

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

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## Board declares state of emergency

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

While navigating uncharted territory, the Macon County Board of Commissioners declared a State of Emergency for Macon County during a special called meeting Tuesday afternoon. The purpose of the move was to open up resources and funding, if need be, to combat COVID-19, which the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic. In addition to the State of Emergency, which follows North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's order to limit public gatherings to less than 100 people, the county also moved \$150,000 from the county's fund balance into a Disaster Relief Fund line item.

"Right now we may not need it, but in the event that one of our county departments, whether it be Emergency Services, or the school system, or the health department, comes up with a need, we don't want them to experience an interruption in their operations," said Commission Chair Jim Tate.

Macon County Public Health Interim Di-

rector Carmine Rocco updated commissioners regarding COVID-19 and local efforts to reduce community spread. According to Rocco, the health department has tested 32 people for the virus, five of which have been returned with a negative result. The remain-



**Downtown Franklin resembled a ghost town just before noon on Wednesday.**  
Photo by Vickie Carpenter

ing 27 individuals have been placed in quarantine within their homes while awaiting test results, which should be returned within a day or two from the state lab. The numbers remain the same as of noon on Wednesday.

The Health Department launched a drive

See **EMERGENCY** page 2

## Cooper orders closure of restaurants; modifies unemployment requirements

On Tuesday, Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina restaurants and bars will be closed to sit-down service and limited to take-out or delivery orders as of March 17. Grocery stores, gas stations, and convenience stores, are exempt from this order and will remain open, though they may not serve sit-down food.

Additionally, the order lifts some restrictions on unemployment benefits to help workers unemployed due to Covid-19 and those who are employed but will not receive a paycheck. Additionally, it adds benefit eligibility for those out of work because they have the virus or must care for someone who is sick.

"We did not come to this decision easily.

But North Carolina must keep fighting this pandemic with the right weapons," said Governor Cooper. "During this time of uncertainty, I will keep working to protect the health and safety of North Carolinians and keep our state's economy afloat."

This Order will directly aid workers who may have lost wages in restaurants and meeting places due to mass gathering restrictions. For example, workers who lose income due to tips or scheduled work hours, but are still employed, would be eligible for benefits because of this Executive Order. Among other changes:

- It removes the one-week waiting period

See **RESTAURANTS** page 3

## Community reaching out to help their neighbors in need

**Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer**

Living in these uncertain times, one thing is certain, kids get hungry and need access to food. With Macon County Schools being closed, many students will not be getting their free breakfasts or lunch as they would if they were in school. Some parents will have to miss work to stay home and care for their children, thus possibly forfeiting a pay check, making it more difficult to feed their children. Here in Franklin, several community members have stepped up to help out.

**Local businesses reaching out**

Ace Hardware is one such business that is doing their part to ensure that kids do not go hungry while school is out. Normally, a Little Free Pantry, which is located in the parking lot of Ace Hardware, is stocked with food for anyone in need to just help themselves. In the winter, folks can grab a pair of gloves or a hat or scarf from the pantry, but today things are different. The pantry has expanded to offer more food to anyone in need during this criti-

asking for help and what happened was overwhelming. The food came pouring in, so much so that Josh had to open the backroom of the store to hold it all. Cortney works as a pharmacist in Sylva so while she is not physically able to help at the store, her idea took off with great success. Josh explains.

"We do not want any notoriety for this. We just want to help out. Don't be shy, come and get a bag of food if you need it," he said.

Their way of distributing the food is very discreet. When a person is in need they only have to message Josh through the Franklin Little Pantry Facebook site or call Ace Hardware and just give their initials. Josh then fills a bag of food and puts it up front at the counter in the store with their initials on it. They just need to come in, grab their bag and go home.

Cortney and Josh are asking for any non-perishable food items, as long as they are sealed. He asks, please, no open bags or boxes. Bring your items to Appalachian

Ace Hardware at 75 W. Palmer Street. Kid-friendly items such as canned meats, soups, pasta and cereals are items to donate. Snacks are also being accepted. Just think about what you might give your child for lunch and donate accordingly.

Other community businesses have also offered to donate food for students. The Normandy Restaurant, the Gazebo, Rockin Rollie Pollies, Life's Bounty and Motor Company

Grill will also be donating five meals each on Friday to be given out at South Macon Elementary, to families in need.

See **COMMUNITY** page 3



**Those in need just have to find their initials on the bags at Ace Hardware, grab their bag and go home.**

cal time in our community. Donations have been pouring in to Ace Hardware thanks to Ace owners Cortney and Josh Patrick. Cortney felt like she needed to supply more than what the Little Pantry normally holds so she decided to ask for donations of food while school is out to give to children in need. She posted on Facebook's Franklin Little Pantry site

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# EMERGENCY Continued from page 1

up clinic to reduce staff and patient interaction. Individuals who believe they may have the virus are instructed to call the health department's help line to answer questions at (828)349-2517. Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, and other lower respiratory illness or shortness of breath. If the health department deems it necessary, testing will be set up. Rocco said the hospital and private physician offices also have capacity to test individuals.



**Macon County Public Health has created a drive-up clinic for individuals who require screening or further testing.**

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

## One case reported in Macon County

On Sunday afternoon, Macon County Public Health officials were notified by Buncombe County of a positive COVID-19 result in a patient who was isolated in their Macon County residence. On March 10, the individual travelled from New York to Buncombe County, where they began to feel ill. The individual was tested in Buncombe County and then travelled to Macon County via a car rental, and has remained within the residence, complying with all orders and recommendations ever since. The positive test result was found on Sunday and the public was notified Monday morning. According to Rocco, the individual's exposure to the public, especially in Macon County, was very limited, if any at all.

"The truth of the matter is, that someone in your family, or someone you know will likely be exposed to the virus before this is all over with," said Rocco. "We need to be sure to be taking all necessary precautions to limit exposure to stop the spread."

Rocco noted that while there is a clearly identified group of people who are most at risk of complications from the virus, it's important to distinguish that they are more at risk of complications, not of contracting the virus. So while the elderly population is more at risk to experience complications if they contract the virus, they have the same possibility of contracting the virus as anyone.

## Macon County School system takes action

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin updated commissioners about school closings and said that as it stands, the district plans to keep calendar dates such as the scheduled Spring Break as well as the anticipated end of the school year.

"Our teachers are working," said Dr. Baldwin. "We have set up distance learning and our children are receiving instruction... how that is going to look when this is all over, is still to be determined."

Dr. Baldwin said that the school system is also cur-

rently developing a plan for the school closure to extend past the initial two weeks. While there is no certainty that it will, state officials are advising a more long-term plan be developed by local districts.

The school system has set up food distribution sites on Tuesday, to provide breakfast and lunch meals for students in need, at no charge, through the school system. School buses are also running their usual routes, beginning at 11, to deliver meals along the routes to families who can not make it to the designated distribution sites.

Dr. Baldwin noted that on the first day, 4,282 meals were provided to students, a number he expects to see rise as word spreads of the availability.

Mountain View Intermediate School - 709 breakfast and 709 lunch

South Macon Elementary - 616 breakfast and 616 lunch

Franklin High School - 732 breakfast and 732 lunch

Highlands School - 30 breakfast and 30 lunch

Nantahala School - 54 breakfast and 54 lunch

## Changes at detention center

Sheriff Robert Holland informed commissioners that the largest change in his department regarding jail visitations.

"It is easy to say, stop visitation all together, but we don't want to do that, because that is the only perk or privilege the inmates have, and we don't want to take that away from them," said Sheriff Holland. "We have been talking about setting up video conferencing for visitation for a while now, so we have been working with IT to get that up and running so our inmates can still have visitors, although it will be over a video monitor."

Holland said that his department will temporarily halt the issue of concealed carry gun permits.

"We have processed over 500 gun permits or recertifications so far this year and that is the most traffic we get in and out of our facility," explained Holland. "We have worked with IT and now those application forms will be available online."

Holland said individuals can print the forms online, fill them out, and then are instructed to mail them into the department with a photocopy of the Driver's License. Once the sheriff's department does what they have to do on their end, they will then contact the individuals. However, noth-



**Signs on the door at Angel Medical Center indicate that all visitors must check in with the switchboard operator for screening. Further restrictions state that only one adult visitor per patient is allowed between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.**

ing will be processed for at least the next two weeks, as all fingerprinting will be suspended, due to the nature of the person-to-person contact it entails.

## Social Services and Seniors

Department of Social Services Patrick Betancourt told commissioners that all operations at the senior center have been cancelled other than the adult day care and congregate meals. However, the way meals are provided have changed.

"We are now moving to a deliver, or to-go method to provide those meals," said Betancourt who reported that 25 meals were provided on Tuesday. Betancourt also said the county's Meals on Wheels program will continue, but volunteers will limit interaction with homebound seniors and will ring a doorbell or knock, and then leave the meals on the porch.

## EMS preparedness

Warren Cabe noted that Emergency Management is well equipped and staffed with contingency plans in place to continue operations without interruption in the event of losing up to 40 percent of staff. The county veterans offices will be closed for public operations, as it is housed within the Emergency management building. All county parks and recreation facilities such as the Robert C. Carpenter Building are also closed to the public.

"While all of this may sound drastic and we know it causes some inconvenience, we want people to understand that we have to take these measures to stop the spread of the virus," said Rocco. "Social distancing is the best defense against this virus."

## Mayor declares state of emergency for town

Also on Tuesday, Mayor Bob Scott signed a Declaration of a State of Emergency for the town of Franklin. The document states, in part, that "declaring a state of emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety and welfare." It further declares a "local state of emergency for the Town of Franklin in concert with Macon County and further declare that the Emergency Management Plan adopted by Macon County together with all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this declaration expires or is rescinded. All emergency management personnel are hereby ordered to cooperate in the implementations of the provisions of the county's Emergency Management Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements and to furnish assistance thereunder."



**Visitors to the detention center are required to call the front desk for assistance and are prohibited initial entry.**

# COMMUNITY

Continued from page 1

Motor Company Grill will also be giving one free meal to any child, every day this week. Kids can come in and sit down or take their order to go.

## New School Calendar

School may be out but learning will continue. The School Board, in accordance with Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order, will be adjusting the school calendar to include the following changes.

Food Distribution Sites officially opened on Tuesday, March 17, and are located at Franklin High School, Mountain View Intermediate School, South Macon Elementary School, Highlands School and Nantahala School. Parents and students may pick up food from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, school buses will be running their regular routes during the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to deliver meals to those who cannot pick them up. These meals will be free of charge.

At-Home Learning also began on Tuesday, March 17. Principals will communicate detailed information with students regarding the At-Home Learning experience. Students can contact their teacher or principal with questions.

Wireless access at all Macon County Schools locations will be available for students. District-provided student devices will automatically connect when in range. Wireless access will be made available at Franklin High School this week with the other schools to follow. If students have questions or need assistance with technology during their At-Home Learning, Macon County Schools Tech Support can be reached at (828)524-3314 ext. 1044 or email at support@macon.k12.nc.us

Schools anticipate returning on March 31, but the ongoing situation regarding coronavirus may impact that date.

Mountain View Intermediate (MVI) held a video conference on Monday evening and announced that the Washington DC Trip for the sixth graders will be postponed until July 13-17. This date is tentative depending on the status of the virus at that time. MVI

will also be holding a meeting for parents whose children will be going on the DC trip in the near future. They will be contacting parents via, MVI's Facebook website, email and phone calls.

## Other closures

The Macon County Library will be closed while the schools are closed. Library personnel will still be working and anyone with a library card can access books on line. Students can use their lunch account ID to stream videos and read books. Library personnel will try to be available to check out books, curbside, while they are closed. They can be reached at (828) 524-3600.

The Crawford Senior Center will be closed until further notice, but will be giving out congregate meals via a drive-through at the center. Home meals will also continue to be provided for those who are unable to get out.

Most churches are suspending Sunday worship service and holding online worship instead. Check with your local church to participate in their online Sunday Service and to follow their closure schedule.

For many other shops it is business as usual, for now. As per an executive order from the governor, as of 5 p.m. Tuesday, restaurants are closed for dine-in but many are accepting take-out orders and some are offering delivery. Store owners, barber shops, hair salons and others are all taking extra precautions by wiping down their counters and other items with disinfectant.

As new as this all is, the community has come together to make it all work out. If we all follow some simple rules like washing our hands and keeping a bit of a distance from one another, this, too, shall pass and Spring is just on the horizon.



Ruby Cinemas empty marquee and vacant parking lot.

# RESTAURANTS

Continued from page 1

to apply for unemployment payment for those workers who lose their jobs;

- It removes the requirement that a person must be actively looking for another job during this time when many potential employers are closed and social distancing guidelines are in effect.

- It allows employees who lose their jobs or, in certain cases have their hours reduced

due to Covid-19 to apply for unemployment benefits.

- It directs that employers will not be held responsible for benefits paid as a direct result of these COVID-19 claims.

- It waives the requirement that people must apply for benefits in person; workers can apply for benefits online or by phone.

