

Young, Wallace commissioner nominees; Davis out; Cawthorn, Bennett are headed for a runoff

Brittney Lofthouse
 Contributing Writer

All eyes were on North Carolina's 11th Congressional District Tuesday night as primary election results started to roll in. With incumbent Mark Meadows bowing out, a sea of candidates from both parties added their names to the ballot.

With new district lines, the 11th District featured all of Asheville, giving Democrats the best shot at regaining the seat that they have had in years. Buncombe County Democrat Moe Davis won the Democrat nominee with nearly 50 percent of the votes.

The Republican race for Congress doesn't have a clear victor and instead will be heading into a runoff race, which will be held on May 12. Haywood County Republican Lynda Bennett, who was granted the endorsement of Rep. Meadows, ended just shy of 23 percent of the votes cast. A candidate must receive more than 30 percent in a primary election to be considered a

winner and because Bennett did not, she will be facing Madison Cawthorn again on May 12. Madison Cawthorn and Jim Davis were neck and neck throughout Tuesday night and as counties across WNC reported in, the two were separated by just over 1,000 votes with Cawthorn surpassing Davis. The final tally had Bennett over Cawthorn by just 2,000 votes.

Former N.C. Sen. Cal Cunningham, D-Davidson, won the Democratic nomination to face off against the Republican incumbent, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis of Mecklenburg County, to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate.

Macon County native Kevin Corbin won the North Carolina Senate District 50 race by a landslide, securing more than 78 per-



Kevin Corbin



Moe Davis



Betty Cloer Wallace



Josh Young



Madison Cawthorn

cent of the total votes over Jackson County resident Sarah Conway.

In the race for governor, the incumbent, Gov. Roy Cooper, won the Democratic primary with 87% of the vote.

Dan Forest, who has served as Lt. Governor since 2013, won the Republican primary with 89% of the vote.

The District Court Judge race came down to two candidates, Kaleb Wingate and Jim Moore, and with the final precincts reporting, Wingate came out ahead with over 10,000 votes – more than 40 percent of the total.

Political newcomer Josh Young won Macon County's Board of Commissioner's District II seat for the Republican ticket with 2,482 votes over Bryan Rauer's 1,850. Republican Terry Bradley

received 1,239 votes. On the Democrat ballot, Betty Cloer Wallace came out on top, receiving 1,768 votes to Olga Lampkin's 1,409.

For the presidential Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, D-Delaware, won in North Carolina's with 43% of the vote. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, earned 24% of the vote and is the only other candidate to surpass the 15% threshold to earn delegates from the state. In Macon County, voters cast 1,437 for Biden; 735 for Sanders; and the third highest vote getter was Michael Bloomberg with 454.

All results are considered preliminary until after canvassing, which will be held on March 13.

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Surprise 95th birthday party planned ... shhhh

Friends of Navy World War II veteran Bryant Ledford are holding a surprise 95th birthday celebration with an open house Saturday, March 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Franklin Church of God. Friends, family and fellow veterans are invited. Pictured are Cowee pastor Jason Smith and Ledford following his Quilt of Valor presentation.

Foundation gives \$20,000 grant to All Saints

Franklin's All Saints' Episcopal Church has received a grant from the Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina to help make improvements to the memorial garden at St. Cyprian's Chapel. The \$20,000 grant will cover about 54% of the cost of the improvements with the remainder to be donated by parishioners. The Episcopal Foundation is an agency of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, the Diocese in which All Saints' is a parish.

St. Cyprian's was constructed in 1887-1888 as a place of worship for African-American Episcopalians in the Franklin area and a graveyard was established there. In recent years a memorial garden space was added for the interment of cremains. According to Rev. Jonathan Stepp, rector of All Saints, the church had very few resources to improve or beautify this space. The Diocesan grant will make these improvements possible.

"This is a wonderful blessing to our parish," Rev. Stepp said. "Thanks to the generous support of our parishioners we are able to maintain St. Cyprian's Chapel, but we don't have the funds to make major improvements. This grant will make this beautiful new memorial garden possible."

The current memorial garden is a grassy space without landscaping and with a chained off area for Christian interment and a chained off area for Jewish interment. The area for Jewish interment exists because All Saints has been sharing the St. Cyprian's parish hall with Mountain Synagogue for the past 40 years.



St. Cyprian's Chapel

Rev. Stepp says the planned improvements to this memorial garden will honor the rich, 130-year history of St. Cyprian's, beautify this final resting place for generations to come, and create an attractive space where current parishioners will want to be interred. The improvement project includes a gravel path, enhanced landscaping involving trees and shrubs that are appropriate to the local climate, benches, a pergola, and a fence.

A service dedicating the new space and giving thanks for all who have contributed to its construction will be held this autumn when the work is complete.

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	9,016	LAST CHANCE BEFORE AUCTION!
2018	Chevrolet	Camaro	13,185	JUST IN LOCAL TRADE!
1972	CHEVROLET	CORVETTE	97,171	CLASSIC!
2011	Chevrolet	Malibu	75,216	SOLD!
2017	Chevrolet	Malibu	19,222	LOCAL TRADE!
2018	Chevrolet	Malibu	10,697	LOCAL TRADE!
1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	74,655	\$3,500
2014	Ford	Focus	95,181	JUST IN LOCAL TRADE!
2013	Ford	Fusion	110,655	SOLD!
2004	Ford	Taurus	152,202	\$2,000
2017	Honda	Accord	21,739	JUST IN LOCAL TRADE!
2003	Kia	Rio		\$2,000
2019	Nissan	Altima	37,599	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Nissan	Altima	45,634	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Maxima	11,499	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Nissan	Sentra	39,701	PRICE REDUCED!
2018	Nissan	Sentra	44,573	JUST IN!
2014	Subaru	Forester	95,516	SOLD!
2018	Subaru	Legacy	39,087	JUST IN!
2017	Subaru	Outback	71,304	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Toyota	Corolla	42,189	PRICE REDUCED!

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chevrolet	Colorado	15,542	LOCAL TRADE! Z71!
2017	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	40,020	LOCAL TRADE!
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	149,055	\$17,480
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,419	LOCAL TRADE! LTZ!
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	78,342	LOCAL TRADE!
2010	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	109,215	\$16,960
2014	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	68,442	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2016	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	50,089	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	9,665	LOCAL TRADE! JUST IN!
2002	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	266,707	\$4,500
2015	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD	93,281	LOCAL TRADE! PRICE REDUCED! DUALY LTZ!
2007	Dodge	Ram 1500	142,632	\$6,990
2016	Ford	F-150	54,317	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Ford	Ranger	25,747	PRICE REDUCED!
2012	GMC	Sierra 1500	135,306	\$17,990
2017	GMC	Sierra 3500HD	147,376	FLAT BED! PRICE REDUCED !MUST GO!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	26,497	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	27,911	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Frontier	27,904	JUST IN !
2005	Nissan	Titan	123,498	LOCAL TRADE! \$8,990

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	15,585	PRICE REDUCED !
2020	Chevrolet	Equinox	13,485	PRICE REDUCED !
2006	Chevrolet	HHR	166,016	\$3,500
2017	Chevrolet	Suburban	43,424	PRICE REDUCED !
2018	Chevrolet	Traverse	18,363	PRICE REDUCED !
2010	Chevrolet	Traverse	131,529	\$6,500
2018	Dodge	Journey	43,238	JUST IN!
2019	Ford	Expedition Max	43,285	JUST IN!
2013	Ford	Explorer	100,483	SOLD!
2018	Hyundai	Tucson	42,081	JUST IN!
2017	INFINITI	QX30	37,697	JUST IN!
2016	Jeep	Cherokee	70,872	SOLD!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	15,693	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Cherokee	45,316	LOCAL TRADE!
2019	Jeep	Compass	35,635	JUST IN!
2019	Jeep	Compass	46,307	JUST IN!
2009	Jeep	Patriot	169,410	LOCAL TRADE!
2018	Jeep	Renegade	21,426	JUST IN!
2007	Jeep	Wrangler	132,742	PRICE REDUCED! LAST CHANCE BEFORE AUCTION!
2018	Jeep	Wrangler JK Unlimited	4,489	SOLD!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,511	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2018	Kia	Soul	38,969	FRESH ON THE LOT!
2019	Nissan	Pathfinder	38,162	JUST IN!
2018	Nissan	Rogue	43,271	JUST IN!
2019	Nissan	Rogue	37,642	JUST IN!
2018	Nissan	Rogue Sport	38,403	JUST IN!
2018	Toyota	RAV4	41,686	JUST IN!
2019	Toyota	RAV4	32,712	JUST IN!



