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Franklin High School Resource Officer Greg Rogers hands off a box of lunches to custodian John Brown to load on to a bus to be delivered to students who are at home due to the governor's orders to close schools. The mandate has been extended through the end of the year. On Wednesday, 850 lunches were delivered to high school students. Other schools around the district are also delivering lunches every day which will continue through May 22. Principal Barry Woody (far right) is also lending a hand.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

No school for rest of year; graduation plans uncertain

Diane Peltz – Contributing writer

The School Board met on Monday for its regular meeting. On the agenda was a discussion on graduation issues and the ongoing ramification of school closures. Members of the board gave input into how to hold a graduation ceremony during this state of emergency, once again navigating unfamiliar waters to find a solution to an issue that has never occurred before.

Macon County School Board Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin explained the situation regarding graduation ceremonies and time constraints contingent on many factors. He spoke about the May 8 date, which Governor Roy Cooper has established could be Phase 1 in the reopening of the state. That is dependent on whether the state meets certain benchmarks set by the governor. If phase 1 was to last two weeks, then during Phase 2, which would begin on May 22, the number of people allowed to gather would be increased. That could allow for graduates and families to be able to gather together up to 50 people for a ceremony. If Phase 1 lasts up to four weeks, then phase 2 would begin in early June.

Several scenarios were discussed regarding ways in which to hold graduation commencement ceremonies. Several districts in North Carolina have proposed holding a virtual graduation ceremony. If students want to wait until Phase 2

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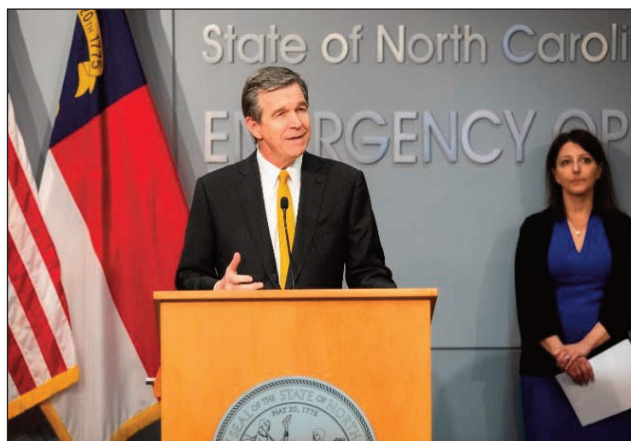
States bordering N.C. begin reopening

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Four states border North Carolina: Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. And, since Macon County is located in the western corner of North Carolina, one can drive only a few miles and cross into Georgia and South Carolina – going east – and into Tennessee, traveling a little farther west. Thus, how each state is responding to the current COVID-19 crisis and how and when each state's governor might ease mandated stay-at-home orders and quarantine restrictions is of importance to Macon County residents.

The number of cases across North Carolina reached 9,142 on Monday, according to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. North Carolina is reporting 306 deaths, 109,920 completed tests, and 473 people currently in the hospital.

Gov. Roy Cooper and the state's coronavirus task force announced a statewide stay-at-home executive order, #121, on March 27, which is currently in effect. On Thursday, April 23, Gov. Cooper presented through a press briefing his latest mandate, which is to extend stay-at-home in North Carolina until at least May 8. Dine-in restaurants and bars,



Gov. Roy Cooper makes an announcement on phased reopening of the state. With Cooper is North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.

hair salons, movie theaters, and others, as outlined in his previously signed executive order, will not be allowed to open until sometime after May 8.

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Staffer brightens up the halls of Grandview Manor

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 **MISSION HEALTH**

Two more from Franklin head to N.Y.

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After three weeks working on the front lines of COVID19 in New York City Franklin native Aubrey Balmer got her orders to return home this week.

“I was released from the assignment yesterday morning and I fly out today,” Balmer said Tuesday morning.

On April 7, New York City had reported 68,776 cases of the virus with 15,333 people hospitalized and 2,738 deaths. As of Tuesday, April 28, the city had 292,027 cases and reported 17,303 people had died. But the number of new cases in the state seems to have reached a plateau, and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has said, “I believe the worst is over if we continue to be smart.”

While the outbreak in New York City is improving, there is still a need for medical workers across the country to help the city stabilize and progress. Just as Balmer was to return home to her family, two Franklin residents, Jami Fletcher and Stephanie Crabtree travelled to New York to work on the front lines.

“My last hooray is I’m running in Central Park this morning with Jami,” said Balmer. “I knew Jami was coming out, and we had hoped to be in the same hotel to help take care of each other. In most situations in life, it’s good to have a solid friend. It’s such a comfort to think Jami and Stephanie are here, I think we all know if anything bad happened we’d all be willing to hop in a taxi and help.”

Balmer said that although she was a long way from home for the past three weeks, she was never alone.

“I was worried before I came that if I fell ill or needed help I would be all alone,” said Balmer. “I didn’t expect to develop such good relationships with my coworkers so quickly. I knew after a few days in the trenches with my new provider buddies, we had each other’s back. There were a few tears, and honestly I’m processing a few things. But, we turned stress into laughter. And if I’m honest, it was a liberating adventure. My patients were wonderful, the coworkers were amazing.”

As she has done throughout her journey, Balmer looks for the positives and how she can learn from her experience.

“It’s been such a rewarding experience,” said Balmer. “And seeing a city that is normally withdrawn transform into welcoming and supportive community is awesome. It will be interesting to see how COVID alters our society from here on



Stephanie Crabtree in her PPEs.

out. It’s not going to go away. My hope is that this somehow sparks a desire in our population to become healthy and build a healthy immune system.”

Crabtree graduated with an associates degree in nursing in 2013 from Southwestern Community College and started working at Angel Medical Center. Crabtree continued to work at Angel Medical Center while obtaining her Bachelor’s Degree of Science in nursing.

In 2017, Crabtree took a job at Mountain Lakes Medical Center in Clayton, Ga., before transferring to Northeast Georgia Medical Center to gain experience working in the trauma center, which she needs to become a flight nurse, which is her ultimate career goal.

“I absolutely love Northeast Georgia Medical center, they are a wonderful organization to work for and I have learned so much in my short two-and-a-half years there,” she said. “When I first heard of the crisis in New York, I had a small little draw to want to go help but we were still busy in Gainesville and unsure of the direction the pandemic would go,” she said. “After the shutdowns, it slowed everything down. We were having to on-call or be cancelled for a shift a lot due to low census. I had made the decision to go PRN [part-time as needed] in January after dealing with childcare issues and wanting to be home with my boys more. After my hours started being cut, the thought of New York came back. If my skills weren’t needed here, then I should go where the need is. They need nurses and I felt bad that I was only working one day a week. I wanted to help.”

When Crabtree made the decision to work in New York, she did so with the support of her husband Stephan and their two boys, Abel and Parrish. Crabtree is also expecting her third child in November, something she found out shortly before getting the call to head to New York.

“I signed up to go through Team Rubicon, which is an organization that mobilizes veterans to serve communities during disasters. I was told they needed nurses and it did not matter that I was not a veteran, that they were taking civilians,” said Crabtree. “So after talking to Stephan I put my name in to go. I got an email that said I



Stephanie Crabtree collected cards to take to patients in New York.



Balmer and Fletcher on a run in Central Park Tuesday morning before Balmer left.

would be getting a call soon. That was on a Thursday. I was driving home from work that day and honestly a little overwhelmed. I felt God tugging at my heart to go serve in New York but a few weeks prior we had found out we were pregnant which added some anxiety about going. God has been working on my heart a lot this past year, and I have been focusing on trusting Him no matter what, and leaning on Him for strength and not trying to do it all on my own or be in control."

Like Balmer, Crabtree's desire to serve in New York was fueled by her faith in God.

"Our family has been through a lot, and we couldn't get through the hard times without leaning on God," said Crabtree. "It's an amazing thing when you can let go and let God. I knew that if he was putting a desire to go to New York on my heart there was a reason and all I needed to do was trust Him. The night I was driving home from work, I was crying out to God and praying. Honestly the thought of coming to New York was very scary especially pregnant. The thought of leaving my boys for four weeks was a little overwhelming. But I trusted Him and I prayed, "God if this is what you want me to do then open the doors and I will go." The next day I received a call and he asked "how soon can you get here?" That day I set up child care for the boys, got my shifts covered at work, and bought a plane ticket."

Crabtree is bracing for changes and the unknowns – while conditions in the city are im-

proving, there is still a long road ahead.

"We have been told to expect our numbers to rise as we are trying to debulk the hospital and facilitate patients' recovery so that they can go home," said Crabtree. "We also have a palliative care unit attached to ours where we provide hospice care to those that are dying from the disease. In the palliative care unit families are able to visit. We have been told to possibly be expecting our palliative care numbers to rise as they are having to make tough decisions to extubate (take them off the ventilator) people. Most of them will likely die as they have been on a ventilator for close to 30 days."

With encouragement from her son – and the support of the community, Crabtree believes she made the right choice to answer the call. On Tuesday, she received a care package from friends and neighbors in Macon County with dozens of cards to give those she is treating in New York.

"I am so thankful for all the support from our community, family, church family, and friends," said Crabtree. "This experience so far has been humbling. I am not anything special, and I don't want people to recognize me. It's not me. This is all God. He paved the way, He opened the doors and He worked out all the details. All I did was say yes to God. It's amazing what He can do and How he can use us if we just trust Him and say "Yes Lord, here I am, send me."

County to ease emergency restrictions May 8

Macon County Emergency Service Director Warren Cabe announced Wednesday morning that the county State of Emergency will be lifted on May 8, the same day Gov. Roy Cooper plans to end the state's Emergency order and begin a three phase process to reopening North Carolina following the COVID-19 Pandemic. Cabe's order applies to Macon County, with the exception of the town of Franklin and Highlands limits – the individual towns will make decisions on the future action of their respective orders.

"With the number of COVID-19 positive patients having a minimal impact to date on the healthcare system in Macon County and with provisions available to pause reopening actions or take further actions deemed necessary and appropriate in the future, the regulations so imposed by the Emergency Management Coordinator are deemed no longer necessary as of May 8, 2020 at 5 p.m."

The provisions in the county ordinance that will end May 8 include the local closure of lodging facilities in Macon County as well as a recommended 14-day quarantine for second home owners. Although these restrictions will end of May 8, Cabe still cautioned businesses to follow protective measures.

"Macon County residents and visitors to our county are strongly urged to follow the state standards for social distancing," reads the release. "All businesses should also follow recommended social distancing and hygiene practices.

Beginning May 8, Cooper is expected to launch phase 1 of the state's reopening plan, which is expected to last 2-3 weeks, depending on the status of COVID-19 in the state. Phase 1 will allow residents to shop at retailers who are permitted to be open, rather than the "essential shopping only" regulation imposed during the Stay-at-Home order. Restrictions will continue to lighten through Phase 2 and Phase 3, with an eventual complete reopening.

