the Sunset Restaurant, and were the first owners of the City Restaurant. Later, she and her twin sister, Kate, opened The Boutique on Main Street in Franklin. She owned and ran The Boutique for over 30 years, until, at the age of 78, her health forced her to retire. She was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Franklin for many years.

She was a lifelong member of Iotla Baptist Church. In years past, she served as an assistant Girls Sunday School teacher, helped with Vacation Bible School, and, more recently, was a member of the "Sew 'n' Sews" sewing group.

When she was younger, she enjoyed traveling the world, working in her garden and reading. But what made her happiest, was working in her boutique on Main Street. In later years, she loved working with the "Sew 'n' Sews" group of Iotla Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Regina and husband David Curtis; her two precious grandchildren, Chandra Brewer and Vanessa Moore; her sister, Helen Jacobs Byrd and many special nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her wonderful friend, Pat Smith.

A private family service will be held in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. She will be buried beside her husband at Iotla United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Iotla United Methodist Church Food Pantry, Attention: Rebecca Chastain, 187 May Apple Lane, Franklin, NC 28734 or the Iotla Baptist Church "Sew 'n' Sews", 1537 Iotla Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

Condolences may be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

Robert 'Bobby' Gene Parrish

Robert "Bobby" Gene Parrish, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Born in Rabun County, Georgia, he was the son of the late James Hargrave Parrish and Eva Nell Bradley Parrish. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Ronald Parrish. He loved farming, cutting hay, working cattle and being outdoors. He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Wanda Cheek Parrish; two sons, Robert Chad Parrish and John Everett Parrish (Mary Jo); three grandsons, Austin (Katelyn), Bobby (Kaya) and Bradley Parrish; two great grandchildren, Caroline and Charlotte; one brother, Jerry Lee Parrish (Gaye) of Clayton, Georgia.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 6, at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Rev. Charles Stevens, Rev. Jim Dusek, Rev. Lloyd Fish and Rev. Tom Nahlen officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Austin, Bradley and Bobby Parrish, Johnny and David Cheek, Marvin Mashburn, Matt Keyworth, Jim Brown and Gary Scott.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Bobby's memory to, Parkinson's Research, Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131 or Oak Grove Baptist Church, c/o Evelyn Hughes, 190 Dean Dr., Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Lois Virginia Meadows



Deaths & Funerals

Alva Howard Duke

Alva Howard Duke, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

The family will receive friends from 2-3:00 pm, Saturday, March 14th at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the American Heart Association, www.americanheart.org/donate.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Alva Duke

Billy Joe Holbrooks

Billy Joe Holbrooks, 59, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late James Wade Holbrooks and Bonnie Stanley Holbrooks. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Larry Holbrooks. He worked in construction for most of his life. He enjoyed fishing, playing guitar and deer hunting.

He is survived by three children, Chelsea Adkins (Michael) of Franklin, Jason Dale Jackson (Amy Rouse) of Otto and Danielle Stevenson (Andy) of Georgia; two step-sons, Tony Virata of Maryland and Toto Virata of Franklin; three sisters, Barbara Sue McCall, Lula Russell and Martha Vinson all of Franklin; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at South Macon Baptist Church on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Kathy Jane Norris

Kathy Jane Norris, 55, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Andrew Nelson Carver and Annie Mae Passmore Carver. Kathy loved baking, find-a-word puzzles, volunteering at CareNet and most importantly, spending time with family and friends. She was a member of Sugarfork Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Ricky Norris Sr.; three children, Jennifer Mbugua (Benson) of Lexington, N.C., Ricky Norris Jr. (Sarah) of Franklin and Brittany Holt (Wesley) of Graham, N.C., and nine grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday, March 6, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Gene Hawkins and Rev. Ronnie Owens officiated.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Kathy Jane Norris