MOTORCYCLES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2002	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ROAD KING	3,261	PRICE REDUCED! \$7495
1997	HARLEY DAVIDSON	ULTRA CLASSIC	26,160	\$5,700
2017	KAWASAKI	VERSYS-X 300	2,863	\$5,900

VANS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	23,899	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Chrysler	Pacifica	40,916	PRICE REDUCED!
2019	Dodge	Grand Caravan	44,743	JUST IN!
2005	Honda	Odyssey	153,093	\$5,000
2007	Honda	Odyssey	185,922	\$6,960



BUSES

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES	
2006	Ford	E-450 Cutaway	79,799	PRICE REDUCED !25 PASSENGER! \$13,500



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NCDOT bringing new rest areas to I-26

Some components of the Interstate 26 widening project are happening earlier than anticipated.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has closed the eastbound and westbound rest areas on I-26 near the Buncombe and Henderson county line as part of the project.

The project will improve I-26 from four lanes to eight lanes between Brevard Road in Asheville and U.S. 25 Business in Fletcher, and from four lanes to six lanes from U.S. 25 Business to U.S. 64 in Hendersonville. The \$534 million project will reduce congestion and improve the roadway and structures before completion in late 2024.

A transformation of the rest areas will begin immediately. Improvements will include additional room for parking and brand new buildings with modern technology that will open before the project is completed.

"The new facilities will be an important part of the project, and will provide modern conveniences for local as well as long-distance travelers," NCDOT Resident Engineer Mike Patton said. "We know that closing the rest areas will inconvenience drivers in the Asheville area, especially truck drivers, but we're certain that everyone will be delighted with the brand new facilities."

NCDOT crews will clear out the existing facilities this weekend and prepare the properties for demolition, scheduled for April. Following demolition, the properties will transform into staging areas for construction equipment. Construction on the new facilities will begin after the sites are prepared by grading and installing new utilities.

Parking will be expanded to 100 passenger vehicle spaces and more than 30 truck spaces at each rest area. The new buildings will expand to more than 5,200 square feet. They will feature more natural light, LED lighting, low-flow water



Rest areas along I-26 will be getting a new look with expanded buildings, larger picnic areas, a dog-walking area, native landscaping and updated technology.

utilities, modern vending machines, a new floor plan and a memorial to NCDOT employees killed on duty.

Outside amenities will include a larger picnic area, a dog-walking area, and landscaping with native plants, flowers, and shrubs including 450 new trees.

While these rest areas are closed, NCDOT welcome centers and rest areas at the following locations in the greater Asheville area will remain open:

- I-26 West at mile marker 66 in Polk County
- I-26 East at mile marker 6 in Madison County
- I-40 West at mile marker 82 in McDowell County
- I-40 East at mile marker 82 in McDowell County
- I-40 East at mile marker 10 in Haywood County (opening this spring)
- U.S. 23/74 West, two miles east of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Haywood County
- U.S. 23/74 East, two miles east of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Haywood County

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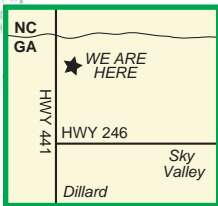
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Dogwood Health Trust awards more than \$3.7 million through ION grants to 259 organizations

Dogwood Health Trust has awarded more than \$3.7 million to a diverse range of 259 nonprofit and government agencies from every county and the Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina through its Immediate Opportunities and Needs (ION) grant program. Of the 492 applicants, 53% were awarded a grant, with the average award amount totaling \$14,600. Of those funded, 34% of requests will advance equity or reduce disparities.

“Originally, we planned to begin funding in fall 2020, but the board was eager to begin investing in the community at the start of the year,” said Janice Brumit, chair of the Dogwood Health Trust board of directors. “The purpose of this round of funding was to meet immediate needs and build initial relationships throughout our region. We plan to use what we learned from this round of funding to inform the work we’re doing now to design our strategic initiatives. Meeting immediate needs is one thing, but what we really want to do is move the needle on key issues and make lasting change.”

An initial budget of \$2.5 million was allocated to the ION grant program. “Our goal throughout the ION grantmaking process focused on awarding grants to a diverse representation and on inclusion in our 18 county and Qualla Boundary region,” said Jackie Simms, chair of the programs and grants committee. “We gave particular attention to smaller nonprofits headquartered in the counties and tribe served by Dogwood and to organizations led by people of color. Choosing recipients was a challenging and awe-inspiring task; so many organizations are doing such important work in our region.”

ION grants awarded will support afford-

able housing development, dependable cars for working families, a rescue mission day center expansion, cybersecurity improvements, roof repairs, and a portable X-ray device, to name a few. The Vecinos Farmworker Health Program, located in Jackson County, and serving Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties received an ION grant that will support a larger project to address and improve patient data security within their mobile clinics. “This is a game changer for us as a clinic,” said Marianne Martinez, executive director for Vecinos. Martinez plans to purchase laptops and technology to support secure connections while treating patients in their mobile clinics. “Patient data security should not be sacrificed, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status,” adds Martinez. “Providing a health care system that is both standardized and secure promotes equity of care and reduces barriers to health care while increasing patient safety.”

ION grants awarded were in alignment with Dogwood’s work to improve health and wellness and address the social determinants of health in the region. To see a full list of award recipients or to learn more about Dogwood Health Trust’s grant opportunities, including the Leverage Fund, visit www.dht.org.

Dogwood Health Trust is a North Carolina nonprofit corporation with the sole purpose of dramatically improving the health and well-being of all people and communities of Western North Carolina. Dogwood Health Trust became operational upon the sale of Mission Health’s assets to HCA Healthcare and is the recipient of the net proceeds of the sale. To learn more, visit www.dht.org.



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Continued growth means increased expenses for men's center

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Michael Barres, executive director of Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center acknowledges that continued growth during the past two years of existence has been "encouraging." However, with increase comes – increase.

"We are spending about \$2,500 a month more than we are bringing in," explained Barres. "We had some special gifts in 2018 and 2019 that have carried us, but our reserves are running low."

He pointed out that some of the one-time gifts were designated for specific projects, such as gutters, new flooring, an on-campus building where men can learn mechanic skills, commercial refrigerators (to replace eight little ones), and more. Macon Furniture Mart offered "partial discounts, partial donations" for new mattresses to equip the men's dorm, since existing mattresses were leftovers from the property's camp days and upwards of 30 years old. A truck was also donated so that the gravel road into the campus can be maintained.

"There are so many to thank and so much to be thankful for," said Barres.

However, needs are ongoing regarding insurance costs, utilities, food, payroll, and other expenses.

"Some people in the community see all the donations we have received so far and think we are fine. But we have an annual budget of about \$300,000," said Barres.

Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center is a faith-

based, 12-month residential addiction recovery program. For 10 years, a former church camp off Highlands Road sat empty on 10 acres along the Cullasaja River. Men's Center leased the campus in 2015 (with an option to buy), embarking on the



Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center has graduated 16 men from its faith-based, 12-month residential addiction recovery program.

challenge of restoring and revitalizing dorms, education rooms, a picnic area with a basketball court, a dining hall, an industrial kitchen, offices, a gym, an auditorium, and more. Barres said

the camp was in "terrible disrepair" when they secured it for the Men's Center. At least 300 volunteers were involved in getting the campus in an operational and livable state before it could open and receive applicants.

The purchase of the property became official last July through the North Carolina Assemblies of God loan program with terms at 0%.

"Our payments to own the property are the same as they were when we were leasing it," said Barres, "\$2,000 a month."

Although the sale price of the camp is more than \$1 million, North Carolina Assemblies of God agreed to match dollar for dollar what Teen Challenge of the Smokies raises.

"That means that once we pay \$567,000, the property is ours free and clear," said Barres. "It is our desire to pay [the amount] off so that we can continue to be free of debt and our money is free to be used to help men gain freedom from addiction."

So far, 16 men have graduated from the program and 18 are currently enrolled. Last year, 14 made decisions to live their lives for Christ and were baptized in the Cullasaja River.