For more information, visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and NCDHHS' website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus), which includes daily updates on positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

## Franklin restaurants utilizing carryout and delivery options

While dining rooms are closed, many restaurants are keeping their doors open for to-go orders and deliveries – not just to serve the community during but to also ensure their staff are able to maintain work and incomes for their family in some capacity.

### Macon County

Motor Company Grill, 86 W. Main Street - 11-7 take out & curbside, business delivery 828-524-0099, 828-371-5320 [www.motorgrill.com](http://www.motorgrill.com)  
\*Also providing one free meal per day per child.

Crabtree General Store & Coffee Vault, Iotla Street  
Milkshake, coffee, ice cream  
7 am- 6 pm Drive-thru

Jaxon's Downtown, Depot Street, 11-2 & 5-8 Tuesday-Friday, 11-8 Saturday; Take out, deliver to businesses or a meeting spot, 828-360-1302  
\*Free kids meal to school age children

Sunset Restaurant, 498 Harrison Ave., 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Curbside, carryout and business delivery, 11-5 Family meal specials. (828)524-4842

Normandie Restaurant, 64 West Palmer Street, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., curbside in back parking lot (828)524-3118

Haywood Smokehouse, 33 Macon Center Drive, 11-7, carryout, delivery for bulk/large orders; 15% discount for all emergency personnel, doctors, hospital employees, 828-369-6666

Papa's Pizza to Go, Holly Springs Plaza, Monday-Thursday, 11-8, Friday & Saturday 11-9, Take out and deliver, 828-369-9999

Life's Bounty, 28 East Main Street, 524-4800

Martha's Kitchen, Courthouse Plaza, 11-2 (828)524-4600

Ms. Lois Restaurant, 145 Highlands Road, 7-8 Monday-Saturday, takeout, 828-369-8626

Rockin' Rollie Pollies Restaurant, Main Street, 11-3 Curbside, deliver, carryout, limited menu, 369-2690

Frogtown Market, 61 S Patton Ave., Wednesday 10-6, Thursday-Saturday 10-8, Take out, in-town business deliver, 11-2, 828-369-0001

L'Italiana, 1505 Highlands Road, Carryout, 828-634-4333

El Charro, 201 Highlands Road, 11-6, to go, delivery to businesses or homes \$15 min. 828-369-9002

Fat Buddies, Curbside and delivery, 828-349-4743

Kountry Kitchen, Carryout, 828-524-6206

Sonic, 77 Sawmill Village Lane, Drive-in & drive-thru, Regular hours, 828-369-5711

\*This is not a complete list. If you are open and not included on this list, please call the Macon County News at (828)369-6767



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# NC Counts Coalition encourages participation in the U.S. Census

NC Counts Coalition and the organization's 300 plus partners from across the state are reminding North Carolina residents to complete the 2020 Census and make sure friends, family, and neighbors are also counted. Residents can respond to the form by mail, by phone, and for the first time ever, online. Most households will receive their Census invitation in the mail March 12, 2020, and March 20, 2020.

"We've been preparing and mobilizing for this very moment since 2017," said Stacey Carless, Executive Director of NC Counts Coalition. "The Census is critical to the economic and general well-being of every single North Carolinian. We only get one shot, and we remain committed to make North Carolina count."

The U.S. Constitution requires a Census count of every individual living in the United States every ten years and documents increases, decreases, and changes in community demographics. The statistics created are used to decide how many seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also determines the amount of federal funding North Carolina receives for important programs and services, including healthcare, food assistance, education, transportation, housing, community development, families

and more.

The Census directly affects the allocation of \$23.8 billion annually in federal resources to North Carolina. Each person counted represents about \$16,000 for our state over a 10-year period. Additionally, it provides key decision-makers with the information they need to ensure that government resources are directed strategically to the state's communities. Also, the Census ensures that communities are appropriately represented in the statehouse and in Congress. With an accurate 2020 Census count, North Carolina is projected to gain a seat in the House of Representatives, increasing its representation from 13 to 14 representatives.

Residents do not need to be concerned about safety and security, as Census answers can't be used against an individual, and data security is managed by security experts operating at the highest levels. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies individuals, and anyone who breaks this law faces a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

All Census workers must carry a valid ID badge with their photo, U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date. Residents can call 800-923-8282 to check if

a visitor works for the Census. If the visitor is not with the Census, residents should contact their local police department.

## Coronavirus Impact on 2020 Census Operation in North Carolina

The Census operation is taking place amid the novel Coronavirus, known as COVID-19. NC Counts Coalition is monitoring this situation closely and keeping abreast of how Coronavirus will impact community outreach and engagement for the 2020 Census.

"Effective and impactful mobilization relies on the safety, health, and wellbeing of advocates, stated Carless. "Our partners' health and safety are of the utmost importance to us. We are strongly encouraging all partners to take all necessary precautions to help minimize risks and keep safe, which includes changing some direct contact outreach tactics to encourage participation."

"There are many ways to advocate for Census participation and have an immense impact in our communities exclusive of in-person contact," Carless further stated. "This is a great time to elevate the fact that there are three ways to participate in the Census operation by the end of April before we have to begin to rely on Census Takers knocking

on doors."

NC Counts Coalition is encouraging its partners to continue to advocate for Census participation through digital and online platforms. The organization provided partners with a mini outreach toolkit with social media and email content and templates for letters to editors.

The United States Census Bureau did release a statement on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, that mentioned the Bureau's contingency plan in this case of the Coronavirus. The Bureau's statement can be found here: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/statement-coronavirus.html>

For more information and resources on the 2020 Census, visit [www.nccensus.org](http://www.nccensus.org).

## About NC Counts

NC Counts Coalition is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, established in 2017 to prepare North Carolina for the 2020 Census. The Coalition serves as a hub to facilitate cross-sector coordination among government, planning and community organizations, service providers, businesses and others to achieve a complete and accurate Census count for North Carolina. For more information go to our website at [www.nccensus.org](http://www.nccensus.org)



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## Commissioners pass resolution affirming support for 2nd Amendment; Constitution

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

In a 4-1 vote last week, the Macon County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution titled "Resolution fully supporting and maintaining the 2nd amendment to the United States Constitution as well as the entire United States Constitution and the last of the United States and the entire North Carolina Constitution and the last of the state of North Carolina which are not inconsistent therewith." Commissioner Paul Higdon voted against the resolution.

Over the last three months, at the request of Macon County residents, county officials have worked with County Attorney Chester Jones in considering a symbolic resolution declaring the county's support of the 2nd Amendment.

The "sanctuary" movement began last year in Illinois and quickly spread to numerous states, including California, Colorado, New Mexico, Florida and most recently, North Carolina. Gun owners are asking their local governments to consider resolutions promoted heavily by Second Amendment groups, which vary from county to county, but most declare the intention of local officials to oppose any "unconstitutional restrictions" on the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Macon County officials were quick to convey hesitation in the concept of a being a Sanctuary County, they did say they supported the gesture of upholding the Second Amendment, something commissioners noted they did when they took their Oath of Office.

"When I was elected to be a commissioner, I put my hand on the Greatest Book ever written and swore to uphold the Constitution of not just this State, but the entire country, and I plan to always do that," said Beale. "But we have to be careful not to do something that is going to subject this board, or future boards, to problems down the road."

In an attempt to appease supporters of a Second Amendment Gun Sanctuary County, while ensuring the county operated within the parameters of their elected offices, commissioners had County Attorney Chester Jones draft the resolution that was ultimately approved last week.

In addition to supporting the Second Amendment and the Constitution, the resolution passed by the board encourages citizens to petition state and federal legislatures the same as they have the county and to speak out against anything they see to be infringing on their constitutional rights.

[www.TheMaconCountyNews.com](http://www.TheMaconCountyNews.com)

# Treasured sign holder finds purpose at local business

Written by Mary Margaret Bulgin McDowell

When my father, John Bulgin, retired from Nantahala Power and Light Company, he had more time to work in his blacksmith shop. That shop had belonged to my grandfather, George Miller Bulgin, who at the age of 17, in the year of 1892, went to Chicago, Ill., to begin a five-year apprenticeship with a master blacksmith. There he learned the trade that he would follow the rest of his life and would earn him a reputation as a master craftsman. When he returned to Macon County, he and his brother, Randolph, operated a blacksmith shop at the corner of Harrison Avenue and West Main Street. Through the years, Mr. Bulgin taught his sons the trade that earned him the title of "village blacksmith." He was known to make the statement that he could mend anything except "a broken heart." (Source: Macon County Heritage, North Carolina; George Miller Bulgin, written by Margaret S. Bulgin) Years after George's death, my father, John and my brother, Randolph, operated the blacksmith/fix-it shop. Their specialty was fireplace screens and andirons but various metal repairs were accomplished in this shop. I now live very close to my family home place and I am fortunate to have a treasured John Bulgin fire set.

During those years, my daddy forged out a sign holder to advertise the Bulgin Wrought Iron Welding Machine Shop. I have that treasure and used it at first in my landscape but then stored the sign to keep it out of weather. The sign has been waiting for several years to begin a new life. During

this waiting time, I developed a love for horses and thus spent most of my time at the barn or horseback riding while the sign holder patiently waited. Soon the properties and businesses in this area of Macon County started to outgrow themselves and many changes started taking place. The old George Reece store that was located across West Main Street from the Bulgin's residence and shop became too small for their necessary inventory. That property was sold and the Franklin Church of God was born on that site. Some years later, the property on the north side of West Main and the corner of Baird Cove Road became the new home of the Franklin Church of God with a beautiful new modern church building. The old church property was sold and has been home to several different ventures over the years. The property just west of that was a residence owned by Lee Barnard, who was a Justice of the Peace for the county. In recent year, those two properties were acquired by Noah's Ark Companion Hospital for expansion as well as establishing an indoor boarding and training facility for pets.

After the facility opened for business right across the street from my driveway, it occurred to me that the treasured sign holder lying dormant in my storage space could have a new dawning and serve a valuable purpose in the neighborhood where it was born. Dr. Todd was very excited at the idea. The Bulgin-forged sign holder now proudly holds the sign of the Noah's Ark Training Center at 486 Old Murphy Road. If you take the time to slow down and look up, you might just hear the grind of the storied history of days gone by that makes us who we are!



## Bowers marks 90 years

Bessie Vanhook Bowers will be celebrating her 90th birthday on March 26. Born in Franklin, she is the daughter of Samuel and Effie Vanhook. She married Charles E. Bowers in 1955 and has lived in Turkey, Spain, Japan and various U.S. states. They retired to Franklin in 1979. She has four children, Virginia Bane of Franklin, Charles Bowers Jr. of Franklin, Bobby Bowers of Dothan, Ala., and Linda Sprinkle of Franklin; three grandchildren, Christa Knapp, Landon Sprinkle and Elijah Sprinkle. A family celebration is planned.



Above, John Bulgin stands next to a sign advertising his wrought iron business. At right, celebrating the new sign holder at Noah's Play and Train, is Dr. Jeff Todd, Mary Margaret Bulgin McDowell and Dawn Todd.



## First Citizens donates \$25,000 to local community foundations

The North Carolina Community Foundation recently announced a \$25,000 gift from the First Citizens Foundation on behalf of Raleigh, N.C.-headquartered First Citizens Bank to support local nonprofit organizations in western North Carolina's Jackson and Macon counties through the Jackson County Community Foundation and Macon County Community Foundation grantmaking funds.

"With this gift, First Citizens Bank is proud to build on its foundation as a community partner in Macon and Jackson counties," said Peter Bristow, president of First Citizens. "Now that Entegra Bank is part of First Citizens, we have an opportunity to make an even greater community investment as we continue to give back to assist people and organizations locally."

The gift allows First Citizens to continue to show its community support to these western North Carolina counties, following the recent merger of Franklin, N.C.-based Entegra Bank into First Citizens.

The local Jackson County Community Foundation and the Macon County Community Foundation, both affiliates of the North Carolina Community Foundation, will each receive half of the gift to support local community grantmaking. These funds will provide grants for local causes and are focused on meeting local community needs.

"We are incredibly grateful for this gift and show of support for western North Carolina," said Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF CEO and president. "The North Carolina Community Foundation local affiliate foundations in Jackson and Macon counties will ensure this gift supports nonprofits benefitting the local community."

The Macon County

# NEWS

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### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

#### Potts Mutual Burial Association, INC.

Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected .....	\$573.20
Total Interest Earned.....	-0-
Other.....	-0-
Total Receipts .....	\$573.20
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries.....	-0-
Collection Commissions.....	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$510.00
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)....	-0-
Membership Fees Paid Agents .....	-0-
Refunds.....	\$1.20
Death Benefits Paid @\$50.....	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100.....	\$100.00
Death Benefits Paid @200.....	\$1,400.00
Total .....	\$2,011.20
ASSETS	
Cash on Hand .....	\$3,597.22
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041746 .....	\$49,764.42
Total .....	\$53,361.64
LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid .....	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses.....	-0-
Total Payables.....	-0-
Reserve : 256 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books).....	\$5,376.00
Total .....	\$5,376.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Kimberly Page, President  
Kathy Rogers, Vice-President • Carolyn Young, Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS: Turner Page, Linda McCall Garner,  
Judy Keener, Carolyn Crisp

# Science & Engineering Fair winners announced

The weather was certainly not lovely, but that did not stop students from displaying their Love of Science (this year's theme) during the Region 8 Western Regional Science & Engineering Fair held on Feb. 13 and 14 at the Ramsey Regional Activity Center at Western Carolina University.