Robert 'Bobby' Gene Parrish

Robert "Bobby" Gene Parrish, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Born in Rabun County, Georgia, he was the son of the late James Hargrave Parrish and Eva Nell Bradley Parrish. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Ronald Parrish. He loved farming, cutting hay, working cattle and being outdoors. He was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Wanda Cheek Parrish; two sons, Robert Chad Parrish and John Everett Parrish (Mary Jo); three grandsons, Austin (Katelyn), Bobby (Kaya) and Bradley Parrish; two great grandchildren, Caroline and Charlotte; one brother, Jerry Lee Parrish (Gaye) of Clayton, Georgia.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 6, at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Rev. Charles Stevens, Rev. Jim Dusek, Rev. Lloyd Fish and Rev. Tom Nahlen officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Austin, Bradley and Bobby Parrish, Johnny and David Cheek, Marvin Mashburn, Matt Keyworth, Jim Brown and Gary Scott.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Bobby's memory to, Parkinson's Research, Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131 or Oak Grove Baptist Church, c/o Evelyn Hughes, 190 Dean Dr., Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Eunice Ray Doster

Eunice Ray Doster, 91, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with her Lord on Tuesday, March 4, 2020.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Oliver and Alice Sutton Ray. She was preceded in death by her husband, Merriman Doster; a great grandson and five siblings. She was a member of Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church and the Clarks Chapel Community Club. She loved babysitting children; she got to babysit all her grandchildren, most of her great grandchildren, and lots of the neighborhood children.

She is survived by two sons, Alvin Ray Doster (Doris) of Otto and Joe Gary Doster (Tara) of Franklin; a daughter, Cynthia Ann Justice (Harold) of Franklin; eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Friday, March 6, at Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church. Pastor Al Beck officiated. Burial will be held at a later date in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Jerry Sutton, 1822 Clarks Chapel Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macy Tate Brooks

Macy Tate Brooks, infant daughter of Jeremy and Kira Brooks of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Macy is survived by maternal grandparents, Mark and Laressie Mason; paternal grandparents, Joe and Sharon Brooks; great grandparents, Joseph Richmen and Mary Pauline Brooks and Kathryn Cruse all of Franklin; aunts and uncles, Cody Brooks (Lulu), Kelsa Turner (Luke), Karen Mason and Kamryn Mason, all of Franklin and Jacob Brooks (Misty) of Powdersville, S.C., and Elizabeth Padgett (Shawn) of Lancaster, Pa.; and several cousins.

Graveside services were held Saturday, March 7, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with Minister John Lup officiating.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

Lois Thompson Sparks

Lois Thompson Sparks, 91, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Herbert and Fannie Christian Thompson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Sparks, and a grandson, Devin. She was a retired teacher from Dade County Public School System, and enjoyed reading, music, studying her Bible and sewing. She was of the Baptist Faith.

She is survived by her children, Julie Bennett (Bruce) of Franklin and Brian Sparks (Suzette) of Waseca, Minn., and grandchildren, Ethan and Liberty Sparks.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice at Four Seasons Development Office, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Lois Sparks

John Harry Rowley

John Harry Rowley, 74, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Born in Pearisburg, Va., he was the son of the late Robert Deane Rowley Sr. and Alyce Wilson Rowley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Deane Rowley Jr.

He was raised in the Pittsburgh, Penn., area and graduated from St. Vincent College Preparatory School in 1963 where he was the perennial president of his class and captain of the football team. He then attended Georgia Institute of Technology graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. While at Georgia Tech he was president of the Alpha Tau chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity and a Distinguish Military Student in the U.S. Army ROTC program receiving a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation. He was highly decorated for his meritorious military service as an artillery officer (Forward Observer/Fire Base Commander) in Vietnam in 1969/70. He returned to Atlanta to attend Georgia State University where he earned his MBA in 1972, which prepared him for a successful career in banking. In the mid 1990s he moved to Franklin and ultimately traded his indoor banking job for the wonderful outdoors of western North Carolina by working 15 or so years at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. He was a member of the turf crew while also keeping the golf course equipment in good operating condition.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Doherty Rowley of Franklin; one daughter, Hannah Eckard (Joel) of Conover, N.C.; one brother, Jim Rowley (Mary Shea) of Atlanta, Ga., and numerous nieces and nephews. He was loved by all who were blessed to know him.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