"Because of what's happened in their lives since they've been here, many want to sing and testify in area churches," said Barres. "And they want to volunteer in the community ... give back. They've volunteered at CareNet, No Wrong Door, Holly Springs Baptist – for Operation Christmas Child, Manna Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and to

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help elderly individuals with projects such as yard work or moving.”

On the first Friday of every month at 6 p.m., a Men’s Center group joins others to circle at the courthouse in Franklin for Prayers Against Drugs.

“So many stories of restoration so far here,” said Barres. “Not just an individual’s restoration, but in their families and relationships as well. They’ve learned or are learning not just to be clean and sober, but to think, react, and live differently.”

The “therapeutic environment” of the campus has helped men heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually, assured Barres. “During their 30 minutes of devotion time they often find a spot by the river. And we also have opportunities for them to work out, play ball, or participate in corn hole and horseshoes with one another.”

All men in the 12-month program are involved in group studies, personal studies, Bible study, counseling, chapel, and work. Barres shared that life skills and coping skills are taught every day in classrooms in order to give the men “new tools” to handle the stress and problems of life. Barres assists in teaching such subjects as work ethics, relationships, preparing a resumé, etc.

After graduation, men in transition have the option of renting an on-campus cabin for a low rate and working and interning. Or, they are encouraged to return to their homes, establish accountability, and become “plugged into” community, a church, and the workplace. Contact is maintained with graduates after they complete the program.

“Some men have been here three weeks and others eight months.

“There’s a lot of peer to peer opportunities,” said Barres. “If



Some of the men enrolled at Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center craft rustic furnishings in the on-campus woodworking shop to be sold at the Thrift Store.

someone knows how to weld, he will teach the others. And [furniture maker] John Roper has been coming in since we started to teach how to make rustic furniture in the woodworking shop.” Furniture is sold at the Teen Challenge of the Smokies Thrift Store on US-441 located between Franklin and Sylva.

Barres said that profits from the Thrift Store help with about 5% of the Men’s Center’s overall budget. This past year, the former camp pool was filled in and a garden was cultivated, maintained, and harvested by some of the men enrolled in the program. “Rick Shays is over our kitchen,” said Barres. “He teaches some of the men to cook, so they cook with and for each other and all the vegetables grown in the garden were eaten.”

He added that individuals, churches, and organizations within the community also provide some meals. “Rick will organize a food drive and put the word out about what is needed. Or, a group or a restaurant will commit to providing a meal for 25 once a month. It would really help if more committed to doing that for the men.”

Besides ongoing donations of food and funds, the Men’s Center is in immediate need of sofas for a primary gathering space. “I realized some of the sofas were being held together by duct tape when they were moved for the new floor to be put in. And they are just in bad shape overall.”

Another immediate need is a minivan to taxi one or a few individuals to doctor’s appointments, for example.

And, although there are about a dozen committed volunteers who contribute time at the Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center or Thrift Store, more are always needed, asserted Barres. “There’s so much that people can do ... volunteer their time at the store, teach a skill, teach a class or help around the grounds.”



Welding is one skill taught and practiced at Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The annual town budget retreat is today [Thursday], at Coleman Hall of First Presbyterian Church. As always I want to thank the church for sharing with the town this great meeting facility. The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. It will run through mid-afternoon.

The first part of the retreat will be reports from the town manager and department heads. These presentations will identify the budget needs and priorities of each department.

As usual the big budget items will come from the public works department, which include water and sewer, the electric, road and sanitation departments. A preview of needs in this area suggests significant spending. For instance, a garbage truck will need to be replaced. The constant operation of these vehicles impacts their serviceability. A garbage truck can cost around \$200,000. We will also be addressing several upgrades and maintenance items in the water department, including replacing old water lines. I anticipate a substantial list of paving projects from our town public works director and engineer. Paving roads should be a top priority for this upcoming budget.

In the parks and recreation area I don't see any large, immediate items. Nevertheless, I think it is time to initiate plans to replace the old Houston House on Foreman Road. It currently serves as an after school center for children.

I don't foresee major expenditures in the Police Department except for one. The state is encouraging all law enforcement agencies to convert to the Viper radio system which is currently used by the state patrol. This system provides better coverage and connects all agencies under one seamless system. Our police department needs this upgrade.

We will also be looking at Fire Department Capital needs. This review will be in concert with the new fire station that is under design.

After the staff and commissioners finish their wonderful box lunches, we will hear two reports from local groups. At around 1 p.m., Kaye McHan of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce will provide an update of chamber plans and activities. I believe it is important to work with the chamber in addressing community issues such as downtown aesthetics and appearance.

At about 1:30, Cindy Trevathan of the Performing Arts Center will give the board an update on the building of the new theater venue that will house both PAC and Playhouse events. The arts have a tremendous impact on the economic vitality of a community.

See TAYLOR page 11

Letters to the Editor

Border security is health security

The genius of President Trump is that he is using the left's attacks on him, against them! Lately, the left has been trying to pin responsibility on the president for not responding adequately to the corona virus outbreak. But the policy of open borders, held by all of the Democratic candidates for president, is a threat to the health and well-being of the United States. Liberals condemn U.S. citizens because our ancestors came here, bringing small pox to the Native Americans. However, these same leftists are all in favor of open borders, allowing illegal aliens to flood into the U.S. exposing its citizens to corona virus, and many other threats to the health and well-being of our own population.

One reason why the president is so popular with many Americans is because he is not afraid to put our safety and prosperity above that of people who aren't citizens of this country.

Just as the Chinese are welding the doors shut of people's homes who are sick with the corona virus, many other countries are shutting their national borders in order to stop the disease from spreading.

The globalist policies of the liberals do not benefit any country. President Trump was right when he stated to the U.N. that the age of globalism is over. It is time for nations to support and defend their own people. They should establish mutually beneficial trade policies between individual nations, instead of one-sided globalist policies which don't help the people, but instead, tear down one nation while building up another. It was amazing to see the huge throng, packed into the largest Cricket stadium in the world last week to hear President Trump speak to the people of India. More than 125,000 people crowded in for the largest Trump rally ever, while thousands more witnessed the event from outside the stadium. Our president and First Lady are extremely popular in India and many other countries. This bodes well for the future of both the U.S., and India, the second most populous nation in the world (17.7% of the entire world's population.)

Meanwhile in France, the "yellow vest" protests move into their 70th week. Every Saturday, French workers gather to protest the globalist policies of Macron. Illegal immigrants are over-running France, telling French citizens to stay away from public monuments paid for by their own taxes.

When will Americans unite behind our great president, who is the envy of billions of people around the world? This man has helped the black community so much that some are calling him the first black president. Black household income is up 2.6% to the highest level in 20 years! Black poverty has reached a new record low at 20.8%. Under President Trump, 350,000 black American citizens have been lifted from poverty. The black unemployment rate has reached the lowest level ever recorded! The president asked

for the black community's vote in 2016. He challenged them with, "What have you got to lose?" I expect he will get an even larger response with their votes in 2020, and he deserves it because he is the first president in a very long time, to keep his promise to them.

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Trump, Republican Party making corruption the 'norm'

Is it possible Donald Trump and the Republican Party he seems to have successfully hijacked have (together) made corruption the political "norm" in the United States? I'm asking for a friend.

Joel Stein (*Los Angeles Times*) asked a similar question. "Why did President Trump pardon a rogue's gallery of white-collar criminals?" Stein went on to state; "many people assume he commuted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's sentence and pardoned junk bond king Michael Milken, tax cheat Bernard Kerik, and others, simply because they were friends or because he owed them a favor."

In Trump's world view (which we Americans have witnessed with our own eyes and ears), cheating is neither here nor there, it's irrelevant and these white collar crooks he pardoned had been unfairly persecuted for doing what everybody else does, it's no big deal.

Blagojevich is calling himself a "political prisoner," even though he was caught, among other crimes, demanding that the CEO of a children's hospital give his campaign \$50,000 or see its public funding cut off.

Stein states succinctly in layman's terms, "it's clear who benefits from accepting corruption as normal and inevitable – the strongmen trampling democracy around the globe."

Clearly Donald Trump fits that genre; in fact, it's not only characteristic of Trump, he excels at it. In Trump's world (and that of those he surrounds himself), truth is inconsequential, totally unimportant. Conversely Trump seems to take extraordinary pride in his own lies, the number and severity of which are legend.