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SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

or 3 is implemented, possibly pushing graduation ceremonies into July, then some 200 students and 600 parents might be allowed to gather together, possibly on the Franklin High School (FHS) football field, sometime in late June or early July. That would also depend on the weather and if the governor would allow that number of folks to gather. If the governor allows gatherings of 50 or less during Phase 2, then Highlands and Nantahala could hold their graduation ceremonies at that time.

"If we get a relapse [of Covid-19] during Phase 2 or 3, that would mess us all up again. That's what scares me a little bit," said school board member Tommy Cabe.

Chairman Jim Breedlove spoke about whether or not it is wise to wait until June or July to hold graduation ceremonies. He explained that they were caught between a rock and a hard place because they don't know what the governor is going to say about mass gatherings. If they hold graduation now and have a relapse or uptick later, they won't have to worry about the governor saying, well you are past the date and now you can't have it at all.

"That is a very real possibility," he said.

Dr. Baldwin said that they were at the mercy of the governor, the Macon County Health Department and the EMS director in order to determine how many folks can gather together in one place at one time.

School Board member Stephanie McCall expressed concern about not having traditional graduation ceremonies, including her own daughter's. "These kids need this." McCall read a letter that her daughter, Kedra McCall, wrote. The letter said she wanted to have a traditional ceremony, but if that was not possible, she writes, "then we can resort to virtual. But for now we should at least try to do traditional. If it gets worse and it comes that time, then we go virtual. But me, and all my friends want and deserve a traditional graduation. We've gone to school for 13 years looking forward to walking across the stage in front of all of our friends and family since we were tiny. It's an exciting time and something that's memorable. I want to wear my cap and gown and throw my cap in the air with all of my best friends. If anything, my parents deserve to be there – especially in our community. Our parents put everything into us, their own kids and other kids in our community." Kedra attends Highlands School and is one of 30 seniors graduating this year.

Effects on students due to school closures

Schools have been closed to students since March 15 and will



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

not reopen again this school year. They have however, been open to virtual learning. During this time students have not been given any new work to learn, only work to reinforce and retain what they have already learned. Some of the issues with virtual learning is internet access or lack of it. Only 74% of students have internet access and of those, 48% say it is good enough to do their work.

"We have been asked to do something our education system isn't meant to do," said Breedlove.

Some teachers are going above and beyond including Megan Rogers, 2nd grade teacher at South Macon Elementary School. Rogers has been placing tiny trinkets and notes into her students' weekly packets. She has also visited her students, all while social distancing, waving signs that says she misses them and her students wave back, happy to see their teacher once again.

In terms of going back to school in the fall it is estimated that students will have only 70 percent of language arts skills and only 50 percent of math skills needed to enter the next grade. Some students may actually be a full year behind. Much of the fall school year will begin with catching up to grade level expectancy. The question is whether to start school on time or start earlier, depending on the COVID-19 issue during the summer.

Dr. Baldwin explained that there are several scenarios being floated around by officials regarding opening up school in the fall. It is possible that if social distancing guidelines are still in

place, that students might have to start with special scheduling. There might be an A day and a B day where only half of the students attend school on each of those days, in order to reduce the number of students, to be able to accommodate social distancing guidelines. There could also still be some days of remote learning. Schools will also have to be prepared for intermittent closures due to flu or COVID-19 upticks.

As for high school seniors entering college who will also be behind in their studies, colleges will have to come up with a plan to make up for those learning losses. Many seniors are think-

ing of taking a gap year before attending college this fall. Some colleges might continue to offer remote learning well into the fall or even the spring.

When Gov. Cooper declared schools would close for the rest of the school year, Dr. Baldwin released the following statement:

"None of us have been properly prepared for the circumstances that we find ourselves facing. Our school system is not designed as a 'remote learning' school system. We pride ourselves on building strong positive relationships with students and families and through these relationships providing individualized, "in person" instruction. Our teachers have high expectations and compassionately demand the best effort from students. This is a difficult task to accomplish over the phone or on an app, especially with little or no training. Our students did not enroll in virtual schools, they need to be in our classrooms in order to truly be successful. Our parents are under tremendous pressure with their jobs as well as now having become teachers. I know that many of you are teaching your classes and then teaching your own children another completely different lesson. These are challenging times to say the least. I am in awe of how you, our students, and parents have faced this unprecedented crisis.

"We will continue to monitor the Governor's Executive Order and communicate with the Macon County Health Department in the hopes of providing some end of the year student activities."



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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REOPEN

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"Our state is not ready to lift restrictions yet," Cooper said on April 23. "We need more time to slow the spread of the virus." Even though he pointed out that North Carolina is "flattening the curve" where COVID-19 is concerned, he added, "This decision is based on data. I know people want their lives and their livelihoods back, but first we need to hit certain metrics because the health and safety of North Carolinians is our number-one priority."

He said his three-stage plan is based on expert input and current data. Details of the plan include: 1) Stay-at-home will be modified so that more retailers and businesses will be open – even though social distancing will still need to be implemented; mass gatherings will be limited; parks will reopen; and, confined communities such as nursing homes will still be restricted; 2) After a few weeks of hitting data benchmarks, houses of worship, restaurants, and bars can reopen as long as they operate at reduced capacity; 3) After several more weeks of hitting benchmarks, restrictions on all entertainment venues, mass gatherings, houses of worship, places housing vulnerable populations, etc. will be lifted.

Cooper explained that the three-stage plan may involve backtracking if COVID-19 health dangers increase.

"We won't go back to how we lived before February anytime soon. But we will rebuild the damage this virus has done to our state," he maintained. "[N.C.] will tap that resiliency to look out for each other."

Cooper's plan to lift stay-at-home restrictions is considered more conservative than some governors, while Georgia's governor has received both praise and criticism for becoming one of the first U.S. governors to take a more aggressive approach to establishing business as usual.

Georgia

Gov. Brian P. Kemp had announced on Monday, April 20, "As of noon today, we now have 18,947 COVID-19 cases in Georgia with 733 deaths. The state lab has processed 5,362 tests, and commercial vendors have processed 78,966 tests. ... Our prayers remain with the victims and their loved ones. We lift up those who are battling this terrible virus. We remain focused on the safety and well-being of every person who calls Georgia home. ...

"Informed by the Coronavirus Task Force and public health officials, 'Opening Up America Again' includes three phases to safely reopen and get folks back to work. To initiate Phase One, a state must meet a series of basic criteria. ... For weeks now, our state has taken targeted action to prevent, detect, and address the spread of coronavirus by leveraging data and advice from health officials in the public and private sectors. Thanks to this methodical approach and the millions of Georgians who have worked diligently to slow the spread of coronavirus, we are on track to meet the gating criteria for Phase One. ...

"In the same way that we carefully closed businesses and urged operations to end to mitigate the virus' spread, today, we are announcing plans to incrementally - and safely - reopen sectors of our economy. ...

"Given the favorable data, enhanced testing, and approval of our healthcare professionals, we will allow gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, body art studios, barbers, cosmetologists, hair designers, nail care artists, estheticians, their respective schools, and massage therapists to reopen their doors this Friday, April 24, 2020. Unlike other businesses, these entities have been unable to manage inventory, deal with payroll, and take care of administrative items while we shelter in place. This measure allows them to undertake baseline operations that most other businesses in the state have maintained since I issued the shelter-in-place order. ...

"Subject to specific social distancing and sanitation man-

dates, theaters, private social clubs, and restaurant dine-in services will be allowed to reopen on Monday, April 27. Bars, nightclubs, operators of amusement park rides, and live performance venues will remain closed. In the days ahead, we will be evaluating the data and conferring with public health officials to determine the best course of action for those establishments. By taking this measured action, we will get Georgians back to work safely without undermining the progress that we have all made in the battle against COVID-19. ..."

South Carolina

On April 20, Gov. Henry McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-28, which removes restrictions on public access points to the state's beaches, public piers, docks, and wharfs, while delegating to local officials the authority to restrict access, as they see fit.

This order also re-opens retail stores that were closed pursuant to Executive Order 2020-18. The businesses to be reopened are a:

- Furniture and home-furnishings stores
- Clothing, shoe, and clothing-accessory stores
- Jewelry, luggage, and leather goods stores
- Department stores, with the exception of hardware and home-improvement stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Book, craft, and music stores
- Flea markets
- Florists and flower stores

All other businesses previously closed by executive order will remain closed until further notice.

Under the order, retail stores reopened Monday, April 20, at 5 p.m., but they still must adhere to strict social distancing requirements, operating at 20% occupancy or five (5) customers per 1,000 square feet, whichever is less. In addition, businesses must not knowingly allow customers to congregate within six feet of one another, excluding families, and follow relevant CDC and DHEC guidelines.

However, on April 27, Gov. McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-29, which declares a state of emergency throughout the state and allows for the state's response to COVID-19 - and the ever-evolving challenges the pandemic presents - to continue. After issuing Executive Order 2020-29, Gov. McMaster stated: "South Carolina continues to fight this deadly virus with every asset and resource available. While we are making progress, we must remain vigilant with expanding prevention and testing efforts. Our state is also facing an economic disruption and emergency the likes of which we've never seen, and we are working tirelessly to get our businesses back up and running and our people back to work as soon and as safely as possible."

Tennessee

On Friday, April 24, Gov. Bill Lee issued the first steps from the "Tennessee Pledge," the state's rollout of guidance and best practices for Tennessee businesses in 89 of the state's 95 counties to keep employees and customers safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The first industries to receive guidance through the plan include the restaurant and retail industries.

Lee said the April 24 announcement is the first step in a phased reopening of the state's economy, which entails re-booting industries as they are safe to pursue in 89 of the state's 95 counties. Lee announced Tennessee restaurants and retailers were able to reopen Monday at 50 percent occupancy. The state recommends that employees in both industries wear cloth face coverings and that business owners follow federal guidelines for hygiene and workplace sanitation standards related to the pandemic.

"Like the rest of the country, Tennessee has taken an unprecedented economic hit with families and small businesses feeling the most pain," Lee said. "We must stay vigilant as a state, continue to practice social distancing, and engage in best practices at our businesses so that we can stay open."

EDC explains role in light of strained economic climate

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While many in Macon County may never have heard of or paid attention to the Macon County Economic Development Commission (EDC) in the past, the global pandemic has caused local residents and business owners to take notice due to stay-at-home and quarantine mandates causing extraordinary strain on the economy.

Vice mayor Barbara McRae, who serves as secretary on the advisory board of the EDC, said the last meeting was spent “brainstorming the possible ramifications of the disease, and we tried to consider what we could do. Clearly, we have been sidelined by events ...”