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Deaths & Funerals

Herbert Stanley Simmons

Herbert Stanley Simmons, 97, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, March 7, 2020. He was born in Floris, Iowa, March 24, 1922, to the late Earl Moses Simmons and Mamie Jane Johnson Simmons. He attended the Chicago Electrical Institute. He was a founding member of the First Alliance Church in Franklin, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corp from 1942 to 1945; He was part of the WWII Normandy Invasion and served throughout Europe during the war.



Herbert Simmons

Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Norma Grimes Simmons; four children, Jane Simmons Crawford of Greenville, S.C., Dan Simmons and wife Jenny of Greenville, Susan Simmons Dodds and husband Bruce of Greenville, and Nancy Simmons Ricotta and husband Bob of Franklin; grandchildren, Brent Crawford (Kelly), Dana Stoner, Eric Dodds (Julie), Rob Ricotta, Cameron Dodds, Barrett Dodds, Annie Simmons, and Sara Ricotta; five great-grandchildren, Rush Stoner, Merrick Stoner, Anderson Stoner, Rhett Dodds, and Tress Dodds; nieces and nephews, Delbert Shaw (Marty), Veryl Shaw (Susan), Lois Frederick (Paul), and Jody Leightner; and a special caregiver, Joan Bishop.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Sunday, March 15, at 4 p.m., at the First Alliance Church of Franklin. Military rites will follow the service at the church. The family will receive friends Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory. Burial will be on Monday, March 16, in Black Mountain, N.C., at the North Carolina State Veterans Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Brent Crawford, Eric Dodds, Rob Ricotta, Adam Drake, Greg Morris, Dan Davis, Chayse Davis, and Rush Stoner.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Guido Evangelistic Association Inc. 600 N. Lewis St. Metter, GA 30439 or The First Alliance Church of Franklin Missions Fund, 31 Promise Lane Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Simmons family.

Mary Patricia Cathey

Mary Patricia Cathey, 70, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020. She was a native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Franklin, N.C. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Albert and Patricia Drace Cathey, her closest friend, Susan Ehle, and her beloved dog, Shuggah.

She was the loving sister of Daniel Cathey (Kimberly) and William Cathey (Sandra); aunt of Bronwen Cathey, Alexandra Murray (Gregory), and Benjamin Cathey; and great aunt of Rowen, Izaak, and Seumas Murray; many friends, who loved her like family.

After a successful teaching career in Iowa, she was a dorm mother at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee Boarding School in Rabun County, Ga. In the early 1980s, she began her golfing career and became a member of the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Division. Along the way, she opened a driving range, developed and managed the Parker Meadows 9-hole executive golf course, became a talented club-fitter in North Carolina and Florida, and worked as a golf instructor at numerous courses in North Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

If desired, donations may be made in Mary's honor to the American Cancer Society, American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 (cancer.org).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

A half pollard of trees is not a pruning style

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

Driving down a secondary road the other day I came to a section where the power company was actively pruning tree branches out of the power lines. I was almost stopped in my tracks when I spotted several trees that were hacked not pruned. Karen Lawrence's photos clearly show how they reduced the branches that were within their lines and left the other unoffending branches untouched. It was like all but the trunks had been cut in half. Imagine having that result being in front of your house and having to look at it for years. I realize the power company is not in the business of doing aesthetic pruning.