It was a severe blow to our system of checks and balances that Trump remained in office following his impeachment, dodging justice by disregarding the Constitution and refusing to comply with subpoenas.

Our government's inability to oversee the executive branch coupled with Trump's disdain for truth and justice has substantially crippled our government and contributed significantly to making corruption normal and acceptable. This is a severe threat to our most fundamental institutions and to the very foundations of our democracy.

By remaining silent, or by supporting Donald Trump in any way, shape or form, we become (either knowingly or unwittingly) accomplices, co-conspirators in the devaluing and ultimate death of America's most cherished and treasured moral standards and guiding principles. Are you willing to let that happen? God help us.

David L. Snell – Franklin, N.C.

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We must be careful of altered weights

In ancient times as in today, we use measures and standards to determine values, weights and quantities. I remember a time when buying a pound of meat from a butcher, you made sure his thumb was not touching the scale. This would be a measure by a corrupt merchant to make an item appear heavier than it was. He redefined the measure to conform to his will.

Altered weights not only corrupt merchants but also society. When we change the meaning of God's word, we are dealing with altered weights and false measures. We know everything has two sides, good- evil, life- death, God-Satan, male-female. We either believe the Bible is the living word of God or we don't. We must be careful of altered weights. We must never change the truth to fit our will but rather change our will to fit the truth. We must never bend the word of God to fit our lifestyle but rather change our lifestyle to fit the word of God. We must be careful of false standards and false measurements. Second Timothy 4:3-4 says For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Mike Townsend – Franklin, N.C.

What do you believe?

Last week one letter writer stated that Trump released the transcript of his July telephone call with Zelensky. He did not. He released a version that he wants us to believe. Zelensky said he was under no pressure. What would you expect him to say in his first few days in office to the most powerful nation on earth from which his country desperately needs military aid to hold off invading Russia?

Further, that writer wrote that Republicans were “denied access” to the SCIF. Most people doubt the veracity of Trump’s claim about that. It appears that Trump refused the opportunity to participate in his own defense.

Bear in mind that I do not have access to the facts surrounding Washington proceedings. My informed opinions are expressed here.

Furthermore, in reference to another writer’s words I will contest the claim that the Bible (God’s word) is supported by scientific evidence. I believe there is some correspondence between the historical records of the Bible and scientific study. But, the correspondence is far from complete. Bear in mind: European settlers could not explain to the native “savages” where God came from. Can anyone reading this claim to know the answer to that question? Yet many people still believe every word in the Bible. That is their

right in America.

The reality is this: Neither creation nor evolution can be proved beyond doubt. Folk-rocker Bruce Springsteen wrote “...at the end of every hard day people find some reason to believe.” They believe in evolution or creation. They believe! That is all they can do with what we have – believe.

Paul Simon sang, “Still a man he hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.” It seems like we all do that at times. We like to hear what supports our beliefs. Then we believe what we hear. There is comfort in believing something. But, we should question our beliefs over time. What do you believe?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Local doctors, practitioners not listed in directory

I recently received my copy of [a local “Medical Directory.”] Looking through it, I was immediately struck by the notable absence of many of my colleagues, such as Drs. Messino, Chay, Thakuri, Foley, Burrell, Wolf, Helm, Aruwani, Vargas as well as Advanced Practitioners such as Sherrie LaLande and Kirk Wahtera. Many of these dedicated professionals have diligently provided outstanding, compassionate medical care to the citizens of Macon County for 20 years or more.

Coincidence? Oversight? I think not. The common denominator appears to be that none of these individuals are affiliated with Mission/HCA, and most were "asked to leave" their previous locations by Mission/HCA. Imagine that!

So, it begs the question... is [a local paper] and Mission/HCA new bedfellows, or did they simply choke on a big gulp of Mission/ HCA Kool-Aid?

Either way ... a pathetic excuse for a "Medical Directory."

Gustav C. Wilde MD – Franklin, N.C.

TAYLOR

Continued from page 10

After these two presentations the town board will go into closed session to consult with our attorney concerning the contract with WideOpen Networks to lease dark fiber and operate broad band services from the town’s new fiber optic system. I anticipate the board coming out of closed session to consider approval of the contract. Upon the signing of the contract, WideOpen will set up operations of the network as the fiber optic network nears completion sometime in May or June.

FYI: A town staff representative attended a county health and emergency response meeting concerning implementation plans if a corona virus outbreak occurs.

Community Bag Program to benefit nonprofit MPP

Macon Program for Progress has been selected as a beneficiary of the Community Bag Program for the month of March.

The BI-LO Community Bag Program, which launched in February 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

Macon Program for Progress was selected as the March 2020 beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the BI-LO located at 245 Macon Plaza Dr Franklin, NC. Macon Program for Progress will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at this location during March, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

“Macon Program for Progress is truly grateful for the honor of being selected for this opportunity.” said Chuck Sutton, Executive Director of M.P.P. “We are very grateful

for the support for our families of Macon County from BI-LO and all who donate by buying a shopping bag.”

Macon Program for Progress is a non-profit based in Macon County, North Carolina. Founded in 1965, Macon Program for Progress leads and collaborates to improve quality of life for individuals, children and families. M.P.P. facilitates the grants to provide the citizens of Macon County with MPP 0-5 Head Start program, H.U.D Rental Assistance, Parents as Teachers, WIOA- Adult and Dislocated Worker Program, Self Sufficiency Program and a host of small community service programs.

Learn more about Macon Program for Progress by visiting mppnhc.org.

For more information on the Community Bag Program, visit seg.bags4mycause.com.

Submitted by Tasmien Bissell, Program Monitor, MPP Head Start; (828)524-4471 ext. 340.

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An Open Letter to Our Community

Over the past few weeks, we have heard heartfelt concerns from members of our community and our own team about the present and future of Mission Health and its transition to HCA Healthcare. **I want to assure you that our commitment to our patients across western North Carolina remains steadfast and at the forefront of all we do.**

Mission Health and HCA Healthcare understand the enormous trust placed in us to serve this community through the provision of excellent healthcare, and we take our responsibility very seriously. We've listened to the passionate feedback shared by our team members and the community we serve, and we welcome this opportunity to share with you some important reflections on the first year of our new partnership and to address the comments we have heard.

We knew this transition would be challenging at times and, as with any healthcare system acquisition, change would be inevitable. It's helpful to remember that **Mission Health selected HCA Healthcare as a partner because it offered the financial stability to help preserve and expand the high-quality healthcare our friends and families have come to expect from Mission Health.** The promises we agreed to at the time of the sale were critical to this decision, and our mutual commitment to them is unwavering.

This past year has been one of intensive learning from each other as we have worked collaboratively through many changes and challenges. We know we can create more opportunities to hear from our community and our teams while keeping these important stakeholders more informed about what we are doing and why. Improving our communication with our communities and our team members is critical to our ongoing success.

In that spirit, I'd like to share with you more details about some of what we've experienced at Mission Health since last February:

- With our more favorable patient financial assistance policies, we provided approximately \$252 million in charity care, uninsured discounts and other financial assistance in our first full year of operation. This represents approximately \$100 million more under the new HCA Healthcare policy than under Mission Health's prior policy. You can find out more about our financial assistance programs, which we've recently made more accessible, via the main page of our website, missionhealth.org.
- Across the 18 counties we serve, we've recruited more than 100 new providers (47 new physicians and 66 new advanced practice providers) over the past year, including some hard-to-fill positions in our regional hospitals serving the more rural areas of our community. Among these is a full-time primary care physician starting in May 2020 to serve the Cashiers community.
- At Mission Hospital in Asheville, we've seen both our inpatient admissions and emergency room visits grow by more than 10% in 2019. To meet this significant growth, we have hired hundreds of RNs, as well as other bedside caregivers and support team members. This includes staffing our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to a higher level to ensure the most critically ill newborns have the care they need.
- Because of this rapid growth, we've also brought in a number of traveling nurses to meet the volume growth demand while we are diligently recruiting more full-time nursing staff.