WCU has hosted the two-day fair for decades, and it is coordinated by WCU's Division of Educational Outreach.

More than 120 projects were submitted for judging at this year's fair. Out of those projects, 32 have been invited to participate in the state-level competition held in Raleigh in March.

"We are excited about the quality of the submissions and the 32 projects that have been invited to compete in the state com-



Left: Graham Caldwell of Macon Middle School won third place in the Junior Physics and Mathematics Division. Right: Fatimah Patel of Macon Middle School won the WCU Special Award in Chemistry & Physics.



Mya Echevarria and Abigail Echevarria of Macon Middle School received an Honorable Mention in the Junior Earth and Environmental Science Division.

petition," said Kelley Dinkelmeyer, science fair director and physics instructor in the WCU department of chemistry and physics. "We look forward to another successful fair in 2021."

Participants were treated to a "Birds of Prey" presentation by Balsam Mountain Trust. Several exhibits from WCU and other community organizations were on display, and WCU's mascot PAWS was seen checking out science projects and posing for pictures with the young scientists.

WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown also joined the budding scientists, viewing their projects and making remarks during the awards ceremony.

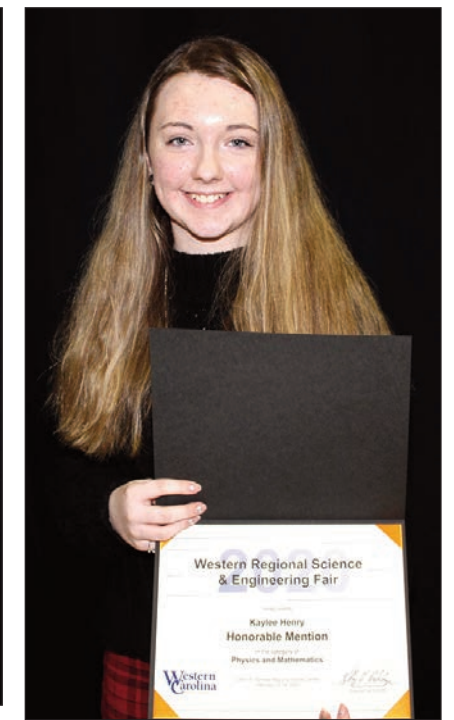
The Region 8 Western Regional Science and Engineering Fair is the largest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event held in Western North Carolina.



Alyssa Anderson of Macon Middle School received an Honorable Mention in the Junior Biological Science A Division.



Julia Estes of Macon Middle School, received an Honorable Mention in the Junior Earth and Environmental Science Division.



Kaylee Henry of Macon Middle School received an Honorable Mention in the Junior Physics and Mathematics Division.

# Texas hikers help to maintain Appalachian Trail

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Through-hikers, out-of-town volunteers, coronavirus education – early March experienced an upturn in activity on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) president Mary Stone said that not only is the group still gearing up for A.T. Celebration 2020, but surprise volunteers and the pandemic have resulted in all hands on deck.

“We are already seeing many through-hikers, and our trail ambassadors have been out meeting them,” said Stone.

On March 9, the group was “thrilled” with the work achieved by a visiting volunteer group from Huntsville, Texas. The group of 21, including students on spring break from Sam Houston State University, as well as families and a child as young as 10, alerted Paul Dyer, NHC maintenance manager, a few weeks prior to their arrival. They drove 18 hours to Franklin because they wanted not only to enjoy the area, but to help maintain the A.T. Accompanying the group was Rev. Todd Tipton, campus minister for Sam Houston State University, as well as Steve Johnson, a 2016 A.T. through-hiker.

“Just in one day of work, they accomplished plenty,” said Stone. “They volunteered to tackle physically difficult work in a short amount of time.”

Stone said it is highly uncommon for volunteers from as far away as Texas to assist with trail maintenance.

The Texas group, according to Stone, worked on a section of the A.T. from Tellico Gap to Wesser Bald Tower. “They built 150 feet of side hills with cribbing,” she said, explaining that since hikers often walk on the lower side of the trail, it must be evened out by pulling down dirt with a Pulaski tool and then secured with measured sections of cut locust trees. “One group did a maintenance walk through Tellico Gap to the Jump Off, clearing downed trees, water bars (which allows water to run off), and checking the Wesser shelter and privy.

“We are always looking for section maintainers, also called trail monitors, to check three to four miles sections four times each year, and do what they can to clear the trail with our equipment, and then report to Paul if maintenance is more than they can handle,” Stone said. “We would love for more people in the community to commit to becoming section maintainers. We will train anyone who wants to help out.”

Franklin was the first of 49 towns along the 2,192 mile trail to be designated an A.T. Community. NHC maintains 60 miles of the A.T. every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m., volunteers meet at the NHC Club House at 173 Carl Slagle Road to plan maintenance and receive instruction from Dyer.

In an email received at *The Macon County News*, the Nantahala Hiking Club is following the ATC recommendation to “suspend all trail related activities for the next month” effective Tuesday, March 17. While unfortunate, this means NHC will not conduct hikes, meetings or group activities during March including Easter on the Trail and the Thru-Hiker Chow Down. The position will be reviewed in April. Obviously, individuals may hike. Groups or individuals who are going to hand out Easter goodies on their own, please report your work to Elena Marsh at marsh67@fron-



Paul Dyer, Nantahala Hiking Club's maintenance manager, speaks to a group of volunteers from Texas on March 9.

tier.com. Trail Manager, Paul Dyer, will continue with weekly updates to maintainers in his regular Monday maintainer emails.

Although much has been planned for the A.T. Celebration 2020, everything from free breakfasts for hikers at First Baptist Church to music and food at local establishments to library lectures, the current pandemic crisis has already affected activities and the A.T. Stone is speaking regularly to involved parties. “The information about the coronavirus is changing by the hour and day,” she said.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy was supposed to meet at a conference recently, with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Park Service present,” said Stone, “but instead we ‘met’ on a conference call and discussed issues. So far, the Trail is not closing, and we actually expect more young people to take to the Trail because of school closings. So we are going to post signs along the Trail and at shelters that offer common sense information, such as 1) if you’re sick, get off the Trail; 2) don’t share food with others; 3) keep a social distance from others; 4) keep hands clean; 5) and, just generally be aware.”

She added, “But probably one of the best places to be is out of doors. So we expect the Trail to be busy and through and section hikers to be stopping in Franklin.”

As of March 17, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is recommending hikers to camp separately instead of congregating in the established shelters along the trail.

For more up-to-date information about the A.T. and upcoming activities and events, check out discoverfranklinnc.com and nantahalahikingclub.org as well as Facebook pages for both.

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73°/58°	69°/51°	62°/37°	55°/37°	51°/44°

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

### Bryant Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected .....	\$2,421.60
Total Interest Earned .....	\$71.21
Other .....	-0-
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$2,492.81</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries .....	-0-
Collection Commissions .....	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	\$771.20
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4) .....	\$771.20
Membership Fees Paid Agents .....	-0-
Refunds .....	\$16.80
Death Benefits Paid @\$50 .....	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100 .....	\$300.00
Death Benefits Paid @\$200 .....	\$6,400.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$7,488.00</b>
ASSETS	
Cash on Hand .....	\$22,796.18
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041745 .....	\$173,562.12
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$196,358.30</b>
LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid .....	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses .....	-0-
Total Payables .....	-0-
Reserve : 1143 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books) .....	\$24,003.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$24,003.00</b>

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

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Guy E. Grant, Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS: Patricia Safko, Ashley Grant Virga, Edwin Grant, Dale Roper

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## Latest New Century Scholars inducted at SCC

Most academic ceremonies at Southwestern Community College pay tribute to what current students have already accomplished in their pursuit of higher education.

The annual New Century Scholars induction instead celebrates the bright collegiate future awaiting several dozen area middle schoolers.

More than 40 seventh graders from Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties walked across the Myers Auditorium stage on Nov. 18 and received certificates signifying the promise of a tuition-free SCC education set to begin in the year 2025.

“Every one of these students has been hand-picked by middle-school teachers, and we could not be more excited to know they’ll be walking across this very same stage to receive their associate degrees eight years from now,” said Freya Kinner, New Century Scholars Coordinator.

Lena Wilson, a graduate of the program, served as the featured speaker and encouraged this year’s inductees to take full advantage of their opportunities.

More than 2,400 students have been inducted as New Century Scholars since it was established in 1995. The program provides resources and support to students as they navigate middle and high school – preparing them for a successful experience in college without worrying about the financial aspect.

New Century Scholars is supported entirely by private donations and provides last-dollar tuition assistance.

“At Southwestern, we are extremely proud to be a part of this wonderful program that has provided a brighter future to so many young people in our service area,” said Dr. Don



Macon County students inducted into the New Century Scholars program on Nov. 18 included, bottom row, from left: Skyler Taylor (kneeling), Abby Maney, Sheana Morgan, Emily Pazar, McKenna Plemmons, Molly Ramey and Helen Ward (kneeling). Top row, from left: Elisabeth Ramos Soriano (standing), Ophelia Contreras-Garcia, Joselyn Herrera-Hernandez, Emma Ledford, Lida Lopez, Yuritza Lopez Santos, Lathea Watts (seated atop right arm) and Jackie Ramos Soriano. The ceremony was held on SCC’s Jackson Campus in Sylva.

Tomas, SCC President. “We are blessed to live in a region with so many generous individuals who make New Century Scholars possible year after year.”

In addition to working toward their high school diplomas, New Century Scholars are required to participate in community service activities that encourage leadership skills and explore potential future career options.

To support this program, donations may be made at SouthwesternCC.edu/Foundation or by check to New Century Scholars and sent to the SCC Foundation, 447 College Drive, Sylva, NC 28779.

For more information about New Century Scholars, contact Freya Kinner, SCC’s New Century Scholars coordinator at f\_kinner@SouthwesternCC.edu or (828)339-4477.

## Public Health limits non-essential services

With the ongoing concerns over COVID-19, Macon County Public Health will be limiting non-essential services until further notice. This action is to allow staff to focus more time in the COVID-19 response.

MCPH will be providing the following services:

- Maternal Health, including pregnancy testing and prenatal services
- Symptomatic STD
- Communicable Disease and TB
- Family Planning, problem visits only
- Primary Care, sick visits only
- Lab by appointment only
- Vaccinations
  - All children vaccinations will be provided; adult, flu and pneumonia only
  - No travel immunizations
- Dental:
  - Adult Dental: Normal Services
  - Child Dental: Emergency Care Only
- WIC:
  - NC State WIC Program is allowing a waiver for the physical presence requirement to ensure no interruptions in benefits. Contact the WIC office if you have any questions about your upcoming appointment. Call (828) 349-2455.



Signs in front of the Macon County Public Health building instruct patients return to their car and call 349-2517 to be screened for COVID-19. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Athletes from Franklin High School will be in the gym to play basketball, soccer and football with the kids while the parents hear from John Hamlin of State Farm and Dr. Joshua Wu from Harris Orthopedics and Sports Medicine about the importance of sports safety. There will be free giveaways and door prizes. This **FREE** event is for youth up to 12 years of age.



# Harrah's endows scholarship for SCC students

Through support of Southwestern Community College's annual fundraising gala and the state's first table-gaming school, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort and General Manager Brooks Robinson have become more than just partners with SCC.

"They are friends," said Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President. "They are friends to our college, to our foundation and – most importantly – to our students."

Last month, the region's largest employer made a commitment to take its support of SCC and its students to an entirely new level. Robinson and Dr. Jo Ray, Harrah's Regional Vice President for Community Relations & Employee Wellness, signed an agreement on Dec. 16 to endow a scholarship through the SCC Foundation over the next three years.

The scholarship will be awarded for the first time in the fall of 2020.

"The impact of Harrah's generosity and support through the gala as well as this new scholarship will be felt by our students for decades to come," Dr. Tomas said. "It's been an honor to work so closely with Mr. Robinson, Dr. Ray and their team these past few years. I personally could not be more grateful for their friendship."

Robinson's official title is Regional Senior Vice President and General Manager of Harrah's Cherokee Properties. Since 2012, he has served on the Board of Directors for the SCC Foundation.

"Our partnership with SCC is mutually beneficial," Robinson said. "We provide support to grow students educationally and professionally, and in return SCC provides us quality employees. In the process, we form and grow relationships and friendships, and in the end, everyone wins. It is these types of partnerships that Harrah's Cherokee values. Our Code of Commitment promises that we will work in our communities to make them better places to live and work."