Also, it makes perfect sense to keep the lines free of branches to avoid power outages. It is not their fault that the homeowner planted or allowed the wrong trees to grow directly under the power lines. All that said it would have taken five minutes or less to have completely reduced all the branches as is done when you pollard a tree. Pollarding is a method of pruning that reduces the upward and outward growing branches to limit a trees height and width. It also eliminates heavy branches that are easily broken with snow, ice and strong winds. One of the trees was done this way. For example, this is often done to crape myrtles, the trees that bloom in the summer blooming with fusions of red, white, purple and pink

blooms. Not everyone agrees that this is a good method of pruning. Outspoken critics called it "crape murder." Pollarding just half the tree is not a pruning style and is totally unacceptable. The word hacking comes to mind.

Information about which trees and shrubs can be planted under power lines and in easements can be found on line or from the power company. The following are a few recommendations about what to plant and where:

Planting next to or close to a power pole:

- A tree that grows 25 feet or less plant at least 10 feet away
- A tree that grows 20-40 feet tall plant 25-35 feet away



Dr. Bob Gilbert

- A tree taller than 40 feet plant 25-50 away
- Plants that have a low profile and will stay below power lines such as deciduous trees like Serviceberry, Redbud, Smoke Tree, Dogwood, Star Magnolia, Hawthorn, some Cherries, Japanese Maples
- Moderate shrubs like Witch Hazel, Burning Bush, Forsythia, Viburnum.

Many hybrids and cultivars of conifers after 10-plus years will not grow tall enough not to reach the power lines.

One word of caution. Plant height will always be listed on the attached plant label as well as in a catalog. But what is not included is how many years it took to get to that height. There is not a universal nursery agreement as to whether to list a plants height after 5, 10 or 20 years. My best advice is to check several sources for a plant's ultimate height and that will help some. For example, I looked up the ultimate height of the popular Chinese Dog-



Pollarded Trees



Photos by Karen Lawrence

wood or Cornus kousa and the heights were listed in feet 13'-34', 20'-50' and 20'-30 and there were no heights listed by years of growth. Before planting a tree or shrub try to visualize the ultimate height that will look the best you for that location. Common sense has to be added to the calculation. You can avoid the power line problem entirely by not planting trees or tall shrubs directly under a power line or close to power pole.

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

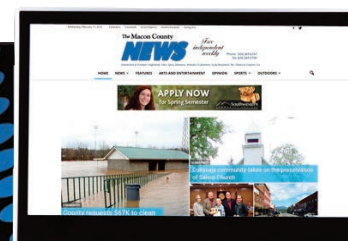
Karen Lawrence who lives in Franklin is a professional photographer of wildlife and horticultural subjects.

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Joey Logano gets second win in overtime at Phoenix

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

AVONDALE, Ariz. – Joey Logano expected a bump from Kevin Harvick in the two-lap overtime Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, but the bump never came.

Instead, Harvick pulled up beside Logano in the center of Turns 1 and 2 on the final lap of the FanShield 500, but Logano sped away with a hard charge off Turn 2 and cruised to the finish line with a margin of .276 seconds.

With the victory—his second at Phoenix and the 25th of his career—Logano is the first multiple winner of the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series season, having previously taken the checkered flag at Las Vegas in the year’s second event.

Logano won on Sunday at the one-mile track in the Sonoran desert despite snafus that might have thwarted a lesser driver. On Lap 133, Logano’s crew was flagged for an uncontrolled tire, sending the driver of the No. 22 Team Penske Ford to the rear of the field for a restart on Lap 138.

After Logano drove through the field and regained his track position, a broken jack during a yellow-flag pit stop on Lap 268 dropped him to 18th for a Lap 272 restart. By staying on the track while other lead-lap cars pitted under caution on Lap 279, Logano moved up to third in the running order, and on Lap 293 he passed teammate Brad Keselowski for the lead and took control of the race.