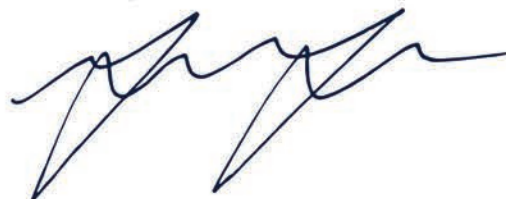
- We recently adjusted our approach to deploying Health Unit Coordinators (HUC) and Patient Care Technicians (CNAs) to better support our RNs on the nursing units.
- In October, we completed and opened the Mission Hospital North Tower, the culmination of more than eight years of planning and construction. While this beautiful new state-of-the-art facility means we've brought most of our inpatient services under one roof, integrating it into our staffing and processes meant a very complex transition for our staff to navigate.
- The new facility has also increased the need for environmental services (housekeeping) team members at Mission Hospital; we've filled 35 open positions on that team since January and are currently hiring for additional positions to meet the increased demand.
- To help recruit and retain our team members, we increased the minimum wage across Mission Health to \$12.50/hour last fall. Additionally, we recently provided further targeted market adjustments to raise the pay of hundreds of people in critical roles that help support excellent care at the bedside.
- We've added ways to reward our staff. In 2019, we implemented HCA Healthcare's student loan repayment program. To date, the program has contributed nearly \$700,000 to our eligible team members. And, we've recently implemented HCA Healthcare's tuition reimbursement program, through which full- and part-time team members can qualify for up to \$5,250 per calendar year - that's double Mission Health's prior program - in tax-free reimbursement for applicable higher education courses, including tuition, books and course-related fees.
- We know there have been concerns about our initial decision to close the CarePartners Wheelchair Seating Clinic because of its heavy dependence on grants that we are no longer able to accept. As we reconsidered this decision, we realized we may have moved quickly without having an alternative option readily available to patients. The clinic has continued to serve those patients with the highest needs during a transition period. And now, we are delighted that another community provider has agreed to assume operations of the clinic; we expect to have a more detailed announcement about this very soon.

- We have invested \$280 million in capital funding to support the delivery of care through state-of-the-art technology.
- We paid \$8.9 million in new property taxes for 2019, providing resources that were previously unavailable to our communities that now help fund vital services and infrastructure needs throughout western North Carolina.
- During the past year, we've helped western North Carolina welcome more than 4,000 new babies and have stood side-by-side with family members and friends as we delivered lifesaving care with advanced technology.

It's certain there will be more challenges to come as we continue this journey together. What's even more certain is our commitment to working with you to preserve and advance the quality of care, and to navigate the changing needs of our western North Carolina communities. That's been our commitment for more than 134 years, and it continues to guide our decisions today.

We commit to being open as we respond to feedback, to continue listening to our community and to do a better job of providing updates about our health system. We are *all* Mission Health, and I hope you will join me in continuing to support this vital community resource as we continue to grow and improve for you.

Sincerely,



Greg Lowe
President
North Carolina Division



Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 21 - 29. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 26

Samuel Ray, 38, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Logan Tyler Mann, 27, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$3,500 bond was set. Parriah W. Young made the arrest.

Michael Eugene Richards, 51, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Parrish W. Young made the arrest.

Jordan Jean Russell, 27, of Otto, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Monique Laberne Smith, 28, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Steven Chase Stanley, 27, of Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of Marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer, warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$9,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

February 29

Jason Robert Mock, 37, of Franklin, was charged with fugitive with out of state felony. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Matt Dillan Laws, 25, of Sylva, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. A secured bond of \$3,500 was set. Anthony Hopkins made the arrest.

Crystal Ledbetter Spies, 37, of Franklin, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, maintaining a place for controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 23

James Carl Doolin, 67, of Skeenah Rd., was charged with merchant product code fraud. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Officer Norman made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 21

Charles Robert Bumgarner, 30, of Bo Cove Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

Scott Patrick Voyles, 30, of Bedrock Rd., Whittier, was charged with misuse of 911. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

February 22

Melissa Marie Loy, 42, of Edward Fowler Rd., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, possession/altered/fictitious/revoked drivers license. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Brandi Nichole Johnson, 32, of Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, felony probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Martin Gary Noone, 56, of Mollybe Lane, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$100 was set.

James Robert Bagley, 45, of Sylva, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Whisper Nocolle Cogdill, 26, of Huckleberry Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine/controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$34,000 was set.

Ronald Jamal Billings, 26, of Westwood Circle, Waynesville, was charged with injury to personal property. An unsecured bond of \$250 was set.

Chad Ronald Leon Webb, 22, of Pumpkintown Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$1,200 was set.

Scotty Lee Nelson, 36, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with misuse of 911 system.

Travis Aron Zepeda, 23, of Lyle Knob Rd., Franklin, was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, brake/stop light equipment violation, possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Carol Ann Sanders, 29, of Lyle Knob Rd., Franklin, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz., possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia. No bond was set.

February 23

Emma Marie Evitt-Harris, 25, of Calender Court, was charged with failure to appear for retail theft under \$1,500, conspiracy to commit felony larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Christopher Ray Williams, 20, of New Prospect, Cullowhee, was charged with sexual battery, false imprisonment, assault on a female. No bond was set.

February 24

Stacey Cameron Hoyle Lowe, 27, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking opium, maintain a dwelling for keeping and selling a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Blake Pearson Henry, 25, of Leatherwood Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking opium, maintain a dwelling to keep and sell a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell/deliver heroin. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Gregory Evan Mashburn, 25, of Sylva, was charged with injury to real property, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$90,000 was set.

Joseph Diaz, 28, of Rockhill Church Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting, trafficking opium, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver fentanyl, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Travis Keith Mathis, 42, of Frosty Ridge Rd., was charged with felony probation violation. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Jessica Robinson Melton, 37, of Poplar Dr., was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. No bond was set.

February 25

Adam Michael Diaz, 30, of River Bend Rd., was issued a child support purge. A \$3,234 was set.

Ryan Warren Muster, 26, of Dark Ridge Rd., was issued a child support warrant. A \$165 bond was set.

Sarah Jane Smathers, 27, of Dark Ridge Rd., was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Leslie Codi Smith, 30, of Valley Brook Dr., Maggie Valley, was issued an order for arrest for breaking and entering. A \$2,000 bond was set.

February 26

Jeffery Alyn Lombard, 62, of TS Lance Rd., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for reckless driving to endanger, driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Ja Lin LG Virgo, 19, of Montana Dr., Thomasville, was charged with resisting a public officer, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, felony possession of marijuana, felony maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance. No bond was set.

Cassandra Chey Fox, 23, of Ferguson Rd., was charged with receiving stolen goods/property, conspire to obtaining property by false pretense. No bond was set.

February 27

Martin Louis Armachain, 44, of Pamlico Dr., Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Anthony James Elton, 54, of South Hwy 107, was charged with fictitious information to officer, domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Trevor James Hyatt, 23, of Bristol Dr., was charged with driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, reckless driving to endanger, obtain property by false pretense, breaking or entering, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set.

February 28

Brandon James Graham, 29, of Gaston Inn, Gaston, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen motor vehicle, larceny of motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Chad Ray Lequire, 38, of College St., Lebanon, Va., was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, accessory after the fact. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set.

February 29

Teresa Lynne Henry, 57, of Willets Rd., was charged with communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

High Mountain Squares "Black and White Dance," will be held on Friday, March 6, from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m., at the Robert C Carpenter Community Building. Richard Smith from Gainesville, Ga., will be the caller. Western-style square dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call, (828)787-2324, (828)332-0001, (706)746-5426, (727)599-1440.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile rambling hike on Saturday, March 7, with an elevation change 500 ft., around Wallace Branch, up the Bartram Trail, crossing a stream to a lovely trail through the pines, returning on a Forest Service Road. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10 a.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Irene Brew, 772-263-3478, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2-mile hike on Sunday, March 8, with an elevation change 400 ft., on Whiteside Mountain Loop between Highlands and Cashiers with spectacular views of the Chattooga River Valley 2,100' below. Peregrine falcons may soar by. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 1 p.m., drive 38 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet on Tuesday, March 10, light dinner 6 p.m., at the Post Home located, 614 W. Main St., with the regular meetings at 7 p.m. All members and military veterans are encouraged to attend.