Since Harrah's began hosting the SCC Foundation's gala and providing a leadership level of support in 2015, the event has raised more than \$350,000.

Meanwhile, nearly 2,000 area residents have graduated



Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort officials recently announced plans to endow a scholarship through the SCC Foundation. Pictured are, from left: Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation; Dr. Don Tomas, SCC President; Brooks Robinson, Regional Senior Vice President and General Manager of Harrah's Cherokee Properties; Dr. Jo Ray, Harrah's Regional Vice President for Community Relations & Employee Wellness; and Dr. Thom Brooks, Executive Vice President for Instruction and Student Services at SCC.

from Southwestern's table-gaming school with the opportunity to fill some of the top-paying jobs in the area.

"Throughout my time at Southwestern, our friends at Harrah's have offered their unwavering support," said Brett Woods, Director of the SCC Foundation. "This new scholarship just goes to show how serious they are about helping our students succeed. We greatly value their friendship, and we look forward to working with them for years to come."

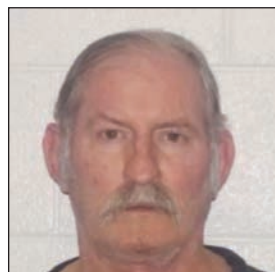
To be considered for the scholarship, students must be enrolled full-time and be pursuing an associate degree. Candidates must have and maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or better. Preference will be given to children of Harrah's employees. However, if a child of a Harrah's employee does not apply in a given year, preference will be given to residents of Harrah's service region – the seven North Carolina counties west of Buncombe.

For more information about the SCC Foundation, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu](http://www.southwesterncc.edu) or contact Woods directly (828.339.4241 or [b\\_woods@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:b_woods@southwesterncc.edu)).

# Woman dies, man charged in shooting death

On the afternoon of Friday, March 13, at approximately 2:37 p.m., deputies with the Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) responded to the scene of a shooting at 290 Oak Hill Road. Upon arrival, the responding deputies located two male individuals and a female. The female was suffering from a gunshot wound. Deputies began to administer first aid, but the woman died shortly after the deputies arrived on scene. Robert Massung Jr. of 164 Oak Hill Road, Franklin has been charged with felony voluntary manslaughter in the death of victim Kathleen Couch Dills, 47, of Franklin.

An investigation immediately ensued and the preliminary findings released. Multiple interviews were conducted and search warrants were executed in relation to this incident. Massung had suspected someone had been breaking into a vacant home in his neighborhood and went to the home to investigate further with another neighbor. Once at the vacant home, Massung entered the home without permission. After entering the home Massung fired a 9mm which did strike Kathleen Dills at least once. Another female inside



Robert Massung Jr.

the home immediately fled the residence. The second female was last seen going through a wooded area to a blue Ford Mustang and driving away. That female was later identified and located by detectives. The female was subsequently interviewed at the MCSO where she confirmed she had been at the home with the deceased female and confirmed that she was her sister.

The MCSO were assisted by the NC State Bureau of Investigation as well as District Attorney Ashley Welch. The Medical Examiner was also at the crime scene and an autopsy was scheduled to be performed in Winston Salem Monday.

While Massung is currently charged with felony voluntary manslaughter, the investigation continues and additional charges are possible. Massung remains in the Macon County Detention Center where bond has been set at \$200,000.

Detectives are not looking for any additional suspects in this incident at this stage of the investigation. No other arrests are pending at this time.

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The Town of Highlands was placed under a state of emergency Tuesday afternoon by the town board adopting an emergency resolution. The emergency proclamation I have signed allows the mayor and board to make responses and decisions addressing COVID-19 immediately, without following standard procedures which could delay critical decisions.

We will remain under a state of emergency until the state and county rescinds their existing declarations.

There is a chain of authority for dealing with the coronavirus crisis. At the federal level, President Trump has declared a national state of emergency. This declaration was very important for state and county public health departments and hospitals. The federal declaration allows these agencies to suspend standard rules and regulations in order to immediately treat patients and address the spread of the virus. The state emergency order by Governor Cooper reinforces the federal order and enables state officials to mobilize resources without delays.

Our town state of emergency mirrors state and federal proclamations. For instance, we have the police powers to disperse gatherings that exceed federal and state requirements. We can issue citations to those violating emergency orders. I am certain that our citizens and merchants will cooperate with all declarations, and enforcement will not be needed.

Let me emphasize the town is not the health agency tracking and managing the virus. We are working with the Macon County Department of Public Health, the lead agency at the local level. They are coordinating efforts with hospitals and federal and state health organizations in combating the spread of COVID-19.

The town manager and I are in continuous contact with Macon County Emergency Services and the Macon County Health Department. We will respond immediately to any requests or advisories. Accordingly, we have postponed all town meetings until further notice.

The town is also working to keep residents informed. I encourage everyone to visit the town website where there are county and state links to information about the COVID-19 virus. While we want to keep residents informed, any inquires about specific cases or infected individuals cannot be divulged. There are privacy protocols that authorities must maintain, especially in emergency situations where rumors and panic reactions can occur.

For instance, there are rumors in town that an infected

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### HCA's for-profit policies a problem on fixed income

I have read all your articles concerning the terrible services provided by HCA. Their quest seems to be money and not the citizens of Western [North] Carolina. But there is one important problem that is affecting those of us who live on Social Security. I will use my situation as an example.

I moved to Franklin about six months ago from Cabo San Lucas and brought three months of blood pressure medicine with me. As I started to get low on medicine, I went to Mission Health Center to get a refill. I saw the doctor; she checked my pulse and blood pressure and wrote me a prescription. She did change one to something she said was better and said she could only give me a single refill. She asked me to come back in a week and take my blood pressure. I paid my \$134 for the five-minute visit and left. During that week I had a bad reaction to the new medicine. So, I quit taking it and went back. When I got to my appointment, they told me my doctor had quit, but gave me a prescription for my old medicine, and to make another appointment with a new doctor to get back on track. Which I did. The new doctor prescribed a new medicine and gave me a 30-day prescription and to come back in a week to see how it worked. Another three minutes. I paid \$138 and left.

I went back, everything was great. She said to call in for a refill when I ran out. The good thing is the medicine is only \$18 for both. When I started to get low on medicine, I called back. They said doctor Crystal had quit, so I asked for the two nurses that worked with me over the two months and I was told one had quit but the other one was with a client and she would call be back. A half hour later the hospital called and said that they forgot that Beverly my nurse had quit, too, 10 days ago, but if I paid \$180, Dr. Hunley would call the pharmacy for my refill. I told them my doctor Crystal told me she would call in my refill for free. She said, every time there is a new doctor, you must pay \$180.

I have had three doctors in three months and the cost for an \$18 prescription is costing me \$200 a month and I have a six-year-old to care for and a wife that can't work and I only get \$825 per month Social Security. I asked why the doctors quit after two or three weeks. Tracy from the hospital said they quit because they dislike Franklin so much, they just walk out. She also said they have the right to change my doctor every month and make me pay \$180 because they are a for-profit business and if I don't like it don't come to Mission Health and that there is a lot of other people that are paying without complaining. This is a scam by HCA and should be illegal that I have to pay \$180 every month for them to call in an \$18 prescription. I told Tracy I need this medicine to stay alive; she said NOT HER PROBLEM. This should be illegal.

James Keams – Franklin, N.C.

### Vote your conscience, not political party

Good people of Franklin, please think and pray long and hard before you vote. Forget parties. You should vote your faith, values and conscience. Platforms and issues are very telling. Right now there is such a diversity among American citizens that if we are to remain free we must face facts. Abortions, Socialism, no Constitution, rioters, bullying opposition because of the hats or shirts that are worn – that sounds like a third world country.

And the past three years of disrespecting our own president because he was not your personal choice. OK, he can be uncouth and brash. However, he was elected and it was mainly because he is not a politician, he cannot be bought off, and he does love this country. Despite all the harassment he has endured, he has accomplished a great deal for Americans.

Christians vote "God's will." We are against killing babies, total governmental rule, freedom suppression, one world religions, and the erasure of our Constitutional rights. If you are just loyal to a political party, disregarding what they believe in and have in mind to do to our country, then you are among those who are ignorant to reality. Your loyalty is to those who are dictators in the making, and you are voting for human atrocities that belie your faith in Christ Jesus. You say you don't support those things, but you vote for them!

We know from the word of God that the Anti-Christ is going to be a suave, sophisticated man of great persuasive abilities. Smooth talking, charismatic and elegant in stature. Everyone will love and follow him. So for all you who had chosen our president for that position, I am sorry to disappoint you. Now, for all of you who are not familiar with biblical history, God chose the most unlikely men to sit on the thrones of kingdoms. His purposes and choices were much higher than mankind's. A candidate's values and his party's destination for the long term welfare of Americans, must be carefully evaluated. Promises of free this and that is fool's folly. Nothing is ever free. Intelligent people understand that. Someone has to pay the price, and you can be sure it won't be the government.

Christians, let God and his commandments be your guide. Non-Christians, consider all the consequences of your decision in terms of your future. Hate and anger are not reliable decision makers. Those are destructive to your mind, body, spirit and soul. We are all occupants of America's soil and should believe in our forefathers' gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. What does your conscience and loyalty demand of you?

May God bless you as you go to vote in November. Christians, let the Lord guide you. Non-Christians, think long and hard about the kind of world you want to be a part of. May God be with you also, even if you don't believe. He believes in you!

Sandi Dotherow – Franklin, N.C.

## The Macon County NEWS & Shopping Guide

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## Marine Corps detachment dissolves local unit

On April 1, 2020, the local Detachment of the Marine Corps League will cease to exist. It was founded 23 years as a Marine Corps Veterans Service Organization dedicated to fostering the spirit of Semper Fidelis and camaraderie with our fellow Marines, former Marines, and Naval brethren. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine.

What will it mean to the community? No longer will local patriotic parades be led by precise and correct Marine Color Guard. The Run/Walk for Life will no longer have a militarily correct opening ceremony honoring America. The Franklin Panthers will no longer have the precise movements of a Marine Color Guard opening their home games. Local churches who frequently called upon the League to provide patriotic ceremonies to honor their veterans, will not have those services. Fraternal organizations who called upon the Detachment to render nation honors will no longer have that available to them. No longer will the Marine Corps League render final formal honors to a deceased Marine veteran.

As all organizations have internal rifts, the Detachment had its fair share coupled with some leadership ego difficulties that severed a lot of the membership. With that loss of that membership, the majority plainly lost interest. With deep regrets,

D. C. Lanson, CWO-4 USMC(Ret) – Franklin, N.C.

## You want my vote? I want my broadband!

This is not a red or blue issue. This is a public safety and welfare issue. This is an issue of whether our kids have access to the same quality of education as kids 80 miles from here. This is an issue of whether our children can live here and succeed in an increasingly work-at-home oriented economy. This is an issue of my tax dollars are my investments in a better community here and not just communities surrounding Raleigh or Washington, DC or Atlanta, Ga.

My wife and I have school-age grandchildren who all live in Cobb County, Georgia, a massive bedroom community to Atlanta and the home of Dobbins Air Force Base. The county school district closed K-12 schools and the state university system closed community colleges and Kennesaw University. Students and faculty are directed to stay in their homes except for essential travel. (And, since all the toilet paper and anti-bacterial cleansing products have evaporated from store shelves, there is really no reason not to.)

The same or similar is happening here in Macon County. So, what's the difference there and here? No, not test kits. We have three in the county, what more would you want? The correct answer would be broadband access. Our oldest daughter, who is an up and coming Realtor, has three children in K-12; one in high-school, one in middle-school and one finishing elementary school. Her husband is a sales rep for a national company and travels a good bit or, at least, he used to. His company has prohibited travel and even use of the local offices so he is at home for two weeks or more. Our son's child is in the same situation as the other kids and our son holds a critical position with a local data center services company which requires him to have tactile contact with the apparatus in that facility as well as supporting other units around the world. His wife already operates a profitable broadband dependent enterprise from home.

This is that time of year when schools are prepping for annual tests and a lot rides on the outcomes ... and, we all know that the retention of scholastic material for most kids in this age bracket is roughly equivalent to the shelf-life of milk left on the counter. But, my grandchildren all have access to online classes and assignments from their teachers as well as the ability to complete work requiring research and submitting that work for review, etc., etc. I will admit this may leave my grandchildren less than joyful at their oppor-

tunity for continued productivity versus the usual get-out-of-school pass. Their parents are well equipped and capable of doing their jobs from home with little more than a laptop and a printer. These families do not have to go out for groceries, even. They order from Amazon or more locally, Instacart and shopping services like these where their grocery lists are shopped and the food brought to the home with no need to even open the door to greet the transporter

So, again, what's the difference? Simply stated, it is one of inequality. While our local school system is steeped in digital curriculum and North Carolina has its own version of online educational programs, most children in Macon County leave school for digitally dark homes and communities. "Hotspots" are no good because they require the congregation of people which is highly ill-advised given the obvious circumstances. So, assuming the school closings are just 14 calendar days which is the presumptive incubation period for this malicious virus, at the end, our grandchildren and those like them in the more advantaged areas will be well along with their studies. Their mothers and fathers remain productively employed and less at risk for contracting the pandemic disease that now plagues us all. Why do I say that? It is simply because human nature being what it is; people who cannot get or do what they need while sequestered at home, will ultimately go outside for it regardless the risk.