“Man, we had a really good car, really good Shell–Pennzoil Mustang,” said Logano, who won for the second time with new crew chief Paul Wolfe after an offseason personnel shakeup at Team Penske. “We had more things go wrong today. Unfortunate situation with the jack breaking. No one’s fault. ... I’m out of breath. That was a pretty intense last 30 minutes or hour of the race. A lot going on. Couldn’t be more proud of this team. Two wins already in the books. We’ve got to keep this thing rocking.”

With arguably the fastest car in the race, Harvick got bottled up in traffic on the Lap 272 restart and never regained the top spot. Logano controlled the final two restarts, including the overtime, chose the bottom lane and cut the dogleg just beyond the start/finish line to maintain his lead.

“He just had control of the race,” Harvick said. “After we pitted there (on Lap 268), I got stuck behind a couple of cars there, lost five or six spots. He got by and got control of the race. He got to restart where he wanted to. Our Jimmy John’s Ford was better, especially when we could put it in front of his. We just didn’t get the control of the race back there, and he was able to get by us on that restart where I got hung up.”

Kyle Busch ran third, as NASCAR’s new low-downforce competition package provided lively action throughout the afternoon.

“There at the end, obviously, making up some good spots on the bottom when everybody would get bottled up there mid-pack... but once you get closer to the front, it’s hard to make up those spots anymore on the bottom anymore like we were,” Busch said. “I felt like we were a fifth- or sixth-place car probably, and we were able to come out with a third. Good for us



Joey Logano celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series FanShield 500 at Phoenix Raceway.

with that effort. We need some points right now. We have to climb the ladder back and get back where we need to be.”

Kyle Larson ran fourth, followed by Clint Bowyer and Kurt Busch. Pole winner Chase Elliott led a race-high 93 laps, but his No. 9 Chevrolet was forced to pit road for an unplanned stop under green on Lap 156 because of a loose wheel, and Elliott never recovered. He finished seventh after regaining the lead lap under caution on Lap 195.

Giant killer Brandon Jones knocks off Kyle Busch at Phoenix
AVONDALE, Ariz. – From race winner Brandon Jones’ standpoint, it’s too bad there wasn’t a bounty on Kyle Busch in Saturday’s LS Tractor 200 at Phoenix Raceway.

Buoyed by a strong run through Turns 3 and 4, Jones shot past Busch into the lead on the frontstretch on Lap 181 and pulled away to win by 3.556 seconds over Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Harrison Burton, who passed Busch on Lap 190 for the runner-up position.

Next weekend at Atlanta, there will be a \$100,000 bounty on Busch in the Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series race, courtesy of NASCAR cup veteran Kevin Harvick and Marcus Lemonis, chairman and CEO of Camping World.

On Saturday, Jones had to be content with the satisfaction of beating the career leader in NASCAR Xfinity Series victories, who rolled

home third without adding to his 96 wins in the series. Jones was happy to settle for the trip to Victory Lane—after beating Busch and fellow NASCAR Cup Series champion Brad Keselowski, who ran fourth.

“These are two of arguably the best in the business,” Jones said. “We just had a car to beat ‘em today. These guys just did an incredible job.”

The 1-2-3 finish for JGR was the sixth in company history. More important, Jones’ second victory in the series and first at Phoenix was the 500th win for Toyota in NASCAR’s top three national series combined.



Brandon Jones led 24 laps en route to winning NASCAR Xfinity Series LS Tractor 200 at Phoenix RacewayR

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- 1. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short
- 5. Passports and driver's licenses
- 8. Bit of smoke
- 12. Narcotics agent, for short
- 13. Type of coffee maker
- 14. Sashay
- 15. Austin Powers' antagonist
- 16. Creole cuisine staple
- 17. Designer Calvin
- 18. *Last year's winning coach
- 20. Red-encased cheese
- 21. Prepared
- 22. Drunkard's sound?
- 23. Source of white meat
- 26. They are often grand
- 30. "Ever" to a poet
- 31. Mrs. Potts of "Beauty and the Beast"
- 34. Cough syrup balsam
- 35. Russians, e.g.
- 37. A shot could prevent it
- 38. Up and about
- 39. Lake ____caca, South America
- 40. Plant disease
- 42. *Member of University of Utah team
- 43. Autumnal zodiac sign
- 45. Rooster, e.g.
- 47. Rare find
- 48. Campus VIPs