Gastric Bypass Support Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., at Angel Medical Center third floor Conference room. For more information, call Linda at (828)524-5635 or Betsy (828)347-5244.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zumba Classes are held at the community building on Monday and Thursday, from 6 to 7 p.m.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m., Robert Akers and Pope McElvy theme will be "Rising Above Illusions." Movie night is held every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., potluck held afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 21

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

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FHS cheerleaders headed to Hawaii

Three members of the Franklin High School cheerleading team have been selected to go to Cheer Hawaii – Katy Nettles (senior), Madison Phillips (junior) and Belle Reale (sophomore). The nomination is based on grades, leadership qualities and personal growth throughout the year.

The cost for each participant is \$2500 plus airfare totaling around \$3,500. Complete tuition must be paid by April.

The girls have been fundraising up a storm via T-shirt sales, bake sales, pura vida bracelet sales, sponsorships, raffle tickets for a large Spode pheasant platter and Le Creuset Dutch oven, gift baskets etc.

Roland Mock, owner of Rockin Rollie


Hard at work fund-raising for Cheer Hawaii are from left, Belle Reale, Katy Nettles and Madison Phillips. Rockin Rollie Pollie's restaurant on Main Street is sponsoring Spirit Saturday, March 28, with a portion of the proceeds going to help in their fund-raising goals.

Pollie's restaurant on Main Street is helping out by sponsoring Spirit Saturday the last Saturday in March to help them in their fundraising goals. The girls will work bussing tables, waitressing, hosting etc. on Saturday, March 28. A portion of all sales will be donated to help the girls get to Cheer Hawaii. They'll also have T-shirts and baked goods for sale or preorder on the way out of the restaurant.

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

Highlands Botanical offers Monday tours

Something is always changing in the Highlands Botanical Garden. Join the Highlands Biological Station on the first Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a guided tour to see what's new in the demonstration gardens and among the hundreds of



species that call the HBS campus home. To participate in this free event, meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd. The tours are weather dependent. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University. For more information, call (828) 526-2623.

Where We Live series presents 'Critters of Coweeta'

On Monday, March 16, the lecture series Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture will present a program "Critters of Coweeta," by Jason Love.

Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Franklin is known for its research on forest hydrology, forest ecology, and stream ecology, but the lab also boasts an impressive number of studies on wildlife. This presentation will explore the history of wildlife research at Coweeta and will take a closer look at some of the critters that call Coweeta home.

Jason Love worked as the site manager for the Coweeta Long-Term Ecological Research program



Jason Love

for nearly 11 years. He earned a B.S. in Forest Resources from UGA and an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University. He currently works as the Associate Director for the Highlands Biological Station, Western Carolina University.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Cowee School, 51 Cowee School Drive, off NC 28 N in Franklin.

The Where We Live series programs are held the third Monday of each month. On April 20, Dr. Michael Ann Williams will speak on Folk Dwellings of Southwestern North Carolina.

Second annual UNIFY March Madness set March 26

The 2nd Annual UNIFY March Madness game set Thursday, March 26. The event is free admission and open to the public. Franklin High School and the student body will welcome the Macon County community to come enjoy this very special night in the Panther Den. Opening Ceremonies and player introductions will begin at 6 p.m. The National Anthem will be performed by the Franklin High School B-Naturals. There will be student and teacher entertainment between quarters, halftime performances by Franklin Indoor Percussion and Winter Guard as well as an autograph session following the game. Concessions will be sponsored by the Franklin High School Booster

Club and Chick-Fil-A of Clayton.

What is Unity March Madness? Through shared basketball training and experiences, UNIFY March Madness will benefit and join Franklin High School students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team with the objective of continuing to build community within the school. With the help of teachers and coaches, students will help plan and lead this event. Through weekly practices, Franklin High School special needs students (current and alumni) are practicing the game of basketball in preparation to compete in the UNIFY March Madness game on March 26.



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Deaths & Funerals

Wendell Waldroop

Wendell Waldroop, 85, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with his Lord on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Grady and Nancy "Nannie" Battles Waldroop. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a son, Keith Waldroop; four brothers, Siler, Quinton, Bob and Rusty Waldroop; three sisters, Belva Anderson, Katherine and Ethel Waldroop.

He retired from General Motors after 40 years and then went on to work in the real estate field for 30 years in North Carolina and Michigan. He was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church. In his spare time, he enjoyed picking the guitar, singing and telling a good story. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Tippet Waldroop; two sons, Mitchell Waldroop of Franklin, and Vincent Waldroop (Brenda) of Lake Orion, Mich.; two brothers, Mickey Waldroop (Charlene) and Howard Waldroop (Betty) both of Marietta, Ga.; five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 7, at 11 a.m., at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. Rev. Guy Duvall and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Jean Simons Dills

Jean Simons Dills, 89, went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, March 1, 2020. She was born in Swain County to the late Thomas Burton Simons and Lottie Clark Simons. She was married to the late Lyle Dills who preceded her in 1991. She worked and retired from C.R. and VanRaalte and worked for the Senior program for the Forestry Service. She was a good cook, loved gardening, and traveling on bus tours. Most of all she was a mighty woman of God, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Survivors include her daughter,

Patricia Ledford and husband Tim of Mint Hill, N.C.; a son, Ronnie Lyle Dills and wife Nancy of Franklin, N.C.; a grandson, Chad Ledford and wife, Amanda of Weaverville, N.C.; a great-grandchild, Mia Ledford; a sister, Ruth Burnette of Franklin; two brothers, Earl Simons and Bob Simons, both of Franklin. In addition to her parents and husband Lyle Dills, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Pauline Freeman and Maxine Arvey; two brothers, Dent Simons and Clint Simons.

A funeral service will be held Friday, March 6, at 11 a.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial will follow in the Carson Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

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



Wendell Waldroop



Jean Simons Dills

Joyce Elizabeth McLeod Barfield

Joyce Elizabeth McLeod Barfield, 88 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, March 2, 2020. She was born July 1, 1931, in Ontario, Canada, to the late Ralph McLeod and Doris (Shaw) McLeod. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and enjoyed being a homemaker. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, designed wedding cakes and custom dresses. She was of the Christian faith and attended several local churches.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, James Barfield; a daughter, Carol Anne McCann and husband Craig of Otto, N.C.; two grandchildren, Jessica Wood of Atlanta, Ga., and Katherine Wood of West Melbourne, Fla. She is preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, March 5, at 3 p.m., at the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Terry Wilkes officiating. Burial will follow at the Addington Cemetery.

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



Joyce Barfield

William Roy 'Bud' Flowers

William Roy "Bud" Flowers, 69, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2020.

He was born in Clayton, Ga., and was a lifelong resident of the Macon County area. He was the middle child of the late Claude and Jessie Tallent Flowers.

He was a retired brick and block mason. He liked to fish, ride motorcycles, hunt ginseng, and listen to country music. He loved to talk and never met a stranger. He will be greatly missed by all.

He is survived by his brother, Gene Flowers (Shirley); sister, Shirley Tenney (Roger); nephews, Bobby Roper, Daniel Tenney, Ryan Flowers and special friend, Cathy Parrish as well as his faithful black-lab, Angel.

No services have been planned at this time.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



William 'Bud' Flowers

Neely 'Renee' Guy Meyers

Neely "Renee" Guy Meyers, 51, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020.

Born in Hapeville, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Robert Guy.

She survived by her husband, Kenny Wayne Meyers; three children, Josh Houston (Amanda), Brandon Elliott (Kailin) and Savannah Elliott, all of Franklin; and three grandchildren, Payton Houston, Paislee Houston and Phoenix Wilson.

No services have been planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Neely Meyers

Richard Douglas Miller

Richard Douglas Miller, 86, of Scaly Mountain, N.C., passed away Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

He was the son of the late Jessie and Minnie Ethel Carpenter Miller. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Jeanette McConnell; a sister, Ruby Vinson; two brothers, Edwin Miller and Everette Miller and a granddaughter, Patricia Ann Miller.

He was a lifelong resident of Scaly Mountain and was a member of Scaly Mountain Church of God, VFW Post #7339 and the Scaly Mountain Community Association. He was a Sgt. E-5 in the Army and served in the National Guard. He proudly served his country in both the Korean Conflict and Desert Storm. He was an electrician for Wilson Electric.