The real tragedy here is that this is not the way it has to be for our rural communities. The consequences we are experiencing due to the harsh lack of 20th century technology services is not an act of nature nor can it be blamed on a "bug" that has a disproportional impact to its size. And, just to remind; this is the 21st century we live in now ... well, sort of.

What we have here is a failure to ... govern equitably (sorry Luke). It is a failing of a governmental body that willfully refuses to meet the needs of its constituents by simply allowing them to solve a basic problem using their own tax dollars and local resources. It should not be so hard to bring broadband access to any community today. The problem is not technology nor is it the availability of critical skills. Even money is not the real problem. It is simply that we are not allowed to apply these resources to remedying this particular problem. The heart of our consternation lies with a state government that will not allow local communities to provide their citizens what is, in fact, a very basic utility. So, you want to prevent this from happening again, write your state representative. Let him or her know in no uncertain terms that you matter every bit as much if not more than AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, Comcast, et al and all the money they unload annually into state house campaign coffers. And, by all means, let your county government know it, too. "Lead, follow or get out of the way," needs to be declared loudly and persistently to those who already know who they are ... but I'm not sure they know who we are. The good news is that most of them can be reached at a common street address.

I know it is a bit trite, but, yes, rural lives do matter. Rural quality of life matters, also. To those in the way, I say: you want my vote? I want my broadband! (Somebody ought to create a T-shirt).

Tony Deakins – Franklin, N.C.

## Honor our Southern heritage

If you've been following our social media pages or the news in general, then you've seen the disparaging headlines. Local Virginia governments may soon circumvent the state law and remove Confederate monuments. The real question is how will this directly affect other war memorials, Vietnam, etc.? By now we fully understand Confederate statues and street signs aren't the only items on the menu for these snakes. This is just a part in their systematic destruction of all that stands in their leftist progressive way. A recent example is Charlottesville's refusal to celebrate

Thomas Jefferson's birthday – You know, the "evil racist guy" who was our third president; author of the Declaration of Independence; founder of the University of Virginia; and the reason why Charlottesville's even on the map! OK, We are not Virginia residents, but I assure you that these Communist tactics will spread to many home states to include North Carolina. May God help us!

Presently, our adversaries seek removal of all things Confederate from public venue, annulment of the Constitution's Second Amendment, (as well as the entire document) and the denigration of Godly Confederate men: Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart who were exemplary Christian men who abhorred evil. Anyone who is able to find and read truthful history cannot but confirm this truth. But that, to the Marxist Progressive, is a threat to the advancement of their narrative. Sadly, this pogrom is much farther advanced than most realize.

What many today cannot comprehend is that the Yankee Godless Marxist-Progressive views lies as just another link to advance their ideology, as they obviously are absent of any moral compass. As gatekeepers they must forbid and repel any and all truthful advances upon their narrative. We presently see this attitude when topics such as racism, climate change or immigration are broached for civilized discussion, insisting they are right; tantrums and name-calling result when truthful evidence is revealed. They are not interested in truthful solutions, but only their sick agenda. This also occurs when mention is made of the obvious criminality of their most revered leaders (Schumer, Hillary). More often than not they will seek the weight of government to enforce their claims, and as they occupy much of government, their efforts are too often successful.

Be aware that Vladimir Lenin said, "The goal of Socialism is Communism." We know Bernie agrees!

Robert Johnston – Clayton, Ga.

## TAYLOR

Continued  
from page 10

person has been moving throughout the town infecting others. The Macon County Public Health Department follows a protocol for known cases. A person infected with the virus will be visited by public health officials. That person will be required to self-isolate in their home until their ability to spread the virus has passed. A public health official will monitor the situation with daily visits to the residence.

I have been receiving numerous calls about what one should do in this emergency situation. My response is to stay at home as much as possible, avoid gatherings, and practice the recommended personal hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing.

This emergency will be a major challenge. We must all work together in a calm and supportive effort to address this crisis. Rumor mongering and wild speculation is not helpful. In a past time of dark crisis President Franklin Roosevelt put it aptly, "The only fear we have to fear is . . . fear itself."

Email letters to the editor to  
maconcountynews@gmail.com

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

# A Night with the Legends raises funds for Shop With a Cop



Limited Distance



Brent Ledford



Anna Taylor and Brittney Lofthouse  
Event organizers



The Hackers

The 2nd annual A Night with the Legends Benefit Concert raised \$3,500 for the Macon County Shop with a Cop Program. Local musicians performed covers throughout the night before Sylva native and Nashville recording artist Matt Stillwell took the stage.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



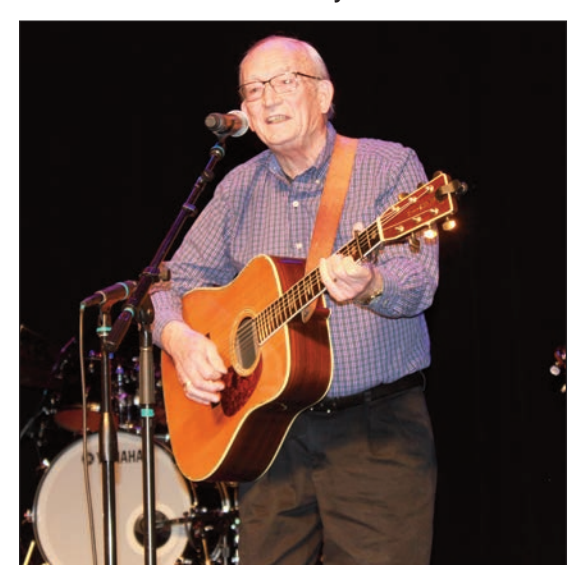
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Brent Ledford sings to his children.

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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 15. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



### Macon County Sheriff's Department

March 13

Robert V. Massung Jr., 65, of Franklin, was charged with involuntary manslaughter. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set. Amy Stewart made the arrest.

### Franklin Police Department

February 28

Courtney Page Reynolds, 52, of Lake Emory Rd., was 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 secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

March 2

Jesse Lonnie Harkins, 30, of Mill Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with possession with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. A \$6,000 bond was set.

March 4

Gina Tallent Franks, 63, of Garland Buchanan Rd., Sylva, was issued a warrant for failure to appear.

### Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 9

Justin Daniel Buckner, 28, of Dellwood Rd., Waynesville, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Ashley Nicole Barris, 32, of Battle Creek Rd., was charged with felony larceny, felonious larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Kamie Calhoun Seay, 38, of Deaver. view Rd., Asheville, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. No bond was set.

Michael Shawn Jones, 40, of Deaverview Rd., Asheville, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. No bond was set.

Jayda Arlene Pheasant, 31, of Mount Noble Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, rear lamp violation, driving while license revoked. no bond was set.

Lindsey Calhoun Watty, 36, of Mink Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

March 10

Anthony Clifton McCall, 43, of Tuckasgee, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Michael Brandon Lancaster, 33, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, first degree trespass/enter/remain, breaking and entering, obtain prop-

erty by false pretense, possessing selling stolen property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Billy Joe Brady-Smith, 55, of Ensley Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for violation of court order. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

March 11

Jordan Rae Wolfe, 25, of Rachel Watty Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of heroin, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Jorge Alberto Guzman, 26, of Puma Trail, was issued an order for arrest for fish in delayed harvest waters, fishing without a license/no trout license. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

March 12

Quinton Earl Barker, 25, of Cozy Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor probation violation, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$2,200 was set.

Anna Elizabeth Parton, 39, of Fisher Branch, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods, trespassing, possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking in methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, simple possession of schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$110,000 was set.

Ariel Marie Fisher, 28, of Olivine Place, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Natasha Belle Kirkland, 31, of Breedlove Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, fictitious/altered/title/ registration card/tag. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Heather N. Steele, 26, of Hall Heights, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dustin Scott Dillard, 39, of Skyland Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

March 13

Andrew Lawrence Mallin, 49, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., was charged with failure to appear for unsealed wine/liquor in passenger area, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Michael Warren Wilnoty, 47, of Nelly Goin Dr., Cherokee, was charged with injury to personal property, possession of stolen goods/property. No bond was set.

March 14

Kiera Price Galindo, 37, of Yellowbird Branch Rd., was charged with failure to appear for assault and battery, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 ounce, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$750 was set.

Arthur Dodson Adams, 60, of Laurel Knob Rd., Cashiers, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

William Vaughn Stevens, 35, of Hoosier Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Ott Cole Frady, 20, of Watson Branch Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault inflict serious injury. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

March 15

Clay Silas-Tanner Jones, 27, of Barkers Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with breaking and entering non-forcible, speeding, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Lucas Noah Foxworth, 28, of Buff Creek Rd., was charged with failure to appear for speeding, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$2,000 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](http://www.aawnc80.org).

**The March 19 Potato Supper sponsored by the Democratic Women of Macon County** has been postponed. Check Facebook and macondems.org for the rescheduled date.

**All AARP Tax-Aide sites in western North Carolina**, as well as across the state and nation, are suspending their operations beginning March 16 until further notice. Taxpayers with appointments will be contacted to cancel their appointments. As coronavirus (COVID-19) developments change hour by hour, AARP Foundation is doing its part to flatten the curve of transmission. A top priority for the volunteer organization is ensuring we are protecting those most at risk, including our volunteers and taxpayers. They will continue to assess whether they can open again in some or all sites for the remainder of the tax season and if the tax season is extended.

**Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Oline Meeting** will be held on Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. The program topic is "Organizing in the time of Corona". Email [jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com](mailto:jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com) to receive instructions to join online. The public is welcome to join this meeting.

**Nantahala Hiking Club Hikes** have been canceled until further notice.

**The March 28 Student Talent Showcase is canceled.** The Arts Council will make decisions on other coming events as the virus containment effort unfolds. For details email [arts4all@dnet.net](mailto:arts4all@dnet.net) or phone 524-ARTS.

**Macon County Clerk of Court's Office** is suspending passport applications until April 15. Check [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for facilities that are currently accepting applications.

**Franklin Golf Association** will start on April 2, 8:30 a.m., at the Franklin Golf Course. All golfers are welcome to attend.

**American Red Cross Blood Donation Opportunities in Franklin** will be held on 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 [RedCross-Blood.org](http://RedCross-Blood.org), calling (800)733-2767. Blood donors with type O blood and platelet donors are especially needed right now.

**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](http://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 [lilinau@aol.com](mailto:lilinau@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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**West Franklin Church** services are still being held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Rd. next to the Forest Service office.

**Grace Presbyterian Church (EPC)** Services with Pastor Toby Popeare are Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m. The church is located at 360 First St. (828)369-6800. Visit [www.graceepc-franklin.com](http://www.graceepc-franklin.com) or find us on facebook @ [gracepresbyterianchurch-EPC](https://www.facebook.com/gracepresbyterianchurch-EPC)

**Franklin Church of the Nazarene** Service times are Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Praise and worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday night prayer service 6 p.m. The church is located at 266 Belle Dowdle Rd. in Franklin.

**Morrison Presbyterian Church** Sunday Worship Service is held at 9:30 a.m. The church is located off 441 S.; take the first right after the visitors center onto Morrison Church Rd.; go 1/4 mile to the church.

**Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Church** Services are, Saturday Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., Saturday services 11:30 a.m., Wednesday prayer meetings 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 71 Brindle Rd., Franklin. Pastor is Glenn Marshall. For more information, call (828)524-5493.

**lotla Baptist Church** services are Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by worship service at 11 a.m. Sunday and Wednesday evening supper 5:30 p.m., services at 6:15 p.m. The church is located at 1537 lotla Church Road. Pastor is Brandon Breedlove. For more information, call the church office at (828)524-7167.

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

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

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

Email calendar items to [maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)



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

ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

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# Luthier dedicated to making fine instruments

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
 Contributing Writer

Although he has been playing guitar and other string instruments since age 12, Peter Mosco has been “tinkering” with those instruments for more than 35 years. He perused thrift shops and yard sales to find “cheap” instruments he could take apart, learn construction, fix, refinish, and reconstruct. Fifteen years ago, Mosco decided to turn the tinkering into a profession. He is one of only a handful of luthiers in Macon County.

“Luthier is such a strange word and many people don’t know what it means,” said Mosco.

Today, the word defines someone who makes and repairs string instruments. Yet, the word originated with the French word for “lute” and once only identified a person who made and repaired lutes.

“I decided to take my knowledge to a new level in 2005,” he said, “and become a luthier.” He estimates he has built at least 65 stringed instruments, primarily dobros but also mandolins, banjos, and more, during his career as a luthier.

To build an instrument from scratch, Mosco starts with the wood. He considers most hardwoods, including American walnut, cherry, oak, and more, but has even repurposed wood, from a 100-year-old table, for example.