The commission is made up of more than a dozen representatives of businesses and service entities in Macon County. The purpose of the commission is to focus on, as its mission statement attests, “Creating a climate for business and industry investment, innovative entrepreneurship and quality job creation in Macon County, North Carolina.”

McRae explained EDC’s role in the community.

“We hold meetings every other month (not now though), and typically hear a presentation on a subject of importance of particular interest. These have ranged from reports on the school’s STEM program (which inspired us to support county funding for it), to reports on the employment situation, to tours of local industries and presentations by their managers. Mem-

bers represent the spectrum of industry and business in the county – manufacturing plants, major employers, chambers of commerce, bankers, the two towns, etc.

“Board members also assist with EDC functions, such as the annual BizWeek banquet and activities. We also advocate for projects or programs that members agree are in the best interest of the county. For that reason, we have stepped into issues like the opiate crises, which on the surface is not an economic development matter, but we have had to face the fact that it is. Recently, we agreed to do a strategic plan to guide our work going forward.”

Since March, the EDC has provided periodic e-newsletter updates regarding economic resources and news with the stated goal to “monitor the effects of the COVID-19 situation on our local economy and to identify programs or resources that might be of benefit to local businesses. As these programs become available, we will provide information and assistance.”

“Our immediate concern is working with strategic partners, the Chambers, SCC Small Business Center, municipalities, health department, to figure out how to safely reopen,” said EDC director Tommy Jenkins. “Hopefully, that will roll out here shortly, in the next few weeks. I know a lot of small business have applied for various loan programs. My encouragement to them is to be patient, stay in the queue, and stay in contact with your lender. Folks who are dealing with unemployment issues ... obviously the systems weren’t built for the

load it’s handling now. So people need to be patient but vigilant.”

Recently, the EDC has made the public aware of a COVID-19 Business Impact Survey, provided by the Southwestern Commission (Region A), which joined with regional economic development partners to establish the survey. “The data from the survey will be essential in developing mitigation strategies to assist businesses and communities during the pandemic and in the transition to a post COVID-19 economy.”

The survey, which asks for input “important to the future of our local and regional economies” is available on EDC’s website, www.maconedc.com. The EDC also established a new page on its website that offers coronavirus economic resources for and updates for Macon County businesses.

Jenkins is optimistic about Macon County’s economic future.

“Franklin’s going to come back. Highlands is going to come back. People are going to want to get out when reopening occurs. Maybe there won’t be a rush-out-the-door reopening because the public will be a little hesitant until they are confident they are safe, but we live in one of the most beautiful locations in the world, and people will always want to live, work, and visit here. If you look at Macon County, we are basically an entrepreneurial community. Our major and our smaller employers are entrepreneurial driven. And there is just a lot of local support from the public.”

COVID-19 Antibody Tests are coming: What do we know?

Up until now, almost all COVID-19 testing completed and reported have been antigen tests. These tests look for the presence of the actual antigen SARS-CoV-2 (aka COVID-19). If these antigens are found it indicates the virus is present and is likely capable of infecting and causing illness. Therefore, testing for the actual virus has been an indication of an acute infection. More is known about these tests and their meaning than about the coming antibody testing.

What is an Antibody and Antibody Testing?

Antibody testing looks at the body’s immune response to the virus, rather than antigen focused testing. Antigens are molecules recognized as foreign to our bodies. The immune system responds by making antibodies to attach to these foreign antigens. From there, antibodies block or kill the antigen in an attempt to prevent infection and illness.

The Concerns

Although antibodies are helpful to fight off infection, they are not always able to differentiate between the portions of the antigen that cause illness and the portions that do not. This is a concern when it comes to antibody testing because it is not specific enough to identify if these antibodies were created against the portion of the antigen specifically responsible for infection with the virus and if they are unique to COVID-19 or related to another strain of Coronavirus, like SARS or MERS.

Ultimately, the new antibody testing, will be beneficial to understanding the immune response to COVID-19; however, it is not specific enough to determine whether short-term or long-term immunity is provided from the antibodies. Antibody testing can only show the presence of antibodies that have been created in response to the COVID-19 antigen, but it cannot determine if the antibodies were created from the infectious portion, thus testing is not able to determine the level of immunity provided.

Macon County Public Health regularly updates its Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19; check out the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth for up-to-date information.

Submitted by Emily Ritter for Macon Co. Public Health

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Mission phasing back COVID-19 response; affirms new Franklin hospital

Within the next several days Mission Health plans to begin phasing back in certain services and procedures that were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

To date, Mission Health has not seen the surge of COVID-19 patients initially anticipated when the pandemic first began to spread across the country. There have been just over 20 inpatients with COVID-19 throughout the entire health system as of late April.

"Thankfully the sacrifices we have all made to flatten the curve have helped to slow the spread of the virus. This gives us hope as we plan to restart services that we temporarily suspended in March as part of our initial response to COVID-19. Both clinical and operational changes are required to ensure the safety and security of our patients and employees and we're committed to getting this right," said Greg Lowe, President HCA Healthcare NC Division/Mission Health.

Due to our intense planning efforts and good supply levels, we are now carefully turning our attention to serving patients whose treatments may have been put on hold because of COVID-19. We understand that many of our patients have forgone important procedures like cancer therapies and joint replacements due to the pandemic, and we are developing a cautious, comprehensive strategy to allow for the safe return of these pa-



Angel Medical Center is slated to be replaced with a new facility just off the 441 bypass. HCA spokesperson said construction was slated to begin in late 2020. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

tients to our facilities. As we begin this transition, the health and safety of our patients and our colleagues remain our top priority, so be assured that any reinstatement of services will be part of a careful, phased approach.

Mission expects to begin a return of services in phases, within the next week to 10 days. In the first phase, we will work to resume procedures that were deferred or canceled during the initial COVID-19 response time. When we make the decision to proceed with services, it will not be a switch, but a

dial—enabling us to stay attune to necessary calibrations as we move forward. We will regularly evaluate our best practices to assess when and if we need to make adjustments. Our willingness to adapt in this way is a direct reflection of our commitment to providing the highest caliber care. We value the confidence our patients have in us, and we hold ourselves accountable for reinforcing that confidence in the days ahead.

William R. Hathaway, MD FACC Chief Medical Officer, Mission Health, noted, "Consistent with Governor Cooper and DHHS Secretary Cohen's guidance yesterday, we are carefully planning and undertaking a phased approach to begin care that focuses on the most critical and timely patients who have been waiting while we prioritized our services for COVID-19 patients."

Safeguards have been implemented across the system, such as universal masking and screening of all patients, visitors and employees, to reassure our patients and team members who may have more concerns

about coming to a healthcare facility than they did in the past.

As another aspect of this approach, we are working with physicians to understand what they will need to resume more normal operations in their practices to include social distancing and proper screening of patients as well.

Mission Health is making critical decisions and taking decisive action every day to protect and support our patients, colleagues and caregivers while determining the safest way to phase back in important procedures and other medical services.

"Thanks to the good work of residents adhering to our Stay Home - Stay Safe policy, the risk of exceeding the capacity at Mission Hospital to care for all patients is now low. County health officials are comfortable with Mission performing important medical procedures that had been placed on hold.

Residents can receive the health care they need and our nurses and doctors can carry out their work. The county will coordinate with Mission to carefully monitor patient numbers to assure adequate capacity going forward," said Brownie Newman, Chair of the Buncombe County Commission," said Brownie Newman, Chair Buncombe County Commission.

"Mission Health stands ready to provide care for all patients and is a safe choice for all in our community who need our care, now and for the future," said Lowe.

Mission Health to remove triage tents at local hospitals

Mission Health announced the organization would be removing the emergency triage tents it placed at its hospitals last month. The tents, which were installed as part of standard emergency planning protocols and for training exercises, were to create additional capacity as the COVID-19 pandemic evolved.

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“Fortunately, we have not yet seen wide-spread transmission of COVID-19 at this point in our community or a surge in our hospitals,” said Kathy Guyette, Division Chief Nursing Executive of the North Carolina Division of HCA Healthcare. “As a result, over the next few weeks we will begin removing the tents from their current locations.”

Should the need arise in the future for the additional space provided by the tents, they can be reassembled in a matter of hours to meet demand.

“Having the tents up and available has added greatly to our preparedness efforts, and these have been a source of security for our staff and the community,” Guyette said.

William Hathaway MD, Chief Medical Officer at Mission Health cautions, “While we have not needed the tents to date, this in no way should be interpreted as an endorsement of relaxing our social distancing measures. The Stay Home, Stay Safe guidance, and the community’s sacrifices related to it, have been hugely beneficial for our community and have meaningfully flattened the curve and quite honestly have saved lives. While we look forward to a more normal future, now is not the time to change our behaviors.”

Mission continues to monitor the situation and work closely in partnership with local and state health departments, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HCA affirms new Franklin hospital

Despite cutbacks amid dipping revenues and a federal bailout, HCA Healthcare, which owns Mission Health, reaffirmed commitments to build two new facilities across Western North Carolina.

A new hospital in Franklin and behavioral health hospital in Asheville are among 15 commitments HCA made to Mission and Attorney General Josh Stein before HCA pur-

chased the regional health care system for \$1.5 billion in February 2019.

In its April 21 first quarter earnings report, HCA outlined cost saving initiatives — like the reduction of planned capital expenditures and the suspension of quarterly dividends to stockholders — as coronavirus safety precautions led to elective surgery cancellations and a nosedive in overall patient volumes.

Mission Health spokeswoman Nancy Lindell told the Asheville Citizen Times that financial uncertainties at the corporate level haven’t derailed plans to replace Franklin’s Angel Medical Center and construct a 120-bed behavioral health facility in Asheville.

The HCA-Mission purchasing agreement mandates HCA build the two facilities within five years of obtaining building permits.

Lindell said construction on the Franklin hospital should begin by the end of 2020. Plans for the behavioral hospital, she added, should be finalized by the end of the year, with Mission considering 25 acres in South Asheville for the hospital site.

Mayor Bob Scott said he became concerned this week when he read HCA would reduce certain capital expenditures, fearing the cuts might have stalled construction of the new hospital.

“The hospital was a selling point to the public in the whole Mission deal,” Scott said.

Ron Winters, principal and co-founder of Gibbins Advisors, the state-appointed independent monitor tasked with ensuring HCA adheres to its purchase agreement, said HCA has not requested relief or modifications to any of its 15 purchase agreement commitments. In addition to building the Franklin and Asheville facilities, these guarantees include sustaining charity care and rural hospital operations.