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 - 54. In good health
 - 55. 2017 Oscar-winning animated film
 - 56. "____ for thought"
 - 59. Essential oil derived from iris
 - 60. Nasal input
 - 61. Pre-swan state?
 - 62. *NCAA basketball team with most titles
 - 63. *7 seed opponent in round 1
 - 64. Prospector's mother
- 3. Precedes drab
 - 4. Part of an eyeball
 - 5. Vexed
 - 6. Eastwood's ____ Harry
 - 7. Quarrel
 - 8. *Lowest seeded team to win championship
 - 9. Part of ideal
 - 10. Fit for a skinny one
 - 11. Mightier than sword?
 - 13. Give to St. Vinny's
 - 14. Yarn store unit
 - 19. Does like Matryoshka
 - 22. *An airball doesn't do it to either rim or net
 - 23. Outdoes
 - 24. Thing of the past
 - 25. One of the Muses
 - 26. *Final ____
 - 27. India's sacred flower
- 28. *Like last eight
 - 29. More sure
 - 32. Like Bob Ross' hair
 - 33. Layer
 - 36. *Cavaliers' state
 - 38. Make amends
 - 40. Slow-witted
 - 41. Demosthenes, e.g.
 - 44. Waits for approval, e.g.
 - 46. Being of service
 - 48. D in LED
 - 49. Former prisoner
 - 50. Rigid necklace
 - 51. Catapult
 - 52. One from Glasgow
 - 53. Canceled
 - 54. Olden-day French coin
 - 57. Goes with borrowed and blue
 - 58. Indigo extract

HAULING

- DIRT
- GRAVEL
- MULCH



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Election 2018

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

The Classifieds

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.

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CARL'S HANDYMAN SERVICE Odd Jobs, Yard Work, Haul Offs. Reliable, Fast Service, Free Estimates. Call (828)342-3208.

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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.

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

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Help Wanted

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

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. Banquet Captain, Server, and Full-time Junior Sous Chef for Half Mile Farm. Old Edwards: Front Desk, Bellmen, Spa attendants & concierge, Housekeepers, Laundry, Experienced servers & server assistants... Please send resume in pdf format to ptturnbull@oldedwardsinn.com or apply online at www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

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

HAMPTON INN FRANKLIN Now Hiring Housekeeping positions. Apply at front desk. Posiciones de limpieza Aplicar en el hotel.

Community Fundraisers

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

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

PANCAKE SUPPER Maiden's Chapel Saturday, March 14, 5:30-7. 1.5 miles off West Old Murphy Rd., 230 Maiden's Chapel Church Rd. Donations will be accepted for the Missions programs.

OTTO CHARITY 5K RUN and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk March 28, Tassees Shelter, 877 Ulco Dr., Franklin, Registration 8am. All proceeds benefit Appalachian Animal Rescue Center, Macon TRACS, Otto Community Development!

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.

Motor Vehicles

LEXUS SUV 470 black with beige interior, 2008, 150,000 miles, in excellent condition, call or text (828)421-3501.

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

Boats & Campers

"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

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

Animals

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

Real Estate

FIXER UPPER BY OWNER 2BD/1BA single-family home on .35 acre lot. Owner Financing. Great potential for handy homeowner. Drive by First at 1284 Hidden Hills Road, Franklin then call for details. \$45,000. (828)884-6706.

Rentals

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

Misc. For Sale

GRAVELLY COMMERCIAL MOWER Pro-Walk Gear Commercial Mower. with a 48" deck, and a 14.5 HP Kawasaki motor. Just been serviced and ready for Spring. Call (828)342-3857.

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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.



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