“Each hardwood has its own voice,” he said. “It’s a never-ending quest to try new woods. Every so often a luthier will find some old wood and realize it will make a great instrument. I, personally, will never stop experimenting with all



Peter Mosco has crafted at least 65 stringed instruments during his 15-year career as a professional luthier.

types of wood.” After the wood is selected, it take Mosco approximately 60 hours to hand-craft the instrument using a variety of tools in his at-home workshop.

He considers himself not just a skilled artisan, but an artist as well. Some clients envision special designs and Mosco must work to incorporate them into the instrument.

“I will tackle custom work for anyone on any level,” he said.

Mosco’s hand-crafted instruments vary in price. And, although, price-wise, he cannot compete with factory-made instruments coming out of places like China, he believes his workmanship, warranty, and uniqueness are far superior.

Luthiers from across Western North Carolina converge annually in Burnsville for the

Mountain Acoustics Luthiers Invitational. Mosco looks forward to this year’s event, to take place May 20-24.

Mosco also has “built a good reputation” repairing and restoring existing stringed instruments. He returns them to owners good as new. “I’ve had to take some almost completely apart to restore them properly.”

Although Mosco does own and has owned a variety of factory-made instruments over his lifetime, he said he will currently only play his own creations when he is at home or when invited to perform locally.

“It’s a humbling, rewarding experience to make an instrument – and then to play it,” he said. “Being a luthier grounds me. I used to go to work because I had to, but now I go to work because I want to. I’m happy when I’m in my shop.”



Luthier Pete Mosco is a member of the Southeastern Bluegrass Association (SEBA), who regularly meets to play music at various venues. The group meets at Whistle Stop Depot through the winter months and moves to Rickman Store when it opens in the spring. Pictured from left, are Jay Baird, Pete Mosco, and Jeff Bergman.



# Authors win Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award for 'Back of Beyond'

The Western North Carolina Historical Association has named "Back of Beyond: A Horace Kephart Biography" the winner of the 2019 Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award. Written by George Ellison and Janet McCue, edited by Frances Figart and published by Great Smoky Mountains Association, the book is the 64th winner of this annual recognition of distinction for qualifying works of fiction, nonfiction, drama or poetry.

"There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot," wrote Aldo Leopold. "Back of Beyond: A Horace Kephart Biography" is an account of a man who could not. Kephart came to North Carolina after having endured a breakdown of his health and his marriage. It was in the Smokies that he pieced together a life as an author and an advocate. Kephart believed that the mountain wilderness saved his life—a conviction that led him to champion the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"Although there was interest from a commercial publisher, we selected GSMA to publish the biography," said McCue. "Given Kephart's dedication to the Smokies, we felt that the park should be the beneficiary of proceeds from the book."

For decades, McCue and Ellison followed separate yet parallel paths in their research, which took them to universities such as Cornell and Brown, McClung Library in Knoxville, St. Louis Mercantile Library, and



George Ellison



Janet McCue

the National Archives in Beltsville, Md. Not until 2009 did the two meet at Kephart Days, a celebration initiated by Libby Kephart Hargrave, the great granddaughter of Horace Kephart. Their first collaboration—an 80-page introduction to Kephart's Camping and Woodcraft—led to co-authoring the first full-length biographical treatment of Kephart. For five years, the two researched, wrote and revised the manuscript.

Key to the endeavor was a community archiving project launched by Hargrave. Her commitment to unearth letters, photographs, manuscripts and ephemera in family files and boxes scattered from the east coast to the west revealed new details about Kephart's relationships and writing process. Much of this Kephart family material has been donated either to Western Carolina University or to Great Smoky Mountains Association. Many of the

images discovered are included in "Back of Beyond," which was designed by Lisa Horstman, GSMA's lead publications specialist.

"Without the patience and professionalism displayed by the GSMA staff on all levels during the past decade there would be no Back of Beyond biography to celebrate," observed George Ellison. "Just as Thomas Wolfe had a special relationship with his editor, Maxwell Perkins at Scribner's, GSMA's editor Frances Figart worked closely with Janet and myself, always stressing the importance of keeping the narrative moving so as to create a text that is not only substantive but also pleasurable to read."

A prize of \$2,500 and trophy will be presented to the authors at an awards ceremony Saturday, Nov. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel, 31 Woodfin Street, Asheville, directly across the street from the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site. Admission is charged.

The competition between this year's finalists was fierce according to Brandon Johnson, chair of the award committee and instructor at Mars

Hill University. "The committee was especially struck by the depth of research and the objective and nuanced perspective that Ellison and McCue show in their work," he said. "This

book will long serve as a comprehensive picture for a casual reader and a wealth of sources and information for researchers."

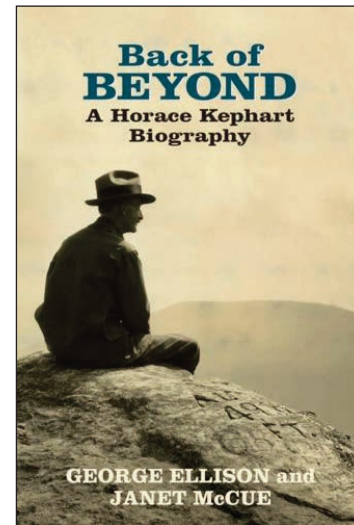
The other 2019 finalists, chosen from 21 nominations, are:

- Robert Beatty, "Willa of the Wood"
- David Joy, "The Line That Held Us"
- Meredith McCarroll, "Unwhite: Appalachia, Race and Film"
- Terry Roberts, "The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival"

Great Smoky Mountains Association's publications are designed to enhance greater public understanding, enjoyment and

appreciation for the national park. A national park partner, GSMA has provided more than \$44 million to support the park's educational, scientific and historical programs since its inception 66 years ago. Support for the association is achieved primarily from sales of educational publications and from annual membership dues.

For more information about Back of Beyond, other GSMA publications, membership and volunteer opportunities, visit SmokiesInformation.org.



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## Deaths & Funerals

### Darlana Faye Gibbs

Darlana Faye Gibbs of Franklin, N.C., passed away on March 14, 2020, in a peaceful state and in the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at the Solace Center in Asheville N.C. She was a church member of Pump Springs Baptist Church of Harrogate, Tenn., and more recently a patron of Deep Creek Baptist Church in Bryson City N.C.

Preceded in death by John Leslie Gibbs, her dad; Juanita Gibbs, mother; Paris Ann Gibbs, sister; Cecil Gibbs, brother; Sheila Gibbs Miracle, sister.

She is survived by lifelong mom and best friend Joanne Gibbs Miracle; James Miracle, step-dad; AC and Betty Gibbs, brother; Jim Gibbs, brother; Johnny and Vicki Gibbs, brother; Bette Gibbs Collins and Bob Collins, sister; Betty Jo Gibbs, sister-in-law; Eddy Miracle, brother-in-law; and Chris and Becky Gibbs, brother; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members. Special nieces, nephews and family are Davey and Tiffany Gibbs, Krista Gibbs, Whitney Gibbs, Brooke Gibbs Martin and Casey Martin, Dallas Benson Gibbs, Annsley Kate McDaniels Gibbs, Jeremy and Alesha Brooks, Lauren and Casey Wilson, Landon, Rhyann Elizabeth, Brody Gibbs and Rhaelyn Barnett, Erica Robertson and Bruce and Randall Cowan.

Several special family members cherished time with and cared for Faye at various times of life, specifically Jack, Jennifer, Kayla, and Millie Hart; Kyle and Susie Viars; Jenny Watkins Cain of Corbin; Steve Barton of Corbin; Paula Lynn Sams of Middlesboro; Sarah Taylor of Knoxville; Starla Ray and Lisa Gibbs, sisters-in-law; Billie Jean Johnston of Harrogate; Mary Margaret Stacy (Mimi) of Pineville; Sally (Mamaw) and Randy Fletcher of Tazewell; Audrey (Aunt) and Jim Barnard of Tazewell; Anna McDaniels of Middlesboro; and Susan Benson of Ocean Springs, Miss.

She moved to the home of Brother Chris in 2010 where she had the opportunity to be free of her grandmal seizures through the medical treatment of Dr. Sam Kabbani (neurologist and friend of Chris) and enter school at the young age of 68. Through school she was able to experience many exciting challenges she missed in her youth and to develop friends on her own, as well as to become a mentor to many fellow students. Please visit the Macon Funeral Home website in Franklin NC to read about the many experiences shared by teachers and students.

She enjoyed her retirement years roaming the Western Carolina Communities of Bryson City, Cherokee, Sylva and Franklin. Chris and Becky would like to extend their personal thank you to the many medical, government, church and family friends that impacted the final earthly years of Faye (Better known as Big Sis). Chris and Becky extend the deepest gratitude and thanks to the trauma center at Mission Health and Solace Center - Hospice in Asheville; and Brian and the gang at the Macon Funeral Home for all the love, support, and friendship. The Gibbs Family loves each of you and words cannot express their gratitude. May God bless you all that loved and helped Faye in her life. She is now the Angel of Protection over so many and is the newest Angel Dancing in the Sky.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home in Franklin. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., prior to the service.

Pallbearers will be Steve Barton, Bobby Smith, Greg Brown, Bill Sumner, Jack Hart, Keegan Barnes, Brad Fitch, and Brian Waller.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Darlana Faye Gibbs

### Samuel P. Bedrick

Samuel P. Bedrick, age 81, of Piqua, Ohio, passed away at 4:15 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020, at Piqua Manor Nursing Home, Piqua. He was born in New York City, N.Y., on Dec. 8, 1938, to the late Edward and Jennie (Giammanco) Bedrick. He married Mary E. (Yevchak) Bedrick in New York on Aug. 29, 1964. She preceded him in death on March 30, 2019.

He is survived by one son and daughter-in-law: Ed and Suzanne Bedrick, San Marcos, Calif.; one daughter and son-in-law: Mary Bedrick and Alph Potter, Piqua, Ohio; one brother and sister-in-law: Joe and Sarah Bedrick, East Stroudsburg, Pa.; and one sister and brother-in-law: Mimi Bedrick and Jim Infante, Key West, Fla.

He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church and he was a chemist for New York City Water Supply for more than 30 years. For many years, before her passing, he took devoted care of his beloved wife.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Thursday, March 19, at 11 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church with Father Tien H. Duong officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the local arrangements.

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



Samuel P. Bedrick

### Mary Ann Long Tallent

Mary Ann Long Tallent, 81, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Franklin, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Floyd Thomas Long and Pearl Corbin Long. She worked at Peoples Department Store in Franklin, and later as secretary at George Coleman Ford in Travelers Rest where she retired in May of 2000. She was a loving mother, grandmother and dear friend to all and was of the Southern Baptist faith.

She is survived by her son, Gary Dean Tallent and wife Terri of Franklin; daughter, Angie Dawn Tallent Tomberlin and husband Wade of Easley, S.C.; grandsons, Jake Tallent, Jared Tallent and Luke Tomberlin; granddaughter, Megan Tomberlin; special nephews, Chad Burrell and wife Melody and Todd Stone and wife Angye.

Along with her parents, she was predeceased by an infant son and siblings, Nancy Stone and Connie Burrell.

Howze Mortuary in Travelers Rest is handling arrangements to be held at a later date (864)834-8051. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels, 15 Oregon Street, Greenville, SC 29605

Online condolences at [www.thehowzemortuary.com](http://www.thehowzemortuary.com).

### Frances Renate O'Connor

Frances Renate O'Connor, 85, of Franklin, N.C., died Friday, March 13, 2020, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Germany to the late Theo and Maria Petersen Lorenzen. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a granddaughter, Brianna Kennedy. She was of Lutheran faith and the former owner of Sleepy Hollow Cottages.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, John O'Connor; two sons, Michael O'Connor of Venice, Fla., and Thomas O'Connor of Ocoee, Fla.; two daughters, Eileen Worthington (David) of Greenup, Ky., and Phyllis DeNeef (Gino) of Franklin; sister, Helga Walter of Carle Place, N.Y.; and a brother, Theo Lorenzen of Palisades, N.Y.; eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren surviving.

As per Mrs. O'Connor's request, no services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to a favorite charity. Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

### Harry 'Wayne' Yonce

Harry "Wayne" Yonce, 75, of Franklin, N.C., died on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Gay and Elda Roper Yonce. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Sally Wideman Yonce; sisters, Kathleen Yonce Conley and Gladys Yonce Miller and a brother, Homer Yonce. He was also preceded in death by his beloved dog, Molly, who was always by his side after his wife passed. He proudly served his country in the U.S.

Army for a short period before being medically discharged. He was an avid antique collector/dealer in addition to his building. One of his specialties was disassembling and moving old log cabins which he did a lot of in his later years, not just locally but all over the country. He loved calling Macon County home and was somewhat of a history buff about the area and the people; he was a member of the Macon County Historical Society. Many of his collections can be seen at the Macon Historical Museum. He was of the Christian faith and enjoyed spending time with his close friends, a lot of whom he shared many meals with at the Sunset restaurant over the years.