Nantahala Health Foundation launches a COVID-19 Impact Recovery Fund

Because the current pandemic may not be the last, Nantahala Health Foundation has launched a COVID-19 Impact Recovery Fund to match charitable donations dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 and better position itself to bring organizations together to prepare for a post-COVID future.

“The immediate threat has always been that the virus would spread and create pressures on our communities’ limited healthcare systems,” said NHF Executive Director Lori Bailey. “Beyond that, however, we anticipate dramatic short- and long-term effects on our region’s education systems, workforce and local economies. By growing our resources and matching donations from the public, we will be better equipped to respond quickly and sustain that response over the duration of the recovery.”

Launching a major fundraising campaign may seem like an odd response from such a young organization, but Bailey said it’s the right approach, in that it gives those who are able an opportunity to make a tremendous impact on future health outcomes in Western North Carolina.

While it’s true that Nantahala Health Foundation is new to Western North Carolina’s nonprofit landscape, its regional roots run deep, said Jane Kimsey, who chairs a 10-member volunteer board with representation from each of the six counties served by NHF, as well as the Qualla Boundary.

“We were established a little more than a year ago with a mission to eliminate barriers to health, and our hard work is already changing lives,” Kimsey said.

The most recent example is that of NHF’s partnership with Dogwood Health Trust and other Mission Health System legacy foun-

dations to source, manufacture and deliver vital personal protective equipment to medical professionals, first responders and essential front-line workers throughout the region. Understanding that much more would be needed to prepare for a post-COVID-19 reality, NHF’s board voted unanimously earlier this month to establish the COVID-19 Impact Recovery Fund and match donations up to \$100,000.

“We cannot begin to predict what our communities will need six or nine months or even a year from now,” Kimsey said, “but we knew we must position ourselves in such a way that we’d be ready to help when future needs are identified.”

Prior to their response to the current global crisis, NHF conducted several community listening sessions throughout 2019 to learn from nonprofit service providers how they could best work together to improve health outcomes by addressing the region’s social determinants of health.

“As a results of those listening sessions, we partnered with 28 WNC organizations and were proud to invest some \$1.5 million into their work and into the local economy during our first grant cycle,” Kimsey said.

COVID-19 has forced the young foundation to adapt quickly, Bailey said. “Thankfully, we can take what we’ve learned and apply it to what we’ve known all along: that adaption promotes growth, and that Western North Carolinians are resilient, hard-working people. We are more than willing to roll up our sleeves and help our neighbors in need.”

For more information and to make a donation, please visit nantahalahealthfoundation.org.

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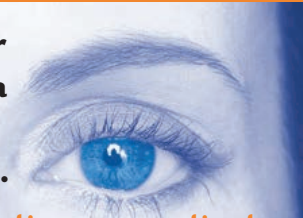

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

To open or not to open the town, that is the question. Should we continue strict COVID-19 measures, or relax them in an effort to return to some kind of normalcy? I know these questions are on the minds of many, including the town board and myself.

I receive feedback from both perspectives. On Monday morning I took a call from a resident who stated she would not listen to any more of my negative radio programs that tell part-time residents not to come to Highlands. This person vented that I was hurting the foundation of the economy of the town, and that businesses had to open as soon as possible.

On the other hand, I have residents supporting the strong position that the board has taken in adopting a state of emergency measures that curtail the spread of the coronavirus. These residents are very concerned about an outbreak of the coronavirus in Highlands.

We're in a precarious situation. The actions of the town, whatever they may be, will not sit well with everyone. I realize any policy decision will cause pain and concern for some, while being assuring for others. The only thing the board and I can do is strive to make responsible decisions that hopefully will be for the best outcome for the town and our residents.

I'm calling a special meeting of the town board for this Friday at 8:30 a.m. I want the board to review our current state of emergency, especially in the context of the governor's plan to reopen the state. The board should consider what can be done safely to reopen the town and the economy. Regardless of any changes in the town's state of emergency, the governor's declarations and reopening plan will have to be followed.

The same resident who called me about my negative radio broadcasts also let me know I was demonstrating poor management skills by not calling the governor to ask for exceptions for communities like Highlands from his state order. The rationale was we do not have the outbreaks like in Raleigh and other large cities, so we should not have to follow the same restrictions.

I do think there are some areas where we may adjust town state of emergency to facilitate opening the economy. Changes must be made carefully and follow the governor's reopening plan. Phase 1 could begin around May 9 with the limited opening of retail stores. Phase 2 would begin about the first of June with the opening of restaurant dining on a limited capacity basis. Phase 3 would begin sometime in early July with more normal operations including removing the restrictions on large gatherings.

There are difficult decisions ahead. How do we reopen and avoid the loss of a number of businesses? On the other hand, how do we protect our residents, especially the elderly, during this pandemic?

I believe COVID-19 will be with us for sometime. The difficult decisions will continue to be with us also.

Letters to the Editor

To my VFW brothers and sisters

Well, things are pretty lousy right now, but each one of you VFW members have been around tough times before. You have all faced the line and showed your strength and courage. We are proud to face this problem with all of you.

We will all be back together soon telling all those wonderful stories to you, our VFW brothers and sisters. Stay well and God bless you and your families. See you soon!

P.S. To our community, stay well, stay safe. The Good Guy above is with us.

William & Joan Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

What is it people are so afraid of?

We have all had many conversations of late about the current COVID-19 climate. We have seen everything from cavalier disregard for all precautionary measures, to the wearing of masks outside in the fresh air, far away from the nearest human. What is it that people are so afraid of?

In the earlier days of this "pandemic," we were told that millions of Americans could die. The fatality rate was said to be in the 3-5% range, which is quite high. Much of the fear is based on this erroneous model.

But according to the LA Times, the initial results from the first large-scale study tracking the spread of the coronavirus in the county found that 4.1% of adults have antibodies to the virus in their blood, an indication of past exposure. That translates to roughly 221,000 to 442,000 adults who have recovered from an infection, once margin of error is taken into account, according to the researchers conducting the study. The country had reported fewer than 8,000 cases at that time. The results of this study suggest that the death rate for this disease is far lower than had been previously estimated, something between 0.1 and 0.2%. Extrapolated nationwide, many millions of people have had the virus, without serious symptoms, many not even aware of it. The vast majority of the fatalities are in the 75 and older age group, many with serious underlying health problems – very similar to the annual flu situation. Is this sufficient justification for the near complete lock-down of our state and nation?

Eight mid-western states have not participated in this lock-down. Instead, they have advised high risk individuals to stay home, and closed schools and advised "social distancing."

Sweden has adopted a similar approach. They are reasoning that millions of people will get it, and not be seriously affected. They will be immune. Elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are encouraged to stay home until the disease has run its course.

Few people seem to be talking about how to strengthen your immune system to ward off this virus (and others).

Twenty minutes of sunlight to exposed skin allows your body to produce vitamin D-3, known to increase your resistance to viruses. Vitamin A and C are also helpful. At least eight hours of sleep helps also.

The media seems bent on discouraging the use of hydroxychloroquine sulfate (HCQS) despite phenomenal results, when used with azithromycin and zinc at the onset of symptoms, and only with high risk individuals. This protocol is in widespread use all over the world. And high dose intravenous vitamin C has helped many, under a doctor's supervision.

There will likely never be a vaccine that reliably prevents this disease, as it continually mutating, like the common cold. So why not use the cures and treatments that have demonstrated success, instead of demonizing them? Rather than shutting down the entire country, why not encourage high risk people to stay home, and allow the rest of the nation to get back to school/work?

To quote the famous Virginia patriot, Patrick Henry, "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? God forbid! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

Ed Hill – Franklin, N.C.

Next generation must do a better job

To those under age 30:

We, your elders, have created such a mess for you that it is almost unbelievable. Unending wars on other countries, terrorism, drugs, poverty, the American people; we have given you the TSA, environmental degradation, Neocons, Trump Derangement Syndrome, FOMO, the NSA, collusion between government and big business, autocratic wannabees, FEAR, vaccines that don't work, the list goes on. And on. Now this fiasco.

You must do a better job for yourselves and generations after you; stand up for you and others, or you all will be slaves to the Masters. They are not your Betters. Your rights are given to you by a merciful god, not a merciless government.

Now I must go and wash my mask, dry my hands, and dust off the Constitution.

Stephen Crosby – Franklin, N.C.

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

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Looking for something up-lifting

I've got to hand it to you Gooder and Tabor. The world is hurting; everybody needs help – something good said or done. But no, you two have to print the doom and gloom; four letters to the editor, two bashing Trump. If you had a hang nail I'm sure you would blame Trump. The world doesn't need your crap. Something up lifting would have been nice. But not the Democrats; they aren't very nice people to begin with. Nothing ever comes out of their mouths that isn't bashing most of the people in the great USA. True colors always show thru.

P.S. We radicals always look for the good in people.

Peter Young – Franklin, N.C.

Actions of some states based on Constitutional rights

Let's see if I've got this right: The Constitution says we have the right to endanger or kill other Americans.

Sounds crazy? Well, maybe I'm all wet but this seems to be what a lot of head mucky mucks around the country are saying by refusing to enforce rules laid down by our health experts and some of our smarter politicians.

Obviously, some groups like the ACLU have decided to take up the challenge and force states and municipalities to open up and allow more people to die. All this is based on our Constitutional rights to run around infecting other people who end up dying.

Well, don't blame me, that's what they're saying.

Somewhere, I'm lost. I had no idea that we could deliberately infect others with a virus.

Georgia is already opening up their state and loosening rules about certain businesses formerly closed to prevent the spread of the deadly Coronavirus.

Other states are following suit as well.

Most worrisome is even some of our police forces around the country are refusing to enforce the law and are refusing to do their job and protect people.

Now it seems they are deliberately putting people in harm's way and many will die.

Supposedly a people who care, we now seem to be screaming our heads off to get jobs back and to heck with those who may die from our activities.

But, this should come as no surprise when a New York jail was so worried one of their prisoners, in jail for rape, might contract coronavirus that they freed him. How sweet of them to release him but tell this to the woman he raped only days after being freed.

Oh well, like the saying "Stupid is as stupid does" and there is no cure for that.

Bob Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

Franklin business giving back to community

A very small printing business Macon Innovations, here in Franklin, has been producing 3D printed ear savers for healthcare professionals and giving them away! He has made them for our hospital, the nursing home and surrounding county hospitals as well as Macon EMS. Mike Ward has even shipped these little jewels to the coast of North Carolina and as far as New York City at absolutely no charge to those health care workers. He works a full time at McCoys Automotive, so all this 3D printing is done in the evenings and on weekends in his spare time. This is his way of giving back to our community as well all health care providers during these trying times. He is happy to be providing a little comfort to all of us nurses, respiratory techs, nursing assistants, labs workers and everyone else in the caring field.