He is survived by his children, Charles Dale Miller (Lisa), Donald Eugene "Blue" Miller (Tammy), Teresa Arlene Miller Holbrooks, all of Scaly Mountain and Sheila Gail Miller Kinsey (Deed) of Cashiers; one sister, Elizabeth McConnell of Scaly Mountain; six grandchildren, James Miller, Steven Miller, Mary Beth Burrell, Jessica Brooks, Brandon Kinsey and Cassandra Connor; 12 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 5, at 11 a.m., at Scaly Mountain Church of God. Rev. Don Bates and Rev. Steven Miller will officiate. Mr. Miller will lie in state one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Scaly Mountain Methodist Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Scaly Mountain Church of God, 278 Buck Knob Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Richard Douglas Miller

Nina Lois Mashburn Wood

Nina Lois Mashburn Wood, 95, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020.

She was born in Macon County April 7, 1924, to the late Grady Mashburn and Jane Henry Mashburn. She was married to the late Zane Alexander Wood who passed away in 2012.

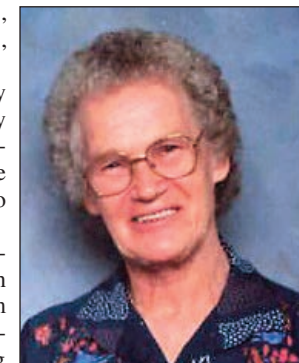
She was a member of the Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church and she worked and retired from Angel Hospital in the housekeeping department. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a blessing and encouragement to many people through the years.

Survivors include her son, Marshall Wood (Ina) of Franklin, N.C.; three daughters, Devanah Long, Wanda Ashe (Lewis), and Dottie Nicholson (Charles); 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Rosa Woods of Canyonville, Ore., and Alice Underwood of Cullowhee, N.C.; and two brothers, David Mashburn and Dayton Mashburn, all of Franklin.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Mildred Vaughn and Gertrude Mashburn; three brothers, Furman Mashburn, Bruce Mashburn, and Howard Mashburn; a son-in-law, Eddie Long; and a grandson, Edward Long.

A funeral service was held Friday, Feb. 28, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Bud Haire and Rev. Robert Dryman officiating. Burial followed in the Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Doug Wood, Tony Ashe, Tim McMahan, Gary McMahan, Lloyd Mashburn, Glandon Vaughn, and Robbie McMahan.

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



Nina Wood



Deaths & Funerals

Alice Marie Gadilhe

Alice Marie Gadilhe, 92, of Oxford, Ga., formerly of Highlands, N.C., passed away Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020. She was born March 10, 1927 in Anniston, Ala., to the late Albert Joseph Gadilhe and Alice Marie Jenkins Gadilhe. She graduated from Springhill College and worked as an accountant for Anesthesia Services in Mobile, Ala., for 30 years. She had a passion for woodworking, was a great cook, enjoyed traveling, and loved her seven nieces and her pets. She was a member of the Highlands Presbyterian Church and attended an hour early every Sunday when she was available to attend.



Alice Marie Gadilhe

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Nell Gadilhe; seven nieces, Genie Blough, Renee Childers, Michelle Sims, Cherie McElwrath, Alisa Gadilhe-Pfloege, Nanette Watson and Barbara Fowler. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her two brothers, Brooks Gadilhe and Gene Gadilhe and his wife, Elizabeth; and best friends, Fern and Fred Reuter.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, March 4, at 11 a.m., at the Highlands Presbyterian Church with the Dr. Curtis Fussell and the Rev. Emily Wilmarth officiating. Burial will follow at the Highlands Memorial Park. The family will receive friends following the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Highlands Presbyterian Church 471 Main St. Highlands, NC 28741.

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

Foy William 'Papa' Dryman

Foy William "Papa" Dryman, 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Belle Dryman. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Frances Bingham Setser Dryman. He was an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church where he served as president of the Men's Group, was a choir member and was always first to church every Sunday to open up. His love was spending time with his granddaughter, taking her to all of her practices, games and events; he would always go to every FHS football game.

He is survived by his daughter, Lois Setser of Pineville, N.C.; granddaughter, Christian Currence (John Radley) of Charlotte; great granddaughter, Hayden Radley and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 4, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Eric Henson, Rev. Robert Dryman and Rev. Norman Dryman officiated. Burial was in the Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Sam Dryman, Ted Bingham, Terry Scott, Stuart Beach and Roy Green.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Asbury UMC Cemetery Fund, C/O Alan Vinson, 1050 River Valley Rd, Franklin, NC 28734. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Foy Dryman

Betsy Peele Lillard

Betsy Peele Lillard, 89, of West Columbia, S.C., formerly of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Born in Washington, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Roscoe L. Peele and Josephine Fodrey Peele. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, Talmadge Ray Lillard, who died in 2019; sister, Emily Cherry; sister-in-law, Shirley Spruill; and grandson, Joseph R. White. She attended Washington High School (Washington, N.C.).

She is survived by her daughter, Judy Kaye White (Frank); sister, Virginia Reed (Don); brother, John W. Spruill Jr.; nephew, Curtis Woolard, raised by Ray and Betsy; granddaughter, Elizabeth White and great granddaughter, Ava White.

A graveside service will be held Monday, March 9, at 11 a.m., at Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

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



Betsy Peele Lillard

Jesse Wayne Gibson

Jesse Wayne Gibson, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

Born in New Orleans, La., he was the son of the late Hubert Gibson and Shirley Leslie Webb Gibson Land. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Annette Register Gibson; his second wife, Sarah Mulbah Gibson; and seven brothers and sisters. He was a member of Franklin Church of God.

He is survived by two children, Teresa Ann Jennings (Jay) of Doraville, Ga., and Tim Gibson (Lynn) of Franklin; many stepchildren and three grandchildren, Caitlin Gibson, Nathan Gibson (Elizabeth) and Justin Gibson.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, March 3, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Michael Stephens, Rev. C.A. Register, Jr., Rev. John Waters and Dr. Bishop Williams officiated. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Franklin Church of God, Bus Fund, PO Box 717, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

David Warren Warth

David Warren Warth, 49, passed away Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Highlands, N.C. He was born April 2, 1970, in Michigan. He owned and operated Warth Construction in Highlands. He loved to work seven days a week; he loved car racing, working on cars, and was an avid car collector. He loved playing golf and fishing on Lake Burton, Ga. He always loved making jokes and laughing up until the very end of his life.

Survivors include his wife, Danielle Warth of the home; a niece, Molly Mendez; and his father and mother-in-law, James "Jake" and Donna Jacobson of Scaly Mountain, N.C.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Thursday, March 5, at 11 a.m., at the Highlands First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Randy Lucas and Rev. Paul Christy officiating. The family will receive friends following the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family ask the all memorial donations go towards any Republican Party in your local town.

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



David Warren Warth

Lois Thompson Sparks

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

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

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

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Marvin Elbert Moffitt

Marvin Elbert Moffitt, 78, of Cullowhee, N.C., passed away on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of the late Finley Josiah Moffitt and Vylenna Belle McCall Moffitt. He enjoyed music and playing guitar and dobro. He was Christian by faith and attended the Church of God.

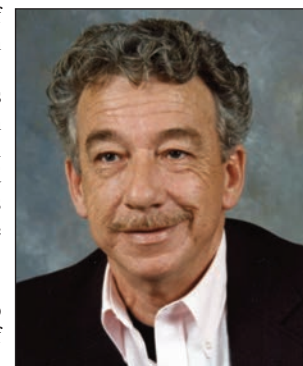
He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Judy Lusk Moffitt; two sons, Randy Moffitt (Angie) of Yellow Mountain and Tony Moffitt of Cullowhee; daughter, Genise Moffitt of Cullowhee; sister, Wilean Stiwinter of Cullowhee; two grandsons, Wade Moffitt and Hunner N. Humphrey; three granddaughters, Brittany Mathes and Hannah Humphrey Kinsey and Heather D. Humphrey; great grandchildren, Kali D. Smidt, Colton, Logan and Noah Mathes and twelve nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Delbert McCall, Rev. Ned Pressley Rev. Frank Crowe will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m., prior to the service at the funeral home.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



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Alex Bowman racks up dominating win at Fontana

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

FONTANA, Calif. – Alex Bowman had a new nose for the finish line Sunday at Auto Club Speedway.

Driving the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet—a sleeker version of the Camaro with a new front fascia—Bowman ran away with the final stage of the Auto Club 400 at the two-mile track in the Inland Empire.