He is survived by a brother, Terry Roper of Franklin; two sisters, Betty Hord and Peggy Sanders of Franklin and many nieces and nephews.

There are no services planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Macon County Historical Society, 36 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734 or Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Harry 'Wayne' Yonce

### Marion Marie Freeman

Marion Marie Freeman, 91, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

A daughter of the late Marion Edward and Eunice Marie Williams. She was preceded in death by her husband, Guy Harmon Freeman; great-great grandson, Bryson Luther Carey and brother, Gerald Edward Williams. She was previously an active member of Oakdale Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughters, Rose Blocker of Franklin, and Barbara Phelps of Live Oak, Fla.; her sisters, Leona Hester of Franklin and Shirley Bissel of Pearson, Fla.; four grandchildren, Tony Sappe (Sheila), Angel DeBussey, Robin Pilkerton (Charlie) and Jason Zamperini (and wife); five great grandchildren, Summer Stephens, Airana DeBussey, Scott Carey, Charles Pilkerton III and Jasmine Rayne Pilkerton and seven great-great grandchildren, Michael Norris, Gabriel Norris, Aiyana Good, Payton Carey, Mason Carey, Orion DeBussey and Gemma Stephens.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, March 21, at 3 p.m., at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. Rev. Guy Duvall will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Barbara Elizabeth Ledford McConnell

Barbara Elizabeth Ledford McConnell, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, March 15, 2020.

A native of Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Marion Raleigh Ledford and Franchie Mary Sanders Ledford. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lawrence McConnell; one son, Donnie Pressley; three brothers, Ellis Ledford, Calvin Ledford and Wilson Ledford as well as two sisters, Marie Ramey and Thelma Waldroop. She was a sewing machine operator with Van Rault and Franklin Undergarment. She loved working and gardening.

She is survived by four children, LeRoy McConnell (Dale), Gary Lewis (Brenda), JoAnn Bleckley (Alan) and Shirley Sue Speed (Eddie), all of Franklin; 11 grandchildren; one brother, Al Ledford; two sisters, Yvonne Angel and Josephine "Tootsie" Dehart; 20 great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Friday, March 20, 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Steve Reeves, Rev. Don Moffitt and Rev. Michael Zoellner will officiate. Burial will be in the Prentiss Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Pallbearers will be Timothy Bleckley, Steve Speed, Kevin McConnell, Austin Shirley, Joseph Zoellner and Cayden Burns. Honorary pallbearers will be Joshua Zoellner, Dawson Green, Caleb O'Conner, Cameron O'Conner and Jaylan Burns.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, c/o Teresa Zoellner, 20 Bear Wood Trail, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

## Rosa Burrell Schewe

Rosa Burrell Schewe, 91, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Born in Murphy, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Fred Burrell and Dennie Patterson Burrell. She is preceded in death by her husband, Otto E.G. Schewe. She loved Jesus and loved her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Angela Poindexter (Eddie) of Franklin; her son, Tim Schewe of Franklin; two brothers, Larry Burrell (Erma) of Jasper, Ga., Maxie Burrell (Patricia) of Franklin; two sisters, Sue Collins of Franklin, Texas, and Jo Measmer of Ranger, N.C.; two grandchildren, Kyle Poindexter and Lauren Sizer (Nathan); one great granddaughter, Ashlyn Poindexter; niece and nephews, Becky, Mark, Adam and numerous other nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Monday, March 16, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Cale Stancil officiated. Burial was held in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to one's favorite charity.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Barbara McConnell



Rosa Burrell Schewe

## Carol Maddox

Carol Maddox, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday March 9, 2020, at her residence with her loving husband of 32 years, Gerald Maddox by her side. She was born in Hartfield, Wisc., to the late Howard and Delie Schmitt. Throughout her life she maintained a sweet and simple demeanor that allowed her to win the hearts and trust of many. She enjoyed being outdoors on picnics with family and friends, baking, crafting and gardening.

She was a member of Rose Creek Baptist Church where she loved to be an active participant in many functions, but most important enjoyed sharing her faith with other members. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported her during her struggles and ultimately gave her peace. Her smile and laughter will be dearly missed by her loved ones and many friends who now celebrate the fact that she is with her creator.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Delie Schmitt, and a son, Brandon "Big B" Maddox.

She is survived by her husband of 32 years, Gerald Maddox of Franklin; two daughters, Terri Zuber of Cedar Bluff, Ala., and Jodi Bishop of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; a son, Tim Maddox of Okeechobee, Fla.; a granddaughter, Brandie Lee of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; two grandsons, Timothy Maddox of Okeechobee, Fla., and Brian Zuber of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; a great granddaughter Alli "Cat" Hawthorne of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; a great grandson Noah "Nono" Hawthorne of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and in-laws.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 13, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Morris Tippet officiating. Burial followed in the Iotla Methodist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were "her Franklin grandsons" Cody Viar, Jimmy Williamson, Aaron Coin, Jesse Stahl, Dalton Rigdon, and Mark Corbin.

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



Carol Maddox

## Jimmy Rodger Tippet

Jimmy Rodger Tippet, 83, of Franklin, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late John Dee Tippet and Inez Morgan Tippet. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Earl Coleman Tippet. He loved fox hunting, bowling, mowing his grass, racing cars and loved his grandkids and family immensely. He was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church and attended Watauga Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Laverne Young Tippet; his daughter, Kim Tippet Wilson of Franklin; two sisters, Carolyn Hixon and Glenda Gladwell, both of Franklin; five grandchildren, Brittany Mashburn (Clinton), Brooke Keener (BJ), Morgan Wilson, Matthew Wilson and John Wilson; four great grandchildren, Kiley Mashburn, Rowen Keener, Kole Mashburn and Mason Mashburn; one nephew and three nieces.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 11, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Roy Lowe, Rev. Morris Tippet and Rev. Wesley Price officiated. Burial was in the Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Clinton Mashburn, BJ Keener, Matthew Wilson, John Wilson, Paul Kinsland and Dale Young.

Honorary pallbearers were Sloan Wilson, Ray Sanders, Max Gladwell, Troy Ledford, Alvin Johnson, Doyle Young and great grandsons, Rowen Keener and Kole Mashburn.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Jimmy Rodger Tippet

## Nora 'Maxine' Sanderson

Nora "Maxine" Sanderson, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

She was born on March 7, 1933, to Madgelen and Kenneth Snoddy at their home in Marion, Ill. During her school years, they moved to Chicago, Ill., several times but they always returned to Marion and she graduated from high school there in 1950. She was an Honor Roll student, having excelled in Gregg shorthand and typewriting. She used those skills in all her places of employment over the years. She chose not to go to college but married young and had three children, Marsha Jean, John Charles and Kenneth Eugene Turner. That marriage failed and she was a single parent for two years. In April of 1965, she met Merrill J. "Sandy" Sanderson whose Louisiana employer sent him to Marion temporarily – they married that August and she and her three children moved to Louisiana. In June 1966, their daughter April was born in Monroe, La. In 1970, the family relocated to Baton Rouge, La., They lived there for 25 years and during that time both Maxine and Sandy began to do volunteer work. Maxine helped in the Battered Women's Program and found it very meaningful. In 1995, Sandy retired and they moved to Albuquerque, N.M., where April was attending UNM for a degree in occupational therapy. Maxine's volunteer work in Albuquerque was with United Way, Junior Achievement, The Albuquerque Newcomers Club, and Bear Canyon Senior Center. She served on the National Board for Funeral Consumers Alliance for two years. She and Sandy also participated in a Readers theater group. The family lived in Silver City, N.M., from 2010-2012 and Maxine volunteered at the Gila Medical Center. She and Sandy enjoyed square dancing and attending classes at Western Institution for Lifelong Learning. In 2013, Maxine and Sandy relocated to Delta, Colo., where they made many new and wonderful friends. They moved back to New Mexico in 2016 to be near their daughter during Sandy's failing health. After Sandy's death, Maxine, April and Paul relocated to Franklin, N.C., and lived together. On April 8, 2018, Maxine joined the Iotla Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Macon County Senior Center and enjoyed lunches and activities there. In addition, she sang the praises of the Macon County transit system which took her there.

She was preceded in death by both of her parents and one brother, Kenneth Jr., and her husband Sandy also preceded her in death on March 15, 2017 in Cliff, N.M.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, April and Paul Wikstrom; a brother and sister, Joe and Paula Snoddy of Savannah, Ga., their four children and grandchildren; her three children from the previous marriage; seven grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

In accordance with Maxine's wishes, cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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

See page 20 for more obituaries

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# Deaths & Funerals

## Diann Elizabeth Brooks

Diann Elizabeth Brooks, 80, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2020, at her home in Sylva, N.C. She was born July 28, 1939, in Herkimer County, New York, to the late Harvey Melvin Doolittle and Gertrude Dye Doolittle. She worked and retired as a private caregiver after many years. She was a resident of Macon County, North Carolina, from 1976-2006 before moving to her home in Jackson, Colo. She had a great love for pets especially dogs and horses. She was a loving mother and grandmother.



Diann Brooks

Survivors include her life partner, Tom Hixon; three sons, James Richard Brooks and wife Melinda of Athens, Tenn., Butch Brooks and wife Mona of Otto, N.C., and John Brooks of Sylva, N.C.; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Brooks; a daughter, Jacqueline Sata; a sister, Leona Shell; and two brothers, Robert Miller and Stanley Miller.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held by her family at her home.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask memorials be sent to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Rd. Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

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

# THANK YOU

to the Macon Valley Nursing Center for the care you gave our mother over the years.

Also, Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, Sunset Trio, Rev. Bud Haire, Rev. Robert Dryman, the pallbearers, those who sent cards, flowers and prayed for us.

May God bless you all.

The Family of  
Nina Mashburn Wood

[www.themaconcountynews.com](http://www.themaconcountynews.com)

# NASCAR president hopes to run full 36-race schedule

Holly Cain  
NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR President Steve Phelps held a teleconference with the sport's media Tuesday, March 17, addressing questions and reassuring that the hope is, yes, the full season's 36 points races will be run, with the safety of the sport's fans and its participants of utmost importance during the current worldwide COVID-19 virus outbreak.

NASCAR had announced on Monday that races through at least May 3 will have to be rescheduled.

"The health and safety of our fans, industry and the communities in which we race is our most important priority, so in accordance with recent CDC guidance, NASCAR is currently postponing all race events through May 3, with plans to return racing in Martinsville," the NASCAR statement read in part. "We appreciate the patience of our fans and we look forward to returning to the racetrack."

Phelps said Tuesday that the plan is to ultimately complete the schedule.

"For us, we have a commitment to our fans that we're going to run all the races," Phelps said. "We have a commitment to all our competitors that we run all the races. We have a commitment to the stakeholders broadly, that we're going to run all the races. We are going to do everything in our power to get these races in. If there are other variables that happen that would suggest we can't do that, we'll look at those at that time."

Phelps said NASCAR must consider all its scheduling options – from midweek races, to doubleheader weekends to perhaps even racing during what would have been a two-week pause already written into the schedule for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

"At this particular point, we would like to finish the season at Phoenix and keep the Playoffs portion [of the schedule] intact," Phelps said. "With that said, it will require a lot of different opportunities for us to look at. We're in the process of doing that."

"No specifics about midweek races. I've heard about doubleheaders, different things. At this particular point a lot of things on the table for us to look at, working with our race teams, working with our race tracks to make sure the things that we're putting on the table are feasible for us to do."

Phelps said the sanctioning body must be and is willing to adapt as needed.

"It's understanding the races that we've had to postpone and what is the best way to get them to fit back into the schedule," Phelps said. "We'll take a holistic view of what it is, not specifically, how are we going to prioritize one versus another."

The question of whether NASCAR would consider holding events without fans also arose and Phelps said it is "in

the consideration set." But, he emphasized that the whole situation is evolving so quickly, even holding the races without spectators was questionable because of the continued risk to the drivers, teams and officials that are still working in relative close-quarters in the garage.

On the subject of testing the Next Gen car for its scheduled 2021 debut, Phelps again cautioned that it's a fluid situation and at this point, still "too early to tell" the feasibility of that.

Another major part of any schedule adjustment involves the sport's media partners, something Phelps said the series and its two networks FOX and NBC are well aware of and eager to work out. Logistics will obviously be an important factor.

"At some point soon, we hope to all get back to finding that escape that our fans are all looking for, in our case, getting back to racing," Phelps said. "We are working with FOX and with NBC to understand what windows might be available. That will come as we develop this schedule. It is complex, for sure. But both partners have shown great willingness to try to work with us...to find windows to get back to racing in our case."

Phelps allowed that there have been discussions even about broadcasting alternatives such as eNASCAR and iRacing.

"There are discussions we've having with FOX about what things we can do, discussions with NBC, things that we can put through our own channels that satisfy fans," Phelps said. "Our fans are obviously thirsty for this content. We want to provide it to them smartly and have interesting content as opposed to just repurposing some of the content that's already been done."