Rosemary Skinner MSN, RN – Franklin, N.C.

Is this how America is supposed to be?

Two stories in *USA Today* on April 16, 2020, reveal a great deal about Donald Trump's lack of morality, his self-centeredness, and his stone-cold heart. First, he has halted funding to the World Health Organization amid a global pandemic. Second, he has required the Treasury Department to print his name on stimulus checks.

Only last year Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives for (1) abuse of power and (2) obstruction of Congress. Sadly, Republicans unanimously (except for Mitt Romney) acquitted him on both articles. Many predicted then that Trump would soon abuse his power or obstruct Congress again, perhaps necessitating a second impeachment. Is it time?

This question hangs over America (and really the world): Is the Congress of the United States content to stand idly by while one man impedes medical research, diagnosis, and treatment for a global viral pandemic when we need to/should lead the international effort?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached that we should have tough minds and soft hearts. The world is seeing America, though, as having a soft mind and a tough heart. Trump is merely the "hood ornament." The entire United States is the car that the ornament represents. Each member of Congress needs to do some soul searching today. Will they take measures to manage this out-of-control President? Or will they let Trump continue to represent America to the world? What will voters say about America's heart and soul on Nov. 3?

Is this how America is supposed to be? Soft-minded and tough-hearted?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

Leadership in the age of pandemics

Fifty-eight thousand American men and women died in the Vietnam war over a period of 20 years. By the time you read this well over 50,000 Americans will have died of the Covid-19 in a period of less than four months. As a result The American economy is in freefall. In this time of unprecedented crisis we need great leadership. Where is our Churchill, FDR, or even Ronald Reagan?

To lead a country in a time of crisis a leader must unify its citizens. From the day of his inauguration President Trump has made it clear that if you did not vote for him he is not your president.

To rally a country to do the hard things necessary to overcome a crisis you must tell them the truth. Even President Trump's most ardent supporters know you cannot trust what he says. The virus is just a Democratic hoax; it will magically go away; it will be gone by April; are just few of the daily lies coming from the White House.

To lead a country in a crisis the leader must lead. He must take charge of the reigns of government, set clear and consistent goals, and explain how we as a country will achieve them. When asked about testing for the virus, the key to any reopening of the economy he said, "I take no responsibility at all" for the lack of coronavirus testing. And he stated the federal government is just a "backup" to the states.

When some governors said that they would decide when to reopen their economies, President Trump said "I have the ultimate authority" "When somebody is the president of the United States, the authority is total ... The governors know that ... [They] can't do anything without the approval of the president of the United States." A few days later he said that the governors would have to decide for themselves when to open their states for business.

When confronted with the science that the virus would be back next fall and coincide with the flu season he directly contradicted the head of the CDC. Within minutes he was corrected on live TV by Dr. Fauci, who agreed with the head of the CDC. From one day to the next the only plan we see

coming from the White House is to dominate the daily news cycle.

I am proud and grateful to live in Macon County N.C. So far we have seen little of the sickness and death from Covid-19. Our leadership from mayor Bob Scott and other county leaders has unified the county and given us hope we can all come through this together and open up soon. That is real leadership.

Louis Vitale – Franklin, N.C.

Godly acts and the gospels go hand in hand

The New Testament starts out with the gospels -Matthew, Mark, Luke and John -and then is followed by "Acts." This is no coincidence You cannot read the gospels and believe in them and not do Godly acts. You cannot do Godly acts if you don't believe in the gospels. They are interchangeable. You must have one in order to do the other. With the virus going around, many people are doing Godly acts while others are doing good acts. In the '60s, the lyrics to a song were, "They'll know we are Christians by our love." That is not true. There is no visible difference between the love of a believer and a non-believer. In fact a lot of great deeds are being done by non-believers.

So what is the difference? There is no difference here on earth. Both acts will get you the same result here on the earth. The difference is in the afterlife. Matthew 6:19 tells us not to store up our treasures here on earth but to store up our treasures in heaven. It is so easy to change a good act into a Godly act. All you have to do is believe and accept.

You must believe in God and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. James 2:19 states even the demons believe there is only one God. That is why you must not only believe but you must accept. Accepting Jesus is such an easy thing to do and yet it can produce such powerful results. In John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

Mike Townsend – Franklin, N.C.

Many reasons to want Confederate memorials gone

The recent letter [March 19 issue of *The Macon County News*] from Robert Johnston of Clayton, Ga., Honor our Southern heritage, laments "the denigration of Godly Confederate men: Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee. Thomas J. Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart who were exemplary Christian men who abhorred evil." Interestingly, he seems willing to overlook the evil of slavery. They were so attached to slavery that they were willing to attack their country in order to continue to own human beings, exploit their labor and deny them the rights to life, liberty and happiness, which they sought for themselves. Monuments to the "Lost Cause" of the Confederacy overlook its origins in the fierce defense of slavery, a vicious and morally repugnant foundation of the antebellum southern economy, and the virulent racism of the Jim Crow era which followed of which lynching is but one tragic aspect.

There are many reasons for wanting to see Confederate memorials gone from public places and reserved for museums where we can reflect on a tragic period of our nation's history and the legacy of white supremacy, slavery and violence toward people of color that continues to this day.

Honoring our southern heritage should place individuals from our past in proper perspective and show sensitivity to those whose present lives are still touched by the horror of that past.

Lynn Hogue, Chair
Jackson County NAACP Legal Redress Committee

Community steps up to care for its nursing home residents

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, Macon County News reported on an initiative, started by local nurse Janie Key and her friend Christine Basey, owner of Christine’s Home Décor, to provide donated tablets to nursing home residents who have no access to friends, families, church sermons, etc. According to Key, 40 tablets were donated last Friday, April 24, and another 38 more on Monday, April 27.

“We are shooting for another 120 to 150 (simple tablets with basic apps) for able-bodied residents at three Franklin-located nurs-



Grandview Manor staff member John Charles has made it his mission to bring excitement and laughter to residents everyday that he works. He does this by wearing a silly costume or hat that he makes himself at home and surprises residents the following day. Hannah Strum with Grandview Manor says, “He has come up with several ideas, and never does the same one twice. It is creative and the residents have enjoyed it so very much. They look forward to every day when they can guess what John is going to be wearing and have truly gotten enjoyment out of this.”


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ing homes, and we are wanting to help residents in Highlands and Nantahala as well,” said Key. “God is making miracles happen.”

According to Hannah Strum, human resources manager at Grandview Manor Care Center in Franklin, a staff member recently came up with a cheery way to brighten spirits of its residents – since no visitors are allowed during the N.C. stay-at-home mandate, which has been extended

to at least May 8 by N.C. Governor Roy Cooper.

“This has proven to be difficult on our residents who are missing their families and normalcy of their everyday lives,” said Strum. To combat residents’ loneliness, she explained that one of Grandview’s staff members, John Charles, “made it his mission to bring excitement and laughter. He does this by wearing a silly costume or hat that he makes himself at home and then surprises our residents. He has come up with

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A couple of weeks ago, Christine Basey and Janie Key who started Hope for the Lonely began collecting tablets to distribute to the nursing home residents so they could stay connected to their families. Forty tablets have been divided between Grandview Manor, Macon Valley and Franklin House, but more are needed. Pictured left to right are Debra Strum, Grandview administrator; Lillie Zentmeyer, Macon Valley activity director; Alicia Jimenez, Franklin House resident care manager; Brian Walker Synergy IT Solutions; Christine Basey and Janie Key.

several ideas, and he never does the same one twice. It is silly, but it is also creative and the residents have enjoyed it so very much. They look forward to every day when they can guess what John is going to be wearing and have truly gotten enjoyment out of this."

Throughout these last 30-plus days of quarantine, area children have drawn and colored pictures, people have sent cards, and anonymous donors have ordered flower arrangements to cheer up the few hundred people residing at Franklin's nursing home facilities.

The Flower Company, in fact, located on Georgia Road, launched on March 17 at the start of the COVID-19 crisis a buy-one-get-one to local nursing facilities.

"Buy one floral arrangement and get the other one for free to any nursing home of your choice in Franklin or Clayton," said owner Lori Cabe. "Make someone smile as we could all use some flowers to brighten our day. We are also waiving the \$8 delivery fee."

Regarding Grandview and Charles' efforts at lifting Grandview residents' spirits, Strum said, "John puts a great amount of time, thought, and effort into carrying this out every day. It is also something that we are proud of because he has gone above and beyond to help our residents find joy and laughter. It has truly given them something to look forward to among the uncertainty of everything else going on."



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests April 17 - 23. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 20

Aaron Michael Nemeth, was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury, assault inflicting serious injury with a minor present. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Rainy Savannah Kennis, was charged with disorderly conduct. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Kayla Nicole Woods, was charged with disorderly conduct. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Hunter Anderson Hollis, was charged with disorderly conduct. Jay Wright made the arrest.

April 21

Lenore Martinez Ristau, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction.

April 22

Joshua Bryan Parker, was charged with probation violation. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 17

Jacqueline Leeann Sedman, 44, of Pierce Hill Rd., Dayton Tenn., was issued an order for arrest, all other larceny, order for arrest. No bond was set. Officer Bingham made the arrest.

April 18

Misty Thomas Johnson, 45, of Plantation Dr., was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set. Officer Norman made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

April 20

Hung Thanh Huynh, 45, of Cullowhee, was charged with second degree trespass, felony larceny, breaking and entering. No bond was set.

April 22

Anthony Travis Arrwood, 34, of Saint James Place, Cullowhee, was charged with second degree trespass, simple possession of schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Melinda Earlene Murphy Howell, 48, of Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling place for a controlled substance, felony possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

April 23

Aaron Keith Nations, 37, of Lone Oak Dr., Whittier, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay, failure to appear for felony larceny, felony probation violation, possession of stolen firearm, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, resisting a public officer, possession of stolen property, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$24,000 was set.

Justin Michael Arch, 38, of Yellowhill Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen property/goods, larceny after breaking and entering, conspire to break and enter a building with intent to commit a felony, conspire to obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Saith David Cucumber, 24, of Bali Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a government official. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Operation Fan Heat Relief to begin May 1

As the weather starts warming up, the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with the NC Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to distribute fans to eligible recipients through Operation Fan Heat Relief May 1–Oct. 31.

People 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for assistance from May 1–Oct. 31 at local aging agencies across the state. Since 1986, the relief program has purchased fans for older adults and adults with disabilities, providing them with a more comfortable living environment and reducing heat-related illnesses.

As individuals age and develop chronic medical conditions, they are less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. They may also be taking medications that can worsen the impact of extreme heat. Operation Fan Heat Relief helps vulnerable adults at risk for heat-related illnesses stay safe during the summer.