In picking up his second career victory and his first at Fontana, Bowman led five times for 110 of the 200 laps in the third NASCAR Cup event of the season. He grabbed the top spot on Lap 133, gave it up briefly during a cycle of green-flag pit stops midway through the final run and regained it for the final time on Lap 167 when Brad Keselowski gave up the lead to come to pit road.

After Ryan Blaney—running second at the time—was forced to pit with three laps left because of a corded right rear tire, Bowman crossed the finish line 8.904 seconds ahead of runner-up Kyle Busch, who made a solid run forward from his 17th starting position.

"How about that, California?" an exultant Bowman shouted after exiting his car. "I grew up quarter-midget racing maybe 20 minutes from here in Pomona Valley. Went there every week, met a lot of great friends and I know a lot of you guys were here. I promised my buddy Aaron that we would get matching '88' tattoos if I won, and I think I have to go get a tattoo now, but that will be a good time.

"It's been a lot of fun. Thanks to (crew chief) Greg (Ives) and all the guys. He made great calls all day. We were up front when it counted."

Bowman looks for better things to come after winning at Fontana—the antithesis of the aftermath of his first career victory at Chicagoland Speedway in June of last year.

Blaney led 54 laps, handily winning Stage 2 after finishing second to Bowman in Stage 1. But after Bowman pulled out to a five-second lead in the closing laps, Blaney came to pit road on Lap 197 to change the shredded tire and finished 19th, one lap down.

Busch inherited the second position after Blaney's issue and finished 1.013 seconds ahead of brother Kurt Busch, who rallied from a pit road snafu (missing his stall under the first caution on Lap 63) to run third.

Kyle Busch was pleased with his team's effort, but he leaves Fontana still searching for the speed that carried him to the cham-



Alex Bowman, driver of the #88 Cincinnati Chevrolet, applies the winner's sticker after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Auto Club 400 at Auto Club Speedway on March 1, in Fontana, Calif.

pionship last year.

"Yeah, we have a lot of work to do," Busch acknowledged. "Guys did a great job here, though, just trying to work on it and trying to make everything that we could out of it all day long, all weekend long. The Interstate Batteries Camry wasn't a second-place car, but thankfully we got a good finish out of here—we tried to get some points.

"Guys are doing all they can, I know, and all everybody at TRD (Toyota Racing Development). So I appreciate all the hard work. We've just got to get a little bit better. We finished the end of last year so strong, I don't know what we're missing here, but, obviously, it's a little bit of something here or there, maybe a little bit of something in a few different areas. But overall, good car today."

Chase Elliott came home fourth and Keselowski fifth. Denny Hamlin, Jimmie Johnson, Aric Almirola, Kevin Harvick and Erik Jones completed the top 10.

Johnson, who is retiring from full-time Cup racing at the end of the season, led three times for 10 laps but faded in the final run to finish seventh. Pole winner Clint Bowyer pounded the Turn 2 wall with a flat tire on Lap 93, the result of a valve stem cut during a green-flag pit stop four laps earlier.

Martin Truex Jr. started last (38th) after his car failed pre-qualifying inspection three times, but the 2017 series champion drove through the field to the second position. A green-flag pit stop on Lap 160, however, proved his undoing.

Truex's rear tire changer developed a cramp in his arm, and

Truex never recovered from the resulting slow stop. He finished 14th.

Tyler Reddick was the top-finishing Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender with an 11th-place run. Ross Chastain came home 17th in his second race as a substitute for injured Ryan Newman.

Nineteen-year-old Harrison Burton gets breakthrough NASCAR Xfinity win at Fontana

FONTANA, Calif. – Holding off teammate Riley Herbst with a determined run over the final 19 laps, 19-year old rookie Harrison Burton charged to his first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory in Saturday's Production Alliance Group 300 at Auto Club Speedway.

Working his way through traffic in the closing laps in his No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, Burton beat Herbst's No. 18 Camry to the finish line by .455 seconds, with Austin Cindric trailing the winner by .642 seconds in third.

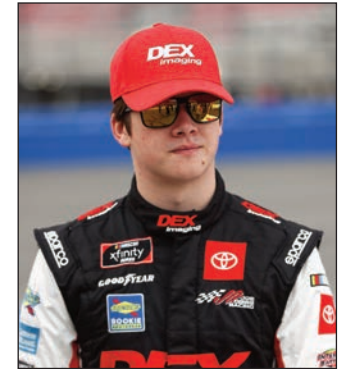
The victory was redemption of sorts for Burton, son of former NASCAR Cup Series star Jeff Burton, after last year's winless season in the NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series.

"Heck yeah, man, this is awesome," said Burton, who protected the top lane over the final 19-lap green-flag run. "All we've heard is that we can't do it... we'll never do what last year's (No. 20 team with driver Christopher Bell) did, but we're off to a good start. It feels so good to win."

In a third Joe Gibbs Racing car, the No. 19 Toyota, Brandon Jones led the first 73 laps in sweeping both the first and second 35-lap stages of the race. But Jones suffered a tire rub and subsequent flat tire after contact in traffic on a restart on Lap 102 of 150 and was relegated to 30th at the finish, four laps down.

Ryan Sieg ran fourth behind Cindric, posting his second straight top five and third straight top 10 to start the 2020 season. Justin Haley was fifth, followed by Anthony Alfredo (sixth in his first start in the series), Daniel Hemric, Ross Chastain, Jeremy Clements and Josh Williams.

Chase Briscoe, last week's winner at Las Vegas, led 16 laps, but his No. 98 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford spun off Turn 4 on Lap 26 while chasing Burton for the lead. Briscoe finished 19th, two laps down.



Harrison Burton

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

THEME: CANDY

ACROSS

- 1. Unfathomably deep chasm
- 6. Lawyer group
- 9. Factoid
- 13. Non-flat area
- 14. Loquacious person's gift
- 15. Member of clergy
- 16. Kitty sounds
- 17. Mesozoic one
- 18. All thumbs
- 19. *Who's Pieces?
- 21. *Life ____
- 23. Comic book cry
- 24. Evening in Roma
- 25. Boar's mate
- 28. Bank deposit
- 30. Actress Ali or singer Tim
- 35. Flying saucers
- 37. Yeahs' opposers
- 39. One of the Muses
- 40. Ancient region of western Europe
- 41. *Sweet bear
- 43. In a little while, old-fashioned
- 44. Like a neon sign
- 46. Fashion's "New Look" inventor
- 47. Weasel's cousin
- 48. Cash in credit card points, e.g.
- 50. "Good grief!"
- 52. The Old Man's turf
- 53. Tucked in
- 55. Sine ____ non
- 57. **"Gimme a break" bar
- 60. *Egg with a surprise
- 63. Southwestern hut
- 64. Step on it
- 66. Small Asian ungulate
- 68. What radiology and biology have in common
- 69. Chihuahua's cry
- 70. a.k.a. Ernest?
- 71. Japanese money, pl.
- 72. Blitzed
- 73. Industrious

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- 7. *Hershey made the first American milk chocolate one
- 8. Belittle
- 9. Have supper
- 10. Tennis serving whiz
- 11. Memorial Day solo
- 12. "The ____ of Racing in the Rain"

- 15. Fast and lively
- 20. Increasing
- 22. Location of ulna
- 24. Hindered
- 25. *Principal candy ingredient
- 26. Allowed into a bar, e.g.
- 27. Past tense of will
- 29. Glorify

- 31. SI unit of mass
- 32. Raja's wife, pl.
- 33. Do penance
- 34. *Famous fictional bar
- 36. ____ gin
- 38. Smoke plus fog
- 42. Baghdad resident
- 45. Not strongly

- 49. CEO's deg.
- 51. Fertilized
- 54. C2H5
- 56. "J" ____ " by #46 Across
- 57. Green superfood
- 58. Desktop picture
- 59. Facebook photo links
- 60. Not disregarded, as in a prom-

- ise
- 61. Marine eagle
- 62. Surprise at a speakeasy
- 63. *Almond-induced state
- 65. Cardinal 3
- 67. Bovine hangout

DOWN

- 1. Similar to an adder
- 2. View from a moving train
- 3. Yesteryear
- 4. Shopping ____
- 5. Creates disorder
- 6. Forever and a day

SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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

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

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