"More to come on that. We want to make sure we're servicing the fans as best we can."

## PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

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### This Week's Cup Series Race: Dixie Vodka 400 Postponed

Race Details

Location: Homestead, Fla.  
Date: Postponed

Homestead-Miami Speedway

Distance: 1.5 miles  
Shape: Oval  
Turns / Straights:  
18-20° / 4°

### Race Preview

The NASCAR Dixie Vodka 400 race scheduled for Homestead-Miami Speedway has been postponed following new restrictions on mass gatherings in Miami-Dade county aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. The next scheduled Cup Series race is March 29 at Texas Motor Speedway. NASCAR racing made its debut in the Miami area in 1995, drawing a sellout crowd of 60,000 to its first event. The track has a \$100 million annual impact on the local economy and draws more than 300,000 racing enthusiasts annually to the area. The facility covers 600 acres and has a total of 65,000 Grandstand seats and has been called the "most beautiful racing facility anywhere on the planet".

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### Last Weekend's Race: Race at Atlanta Postponed

NASCAR postponed the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway amid the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, NASCAR announced Friday. "We believe this decision is in the best interest of the safety and well-being of our fans, competitors, officials and everyone associated with our sport," NASCAR said in a statement. "We will continue to monitor this dynamic situation as we assess future race events." The next scheduled Cup Series race is March 29 at Texas Motor Speedway. Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson supported the cancellation of immediate racing. "We want to race as much as you want us to race but this is the right decision," Johnson wrote on Twitter. "This is so much bigger than sports right now and the health and safety of our fans, industry members and the overall public is top priority." Before Friday's announcement, NASCAR had planned to hold the races without fans in attendance and had put measures in place to limit access to drivers. There was no announcement from either NASCAR or rescheduling races.

### Top News Stories

**NASCAR drivers ran virtual race on iRacing at Atlanta**  
On a day that NASCAR was to have raced at Atlanta Motor Speedway, before the COVID-19 pandemic postponed that event and halted nearly every sport, there was a race at a virtual Atlanta Motor Speedway. NASCAR announced Friday that it was postponing its races at Atlanta and next weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway. So with no real racing, some competitors went to sim racing. iRacing set up a 100-lap race Sunday afternoon to give fans at least some form of racing to watch online. "It all kind of came together Friday when we were home," said T.J. Majors, spotter for Joey Logano, on the Twitch broadcast of the iRacing event. The Replacements 100. "Bryan Cook had the same idea as I did, Boris at JGR, and then Kevin Hamlin put a lot of work into this as well. We started adding drivers to the list. A lot of fun. It's unfortunate circumstances that we're all home today, but we're just trying to make the most of it and give people something to do and watch and have some fun." Josh Williams, who races in the Xfinity Series and is Ryan Blaney's spotter in the Cup Series, held off William Byron to win the first Replacements 100 Esports race, organized by iRacing. Sunday's virtual race at Atlanta Motor Speedway included several real-world NASCAR stars including Williams, Byron, Bubba Wallace and Dale Earnhardt Jr., many of whom are sim racing enthusiasts.

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### 2020 Standings

Cup Series Top Ten				Xfinity Series Top Ten			
Drivers	Points	Top 10s		Drivers	Points	Top 10s	
1) Kevin Harvick	164	4		1) Harrison Burton	176	4	
2) Joey Logano	163	2		2) Chase Briscoe	173	3	
3) Chase Elliott	144	2		3) Austin Cindric	155	3	
4) Alex Bowman	138	1		4) Brandon Jones	148	3	
5) Jimmie Johnson	131	2		5) Ross Chastain	146	3	
6) Ryan Blaney	123	1		6) Noah Gragson	143	3	
7) Kyle Larson	121	3		7) Ryan Sieg	143	3	
8) Aric Almirola	121	2		8) Justin Haley	140	3	
9) Matt DiBenedetto	118	1		9) Justin Allgaier	138	1	
10) Brad Keselowski	118	2		10) Michael Annett	119	1	

### Racing Trivia

At which track did Dale Earnhardt Sr. get his first Cup Series win? ?

a) Daytona                      c) Darlington  
b) Talladega                    d) Bristol

ANSWER: d) Bristol

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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ACROSS

- 1. Wing it
- 6. Salvatore, to his friends
- 9. Bigger than tsp.
- 13. Swedish money
- 14. Snoop
- 15. Hold the floor
- 16. Predict from an omen
- 17. More of the same
- 18. Cell dweller
- 19. \*Good \_\_\_\_, as in morning
- 21. \*Gathering of rogues and \_\_\_\_, sing.
- 23. What engineer and auctioneer have in common
- 24. Japanese vodka
- 25. Gourmet mushroom
- 28. Sheer profit
- 30. \*Set up a tent
- 35. "Best \_\_\_\_ schemes o' mice an' men"
- 37. Attention-getting interjection
- 39. One who looks at the stars, e.g.
- 40. Eye up and down
- 41. Train stop
- 43. Laughing on the inside
- 44. Remember this battle site!
- 46. Isaac's firstborn
- 47. Zelensky's capital
- 48. Fermented milk drink, pl.
- 50. Billy Joel's " \_\_\_\_ the Good Die Young"
- 52. Use lacrimal glands
- 53. Weakest in chess
- 55. Burmese neighbor
- 57. \*Please
- 61. \*Men's vest
- 64. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
- 65. Call to Bo-peep
- 67. Andretti or Lauda
- 69. Colorado ski resort
- 70. "Slippery" tree
- 71. Phantom's genre
- 72. Scotland's famous lake
- 73. Johnny's other nickname
- 74. Martha Washington post 1799, e.g.

- DOWN
- 1. Rap sheet abbr.
  - 2. Keith Moon's instrument of choice
  - 3. Apple's apple, e.g.
  - 4. Accustom
  - 5. Like infertile land
  - 6. Do like volcano
  - 7. \*Are
  - 8. Swimsuit fabric
  - 9. Not kosher
  - 10. Island east of Java
  - 11. Roofed colonnade
  - 12. One of the Ivies
  - 15. Murdering, slangily
  - 20. Artemis' companion
  - 22. Island strings
  - 24. Blended family family member
  - 25. \*Longer than a cape
  - 26. Two under par
  - 27. a.k.a. pilau
  - 29. \*Fare \_\_\_\_ well
  - 31. \*Horseshoe cleat
  - 32. Pre-life
  - 33. \*Shakespeare's pattern
  - 34. \*Restroom
  - 36. Actress Moore
  - 38. Sound of pain
  - 42. Tutu fabric
  - 45. Annie or Oliver, e.g.
  - 49. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
  - 51. Peter of Peter, Paul and Mary
  - 54. Big name in grills
  - 56. Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
  - 57. Blueprint
  - 58. Tear down
  - 59. Mischievous sprites
  - 60. Decorative neckwear, pl.
  - 61. Doorframe part
  - 62. Tea choice
  - 63. Infamous Roman
  - 66. \*Popular Renaissance Faire beverage
  - 68. Like sashimi

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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**ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**, with lots closing Monday, March 23, 7pm. Inaugural online only auction coming to you from Boatwright Auction, starting March 17. with lots closing March 23, 7pm. There is a great selection of items in this auction, such as furniture, primitives, antiques, pocket knives, coins, large doll collection and more! Visit [www.boatwrightauction.com](http://www.boatwrightauction.com) for link to online bidding. For more info. please call (828)524-2499. Boatwright Auction, 34 Tarheel Trail, Franklin NC. NCAL Firm 9231.

## 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.

**BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** Saturday, March 21, 8am-10am, Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Gravy, Grits, Eggs and Biscuits, Fruit. Hickory Knoll Church, 86E Hickory Knoll Rd. Proceeds Benefit New Fellowship Hall.

**OTTO CHARITY 5K RUN** and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk March 28, Tassee 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.



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## Appalachian Animal Rescue Center

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### Shelter Wish List

- Cat Litter
- Laundry Detergent
- Rice
- Low Sodium Vegetables (No Corn)
- Low Sodium Beef or Chicken Broth
- Canned Dog & Puppy Food
- Canned Cat Food

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VERY PRIVATE, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, charming log mountain home on 7.53 acres. Unique with lots of wood and ready to live in with a rocking chair porch. Plenty of garden space and wildlife, a separate building for a work shop with room for a hobby area also. Shop has heat and air. Home is wired for a generator, has wood stove, large separate laundry area. Fenced in area for pets and lined with grape vines. MLS#26013313 \$245,000

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## 2020 TRAX

**\$3,000** CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>1</sup>  
PLUS

CURRENT GM OWNERS GET AN ADDITIONAL

**\$1,000** CASH ALLOWANCE<sup>2</sup>



## 2020 EQUINOX

**\$4,500** CASH ALLOWANCE  
ON MOST MODELS<sup>1</sup>

PLUS

CURRENT GM OWNERS GET AN ADDITIONAL

**\$1,000** CASH ALLOWANCE  
ON MOST MODELS<sup>2</sup>



## 2020 BLAZER

**\$2,500** CASH ALLOWANCE  
ON MOST MODELS<sup>1</sup>

PLUS

CURRENT GM OWNERS GET AN ADDITIONAL

**\$1,000** CASH ALLOWANCE  
ON MOST MODELS<sup>2</sup>



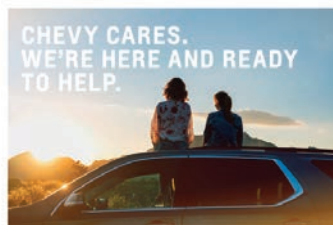
## 2020 TRAVERSE

**\$2,500** CASH ALLOWANCE  
ON MOST MODELS<sup>1</sup>

All programs effective Tues - 3/17-3/31

- 0% Financing up to 84 Mo.
  - ALL 2019's & 2020 LD Silverado / Equinox / Trax
  - A+ tier only
  - 120 Day Payment Deferral on ALL terms
  - Standalone Offer

- GMF 120 Day Payment Deferral
  - Any GMF loan greater than 0%
    - | A+ & A1 Tiers
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<sup>1</sup> Excludes select base trims. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 3/31/20. <sup>2</sup> Excludes select base trims. Must be a current owner of a 2006 model year or newer GM vehicle for at least 30 days prior to the new vehicle sale. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Residential restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 3/31/20. ©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved.

## PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

### CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016	ZL1! LOCAL TRADE!
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	13,185	LOCAL TRADE!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC! MUST GO!
2019	Chevrolet	Impala	1,886	LOCAL TRADE!
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,247	LOCAL TRADE!
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	10,716	LOCAL TRADE!
2014	Ford	Focus	95,181	SOLD!
2017	Honda	Accord	21,739	LOCAL TRADE! LEASE TURN IN!
2003	Kia	Rio		\$1,000
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599	JUST IN! FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Nissan	Altima	45,634	JUST IN! FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499	SOLD!
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,777	JUST IN! FRESH ON THE LOT!

### SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,630	PRICE REDUCED!
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485	PRICE REDUCED!
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	\$3,500
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	PRICE REDUCED! MUST GO! PREMIER!
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	39,294	LOCAL TRADE! PREMIER!
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,961	HUGE PRICE REDUCTION!
2010	Chevrolet	Traverse	131,529	\$7,500
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	66,203	LOCAL TRADE! \$12,000
2018	Dodge	Journey	43,238	ROOM FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285	PRICE REDUCED!
2007	GMC	Acadia	196,273	\$5,500
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,697	MUST SEE! LUXURY!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316	JUST IN! FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	40,311	JUST IN! 4WD!
2019	Jeep	Compass	35,635	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Compass	46,307	JUST IN!
2018	Jeep	Renegade	21,426	FRESH INVENTORY!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162	SEATS 8! PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271	JUST IN!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686	GREAT FEATURES! 4WD!
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712	A MUST SEE! 4WD!

### TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542	LOCAL TRADE! Z71! 4WD!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020	PRICE REDUCED! NOW \$22,585
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055	\$16,700
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,419	LTZ! LOCAL TRADE!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	78,342	LOCAL TRADE! PRICE REDUCED! \$22,949
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,696	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	14,609	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281	LOCAL TRADE! DRW! DIESEL! LTZ! PRICE REDUCED!
2007	Dodge	Ram 1500	142,632	\$6,990.00
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747	PRICE REDUCED!
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306	PRICE REDUCED! LOCAL TRADE! \$18,960
2011	GMC	Sierra 1500	112,268	JUST IN! LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	26,497	JUST IN! FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	28,255	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	RAM	1500 Classic	16,337	JUST IN!

### VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916	LOADED WITH OPTIONS!
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	45,143	JUST IN!
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093	SOLD!
2007	Honda	Odyssey	185,922	SOLD!

### BUSES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2006	Ford	E-450 Cutaway	79,799	25 PASSENGER BUS! LOCAL TRADE!

### MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261	IT'S THE PERFECT TIME OF YEAR!
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160	WARM WEATHER IS COMING!
2017	KAWASAKI	VERSYS-X 300	2,863	ALL MOTORCYCLES PRICED TO MOVE!