In addition to applying for fans, people 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, can take the following steps during high temperatures:

- Increase fluid intake
- Spend some time in cool or air-conditioned environments regularly
- Reduce strenuous activity during the afternoon
- Speak with their physician before summer about how to stay safe while taking medication that can affect the body's ability to cool itself (e.g., high blood pressure drugs)

Given the spread of COVID-19, people should check on neighbors and friends aged 60 and older by phone or internet during high temperatures when possible. Visiting a cool space in the house of a neighbor or friend is recommended if one doesn't have adequate cooling, but physical distancing of at least 6 feet, wearing a cloth face covering and hand-washing should be practiced.

The program is made possible by donations from Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, and Dominion Resources, which allow regional area agencies on aging and provider agencies to purchase fans for eligible individuals. Provider agencies can also purchase a limited number of air conditioners based on a person's specific health conditions.

Last year, the division received \$85,600 in donations, allowing for the distribution of 5,185 fans and 27 air conditioners.

For more details, individuals may contact their Area Agency on Aging or the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services' Housing Program Consultant at 919-855-3419.

More information about Operation Fan Heat Relief, including tips on preparing for extreme heat and a list of local agencies distributing fans, is available at <https://www.ncd-hhs.gov/operation-fan-and-heat-relief>.

Additionally, weekly heat-related illness emergency department visit data is available at <https://publichealth.nc.gov/chronicdiseaseandinjury/heat.htm>.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

All A.A. meetings in the greater Franklin area including Otto have been suspended until further notice. To speak with a member of A.A. call 828 349-4357 or 828 837-4440 or visit www.aawnc80.com.

Nantahala Hiking Club General Meeting on Zoom will be held on Friday, May 8, 7 p.m. An update of the corona situation related to trails and parks will be given. Board members will update everyone on the status of NHC. Members may participate live with questions and comments, plus it will be fun to see and talk to NHC friends. If you wish, send questions to mary23stone@yahoo.com in advance. Join the meeting by computer, iPad/tablet, smartphone, cell phone, or land-line telephone. Directions generally are to click on the meeting "link", click "yes" to allow zoom, click "join with video". Details and numbers: Topic: NHC May Meeting. Link to Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/94841517073. To join by phone call (646)558-8656, NHC Meeting ID: 948 4151 7073.

Franklin Covenant Church has a grocery delivery service for anyone at higher risk for COVID-19. If you are unable to leave home to get the supplies you need due to sickness, disability or age, please contact us for more details. The only cost to you would be the items you order, there is no delivery charge. FCCdelivery@yahoo.com

Adult Day Care at the Senior Center is closed until further notice. This action is consistent with other adult day cares in the region and across the state as they are either in the process of have already ceased providing this service.

Nantahala Hiking Club Hikes have been canceled until further notice.

Adult Day Care at the Senior Center is closed until further notice. This action is consistent with other adult day cares in the region and across the state as they are either in the process of have already ceased providing this service.

Gastric Bypass Support Group will not meet in May.

Taste of Scotland and Celtic Festival scheduled for June 19 and 20 has been cancelled. The next Taste of Scotland is scheduled for June 18 through 20, 2021.

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

Macon County CareNet is in need of volunteers. Positions open are food pantry, soup kitchen and file room. If interested stop by for an application at 130 Bidwell St., or call (828)369-2642.

Volunteer at Angel Medical Center Enjoy the reward of making someone else's day brighter by sharing your talents and time. Become a volunteer at Angel Medical Center. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles such as mail and flower delivery, guest service, information desk assistance, student volunteer programs, pet therapy, chaplain, administrative support and more. For more information, call (828)349-6639 or email Bonnie.Peggs@msj.org.

CareNet on Bidwell St. is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where folks can drive up and get a box of food. No paperwork; no questions asked. Backpacks are delivered to the schools on Fridays and the bus drivers take the regular lunch and also the backpacks to the families on their Friday deliveries. Five Fire Departments in Macon County – Nantahala, Cullasaja, Sky Valley, Clarks Chapel, and Burningtown – are open Monday thru Fridays for drive up deliveries from 1 to 4 p.m. for anyone who needs food. The fire departments and CareNet have plenty of food and MANNA is making deliveries from Asheville twice a month. No one should be going hungry; the food is plentiful.

Email calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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

Editor's note: Most churches in the Franklin area are not holding services, although some are live streaming online. The Macon County News will continue to list churches to reference when the governor's meeting restrictions are lifted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newman Chapel Weekly Services are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday service 11 a.m., Sunday night 6 p.m. and Wednesday night 7 p.m. The pastor is Rev. Dennis Ledford. The church is located on Mulberry Rd. in Otto.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday morning service 11 a.m., Sunday night service 6 p.m., Wednesday night prayer meeting 7 p.m. The church is located at 129 Emmanuel Rd. For more information, contact (828)524-3214.

House of Hope Church of God service times are Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening services 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.

Bethel United Methodist Church Sunday Services are Conventional 9 a.m. and Contemporary 11 a.m. which includes a dismissal for Children's Church. Adult Sunday School is 10 a.m. Located at 81 Bethel Church Road, Franklin. For more info, call (828)371-2436.

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.

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

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WCU film program moves Controlled Chaos Film Festival online

Western Carolina University's annual Controlled Chaos Film Festival will be shifting from the big screen to small screen this spring, as the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has forced organizers to move the festival online for the first time in its 11-year history.

The festival will be streamed Friday, May 8, beginning with a red-carpet event at 7:30 p.m. on WCU's social channels, followed by the full festival at the Controlled Chaos website, controlledchaos.wcu.edu.

The end-of-year event showcases motion pictures written, produced, directed and filmed by students in the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Art's Film and Television Production Program. The event typically draws hundreds of audience members each year to the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center. But this year, the program had to pivot quickly due to the early dismissal of most students from campus in mid-March in response to the health crisis, said Brenda Lilly, assistant professor of film and television production.

"The students enrolled in the program's 'Film Festival Class' traditionally serve as the festival producers," said Lilly, course instructor. "And despite the abrupt change of plans, the students haven't missed a beat.

Our Zoom classes are productive, and the enthusiasm is exhilarating."

The festival will feature the work of more than 15 student filmmakers and dozens of student actors and crew members, as well as



Behind the scenes on the production of "Unhinged," the student-produced web series that will be streamed online as part of Western Carolina University's Controlled Chaos Film Festival on Friday, March 8.

professional actors from Asheville, Charlotte and WCU's own acting program. Faculty judges from the Film and Television Production Program, along with student judges from WCU's Department of English, worked together to determine the festival lineup based on content, direction, cinematography, editing, art direction and acting.

"Because of the exceptional quality of this year's submissions and the faculty's desire for style, voice and genre diversity, we created three categories to structure the 2020 festival," said Joshua Russell, director of the Film and Television Program. The categories

are short films, class projects and web series.

"We promise an entertaining evening of a wide variety of genres including traditional comedy, drama, coming-of-age, documentary, horror and thriller, as well as stop motion animation and a five-part web series and," Russell said. "While the festival is not entirely family-friendly, the first section of films will be the equivalent of PG rating

standards, and all films will have content warnings. We hope this makes it easier for our wonderful Western North Carolina community to grab some popcorn and join us from their own living rooms."

For more information about the Film and Television Production Program or other programs offered by WCU's School of Stage and Screen, visit stageandscreen.wcu.edu.



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FRANKLIN BYPASS WALMART

All-Women Adventure Film Festival screens May 5

Man's Land Film Festival (NMLFF) – the premier all-women adventure film festival – to our mountain region for a third year. The Festival features short films about women adventurers who will inspire you with their tenacity, their spunk and their femininity – all interwoven to showcase the full scope of woman-identified athletes and adventurers. Although The Festival cannot be hosted in person this year as planned, MountainTrue is showing the films virtually.

MountainTrue, a regional environmental conservation nonprofit, had planned to host The Festival in Boone this spring, but is now screening the event virtually. Organizers with MountainTrue hope that the No Man's Land Film Festival will inspire more women to spend time in the outdoors and, in turn, take up the cause of environmental conservation and protection.

The Virtual screening will be available for a 5-hour window on May 5. Viewers will be able to watch the 90 minutes of films between 6 and 11 p.m. Registration is required to receive the link to access the films. This event is free and open to the public, although donations are encouraged for those who are able. Event URL: <https://mountaintrue.org/nmlff2020>

“We know that our community is facing unprecedented economic and social strains, and that many of us rely on getting outside to keep us hopeful” explains Julie Mayfield, co-director of MountainTrue, a regional environmental conservation nonprofit. “Even though we can't get out and enjoy our mountains right now, we hope that No Man's Land Film Festival will keep us dreaming of the next big adventure until we are able to.”

About No Man's Land Film Festival

No Man's Land Film Festival (NMLFF) is the premier all-



Still from "The Adventure Itinerary"

women adventure film festival based out of Carbondale, Colorado and on tour internationally. In its fifth year, No Man's Land Film Festival has reached audiences in nearly every U.S. state and has breached international borders with events ranging from Canada to Australia. NMLFF celebrates the full scope of woman-identified athletes and adventurers, looking to undefine what it means to be a woman in adventure, sport and film. NMLFF champions women with grit, hustle, determination, and boundless passion, investing them with the respect, support, and media recognition they deserve. Through human collaboration, No Man's Land strives to implement and inspire change in the outdoor, sport and film industries, while cultivating a deep interest in exploring the vastness of the planet from a woman's point of view. The NMLFF mission transcends the films presented, acting as a platform for powerful and progressive movement in the outdoor industry. For more information: <http://nomansland-filmfestival.org>.

New book celebrates N.C.'s natural history

“Here's to the land of the longleaf pine. The summer land where the sun doth shine.”

Celebrate North Carolina's natural history and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with “Longneedle,” a new book for young readers from the N.C. Office of Archives and History, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

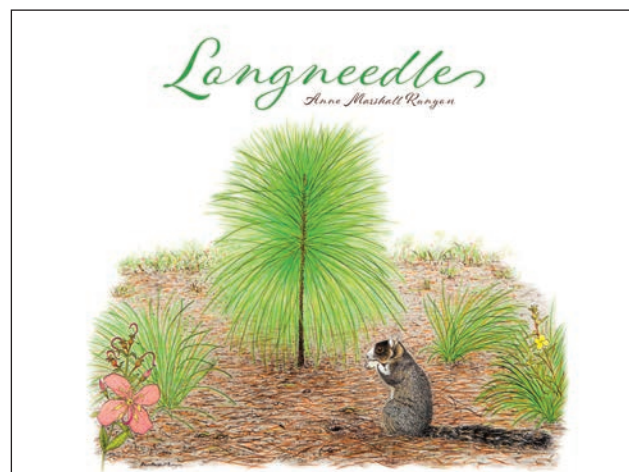
Written by Anne Marshall Runyon, Longneedle tells the life story of a longleaf pine in the longleaf pine savannas of the North Carolina Outer Coastal Plain. The remarkable, fire-dependent tree persists through 300 years of North Carolina history from 1696 to 1996, when hurricane Fran brings its tale to an end. But the tree's descendants live on!

Runyon's illustrations peek into the hidden life of the forest and reveal how Longneedle is connected to a larger community of plants, wildlife, and fungi that depend on it. Longneedle is a story of survival and celebration that will charm and fascinate young readers and families, as it explains the connections between species in a unique and beautiful southeastern American forest.

The book is available for purchase from UNC Press at <https://uncpress.org/book/9780865265004/longneedle/>.

About the author

Anne Runyon was born in Washington, D.C. Summers spent on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, nurtured her love of the natural world. Her family inspired her to be an artist.



She earned her BA in studio art from Carleton College, and studied design and children's literature in the Kerlan Collection while earning her MA from the University of Minnesota. She and her husband moved to North Carolina in 1982, where their son was born and grew up. Runyon is a freelance illustrator and author. She works on paper with ink, watercolor, and colored pencil creating illustrations for environmental publications and exhibits. She writes and illustrates children's books, creates woodcut prints, and designs paper sculpture craft activities.

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Way down yonder in the Paw Paw patch

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

I grew up in southern Ohio. We lived for a while in a rural area on the outskirts of Dayton, Ohio, in my grandmother's guest house. It was close to the banks of the Stillwater River, a tributary of the Ohio River. I seem to recall that the river often flooded filling up the basement of our house as well as the bottom land. The flood plain and river had special treats for a young and curious kid. The top of my list were crawdads and Paw Paws. I did not know until much later in life that Paw Paws are native to the entire Eastern part of the U.S. In ancient times they were a food source for Ground Sloths and Mastodons who distributed the fairly large seeds far and wide.

I was on a botany field trip one time and our guide pointed out a clump of trees. I remember him commenting that he grew up with these plants in Ohio. I had not seen one in years but I blurted out Paw Paw. Michael Dirr was along and proclaimed that they had "lurid" blooms. I had to look up lurid in the dictionary to discover that lurid means "vividly shocking." He was correct, of course, the blooms are a strange purple or maroon color. The blooms open in early spring just before the leaves unfold with a faint yeasty and slightly fetid smell.

I also used to be puzzled by the folk song "Way down Yonder in the Paw Paw Patch." Eventually I observed that Paw Paws are, in fact, clump formers, clonal or are stoloniferous meaning they send out underground stems or shoots resulting in a patch. Way down yonder likely means they prefer bottom lands that stay moist.

Paw Paws, Pawpaws, Papaws or Paw-paws are deciduous understory trees, sometimes called shrubs. There are many other common names. Their scientific name is *Asimina triloba* (a-sim-i-na tri-lo-ba). It belongs to the Annoniaceae or Custard Apple family composed mostly of tropical fruiting plants. *Asimina* is likely an adaptation of a native American word, *asimin*. There are nine species but *triloba* is the most common. There are two other species in N. America but are very rare.

It is the fruit that makes this tree so unique and distinct. It produces the largest edible fruit of any native North American plant



Dr. Bob Gilbert



Paw Paw bloom



Paw Paw fruit

Photos by Karen Lawrence

except gourds which are considered vegetables. The fruit has a sweet, custard favor suggesting faint traces of mangos, bananas, papaya and pineapple. It can be eaten raw, made into ice cream or cooked into custard desserts. Paw Paw custard was a favorite of George Washington. The fruit has to ripen on the tree which informs the song stanza "picking up Paw Paws and putting them in your pocket." The easiest way to tell if they are ripe is let them fall to the ground. The fruit is yellow-green to brown and can grow to two to four inches and ripens in September to October. However, it takes seven or eight years for a seedling to produce fruit. Also, it has to be cross pollinated; you need more than one plant to produce fruit. There is never an abundance of fruit because there are not many pollinators attracted to the lurid blooms. There have been attempts to grow it as a cash crop. There are even cultivars that have been named and chosen because they produce more fruit and earlier.

The fruits of Paw Paws have higher nutritional values than apples, peaches, grapes in vitamin, minerals and are rich in amino acids.

The average tree gets about 12 feet tall but can reach get to 30 feet. They do best in moist soils. They are often found along streams. The fruit has black, bean-shaped seeds that are easy to germinate as long as they do not dry out. Trees are also propagated by divisions and graftings. The leaves of Paw Paw have a disagreeable odor only when bruised. Leaves, bark, and twigs contain a chemical the repels insects. In spite of the chemicals the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars use it as a primary food source. Racoons are very fond of the fruit.

A Paw Paw Festival occurs in Winston-Salem, N.C., in August. I have never attended but I bet it would be fun. I think this year's festival has been canceled because of the virus.

Given names inspired by plants

Not too long ago I was at a party and we were playing word games. For example, how many names can you think if that can be used by both males and females? Also, what given names can you think of that have plants as an origin? To make it a little more interesting someone has to actually know a person with that name. Fern, Aster, Holly, Laurel, Daisy, Arbutis, Poppy, Jack, Wood, Rose, Joe, Lily, Heather, Hyacinth, Iris, Lotus, Lavender, Rosemary, Olive, Timothy, Flora, Hazel, Aster, Forest, Mace, Pansy, Althea, Basil, Dahlia, Linden, Sage, Huckleberry and Moss.

Dr. Bob Gilbert is co-founder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennewash, Ga.

Karen Lawrence is a professional wildlife and horticultural photographer from Franklin.



Deaths & Funerals

Robert E. Wilson

Robert E. Wilson, 91, of Highlands, N.C., formerly of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2020.

In 2016, he was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Dawn Wilson. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his two brothers.

He served in the 511th Army Paratrooper Division as well as a Draftsman in that division during WWII. He was awarded the WWII Victory Medal and the Army Occupational Medal Japan. He was a parachute rigger

who was also rated for sailplanes and hot air balloons. He had an avid love for all things that fly. He knew all planes from the inside out. He had been a check pilot and an Antique Airplane judge for 25 years, receiving many aviation ratings throughout his life. He raced airplanes and did aerobatics at airshows always for fun. He built many airplanes and flew them each. In his spare time, he was also involved with RC planes. He ended his professional aviation career, retiring as an Airline Captain at one of the largest airlines at the time, with the highest seniority level of all other pilots.

His flying career started with being a crop duster, ending as a Captain of the DC10. Flying was in his blood.

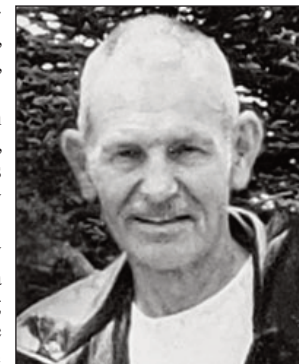
He also enjoyed motorcycle trips with friends and making beautiful artwork and carvings, one of which was displayed in the Cherokee Museum. He was kind and generous and will truly be missed.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Barrett; two grandchildren, Jessica Shick and Michael Barrett and two great grandchildren, Kadence Shick and Bianka Barrett.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Robert E. Wilson

Brenda Kay Burgess

Brenda Kay Burgess, 69, died peacefully at home on April 17, 2020.

Originally from Grafton, Ohio, she lived for the past 17 years in Bryson City, N.C. She was employed with the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad (GSMR) for the past 16 years. A valued and beloved member of GSMR, she had the distinct achievement of being the first and only female brakeman on the train.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Hollis and Fela Burgess, and her two older brothers, Wayne and Gary Burgess, all of Grafton, Ohio.

She is survived by her children, Michael Goldsmith of Bryson City, and Holly Salisbury of Phoenix, Ariz.

A celebration of life service will be held for friends and family at a later date.

A lifelong animal lover, she requested memorial donations be made to PAWS Animal Shelter in Bryson City, North Carolina at pawsbrysoncity.org or PAWS P.O. Box 1814 Bryson City, NC 28713.

An online registry is available at: www.appalachianfuneralservices.com Appalachian Funeral Services of Sylva, NC is serving the family.



Brenda Kay Burgess



Deaths & Funerals

Barbara Jo Benninghoff Bryant Guy

Barbara Jo Benninghoff Bryant Guy, 64, passed away on April 22, 2020, in Franklin, N.C. She was born on May 3, 1956, the daughter of James Vernon "Jabo" Duke and Mary Jane Skipper Duke. She was predeceased by her father, a well-known figure in Bainbridge because of his position as Chief Public Safety Director; a special grandmother, Valeria Mill-Skipper, who helped rear her; and by her sister, Debra Skipper, who shared her home in St. Augustine for a while when she was a young lady.



Barbara Jo Guy

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Earnest Lacy Guy; her daughter, Alexis Shapiro (Kenneth); and her brothers, Bret Benninghoff (Gail) and Eric Duke (Angela); two precious grandchildren whom she adored to the ends of the world. In her eyes her grandchildren were the greatest gift of life and not unlike most grandmothers Barbara Jo just knew that her grandchildren, Emily-Anna B. Hill and C.C. Jake Hill were beyond perfect.

She was a free spirit who lived life to the fullest. She saw the beauty in her surroundings and used her ability as an artist to capture it. She was intelligent, well read, and interested in many subjects. As a child of the '60s and '70s, she enjoyed the music of that era, especially Barry Manilow, Queen, and the Eagles. Sewing was her hobby as well as owning many cats during her lifetime. She was, indeed, a beautiful, caring lady who was well loved.

A private burial will be held in Bainbridge, Ga., at a later date. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the family.

Online condolences can be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com.

Porter Allen Lambert

Porter Allen Lambert, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, April 20, 2020.

Born in Wauchula, Fla., he was the son of the late Porter K. and Esther Odom Lambert. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Ronald Lambert, Harold Lambert, Lillian Shackelford, June Prebor and Joyce Lynn. He was a member of Cowee Baptist Church; Director of Field Operations for South Florida, Southwest Florida & St. Johns Water Management District; photographer for the Associated Press and UPI; former chairman of Burningtown Iotla Fire Department; a Master Gardener and a devoted farmer. He also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, Airborne Division.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 40 years, Helen Massey Lambert; daughter, Montry Esther Thompson (Spencer) of Wauchula; step children, Gwendolyn Renee Hays (Jew Lee) of Wauchula, and Rodney Lee Breton of Franklin; five grandchildren, Trina Thompson, Trevor Thompson, Jason Lee Hayes, Justin Lee Hays and Joshua Lee Hays; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at Hall Farm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Porter Allen Lambert

William D. Ledford Sr.

William D. Ledford Sr. "Dugan," 69, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, April 24, 2020, at his residence. He was the son of the late Rev. Claude Ledford and Effie Byrd Ledford. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Talmadge, Gilmer and Wilbur Ledford and one sister, Deborah Dicerio.

He was a friend of all and was known to give anyone the shirt off his back if needed. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hiking, camping, fishing and ramp digging. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his two children, Gina M. Gribble and husband, Johnny of Otto, N.C., and William D. Ledford Jr. "Billy" and wife, Kristy of Franklin, N.C.; two beautiful granddaughters, Eden and Emily White, who were the pride and joy of his life; and the mother of his children, Mary Ruth Ledford; two step grandchildren, Brandy Carnes and Cody Gribble; a great-granddaughter, Ellie Carnes, who he enjoyed when she came to visit; sisters, Kay Guy, Faye McCall, Kathy Henson and Glenda Evans, all of Franklin, and Carol Aiello of Seattle, Wash.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Baptist Children's Home of NC, Attn: Nancy, 111 Sneed Drive, Clyde, NC 28721.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made to the family at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



William D. Ledford Sr.

Betty Faye Hall Sherrill

Betty Faye Hall Sherrill, 77, passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020, at her home. She was born in Macon County Dec. 23, 1942, to the late David Ansel Hall and Nina Bradley Hall. She was married to the late Charles Daniel "Danny" Sherrill who preceded her after 59 years of marriage on May 24, 2019. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Charles Lewis "Charlie" Sherrill; and a sister, Nina Jean Cheek.

She was a homemaker, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was also a member of Prentiss Church of God.

Survivors include her children, Terrie Kendrick (Clyde) and Deidrea Dills (Richard) all of Franklin, N.C.; daughter-in-law, Lisa Dills Sherrill of Hiwassee, Ga; four grandsons; four granddaughters; and three great grandchildren; two sisters, Louanne Hart of Garden City Mich., and Linda Boggs of Grey Hawk, Ky.; four brothers, Jim Hall of Michigan, Chuck "Max" Hall of Sylva, N.C.; David Hall Jr. of Kissimmee, Fla., and Bobby Hall of Kissimmee.

A private funeral service will be held Friday, May 1, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Tim Hayes and Rev. Lewis Crisp officiating. Burial will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery. Mrs. Sherrill will lie in state Thursday, April 30, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory.

Pallbearers will be Ricky Dills, Clyde Kendrick Jr., Seth Dills, Danny Camp, Logan Kemp, and Doug Cheek.

Memorials can be made to the Relay for Life P.O. Box 22478 Oklahoma, OK 73123.

Online condolences can be sent to www.bryantgrantfuneral-home.com

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



Betty Faye Hall Sherrill

Hughey Edward Rowland

Hughey Edward Rowland, 89, of Franklin, N.C., died Saturday, April 25, 2020.

A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Dwight and Myrtle Smith Rowland. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Richard, Fred, and Benny Rowland; two sisters, Trixie Rowland and Ruth Chapman; and his brother-in-law, Charles Stanley.

He served in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He retired from ITT Corp and was 32nd Degree Mason in the Mabel Lodge in Macon, Ga. He was a member of Iotla Baptist Church, deacon, and former Sunday school teacher. He was an avid outdoorsman, who enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening and reading.

He is survived by wife of 58 years, Joyce Brooks Rowland; sons, Edward Brooks Rowland (Kathy) of Smarr, Ga., and Richard Lindsey Rowland of Franklin; five grandchildren, Katie, Carson, Emily, Gavin, and Spencer; a sister-in-law, Wanda Stanley; and several nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held at Iotla Baptist Church. Rev. Brandon Breedlove and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate. Burial will be in the Fouts cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fouts Cemetery Fund, C/O Nancy Krag, 3339 Burningtown Road, Franklin, NC 28734

Condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Hughey Edward Rowland

Margaret 'Peggy' Jean Kosela Packer

Margaret "Peggy" Jean Kosela Packer, 72, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020.

She was the daughter of the late Frank and Stella Mose Kosela. After moving to Franklin, she began working at Classic Properties where she was employed for 20 years and was a smiling face to all who entered and a very valuable asset.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Richard I. Packer, Jr. and beloved dog, Ben.

No services are planned.

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

Condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Margaret Packer

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Alex Bowman wins the eNASCAR race at virtual Talladega Superspeedway

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Hendrick Motorsports earned its third straight eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series victory Sunday when driver Alex Bowman nipped Corey LaJoie and Ryan Preece in a three-wide finish in the GEICO 70 at virtual Talladega Superspeedway.

The final frantic laps in a re-start with three laps remaining was every bit the dramatic close-quarter conclusion that race fans expect at the 2.66-mile superspeedway – virtual or real-life. Bowman's margin of victory was a scant .037-seconds over runner-up LaJoie and .038-seconds over third-place finisher Ryan Preece. Garrett Smithley and Landon Cassill rounded out the top five.

William Byron, Bowman's Hendrick Motorsports teammate and a two-race winner in the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series, finished sixth. Brennan Poole, brothers Kyle and Kurt Busch and Daniel Suarez finished inside the top-10.

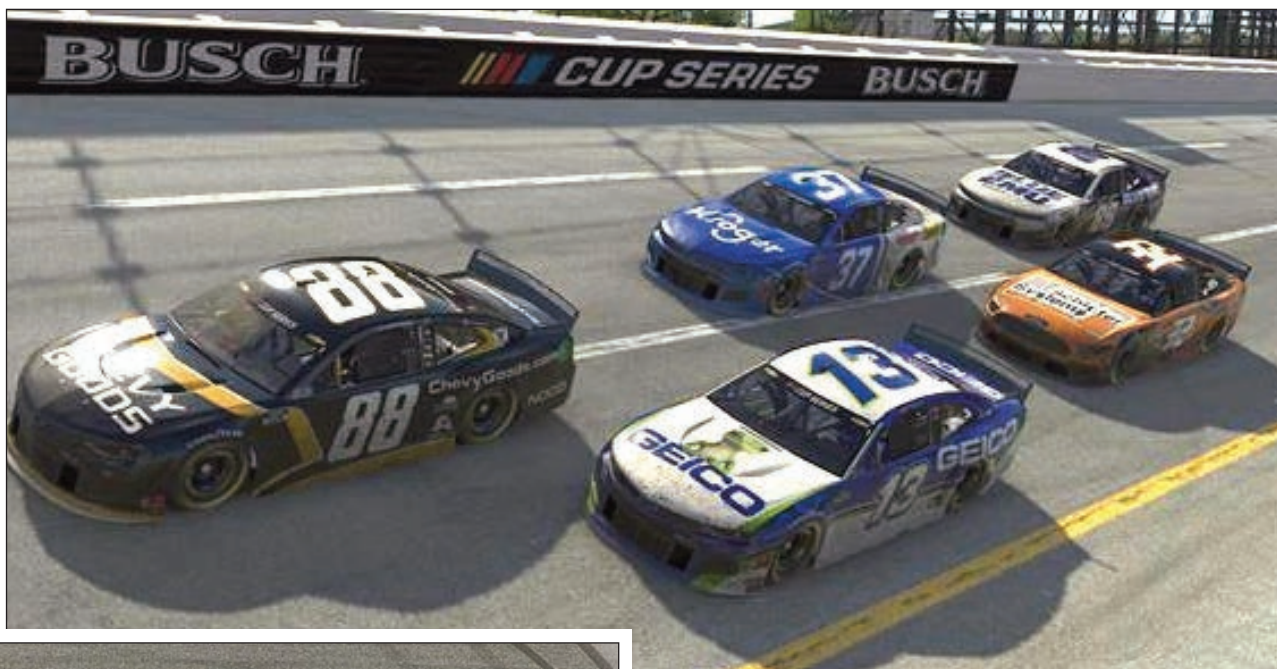
"I guess just right place, right time, kind of the normal superspeedway racing deal," Bowman said afterward, noting "I've really got to thank Preece for pushing me because that's what made the difference at that point."

His Hendrick Motorsports crew chief Greg Ives congratulated Bowman noting Sunday's virtual victory was technically Bowman's second trophy on the 2020 season because Bowman won at California's Auto Club Speedway in March - before the schedule was put on a safety hold as the world deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

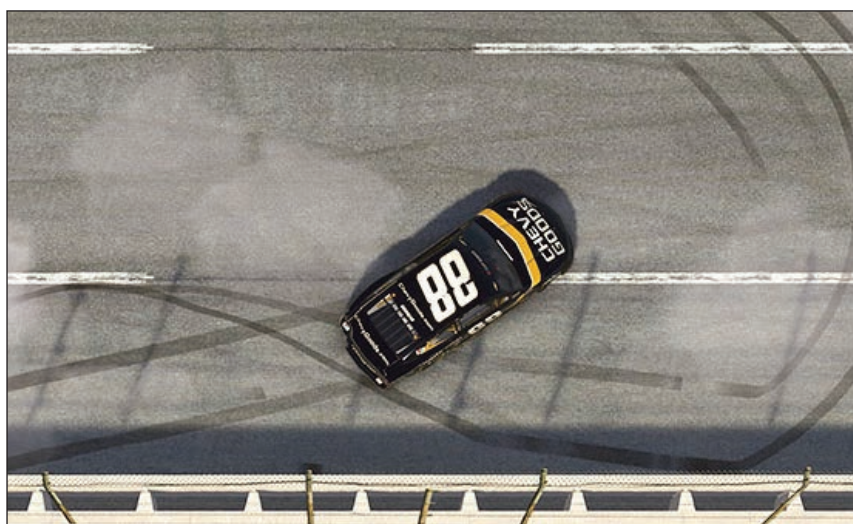
"Two wins on the season – one virtual and one real," Ives said on Twitter. "As far as momentum, we'll take it any way we can."

There were 14 leaders and 27 lead changes in Sunday's 74-lap overtime race featuring a full field of 39 cars that included NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon's virtual debut. The six-time Talladega NASCAR Cup Series winner was running among the top five early in the event, impressively making his way up through the field after a 29th-place starting spot.

But an accident among the frontrunners, involving then leader Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Ty Dillon caused the first of Talladega's well-known multi-car accidents or the "Big Ones" – as they are affectionately dubbed. The damage done to Gordon's famed No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet required a "reset" going forward, giving Gordon a new car but put him in the back of the field. He was caught up again



Alex Bowman, driver of the #88 Chevy Goods Chevrolet, leads during the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series Geico 70 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 26, 2020, in Talladega, Ala. Bowman would go on to win the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series Geico 70 and celebrated with a virtual burnout (left). (Editors note: Images were computer generated in-game)



Talladega pileup. Nemechek finished 25th in his No. 38 Front Row Motorsports Ford.

Dale Earnhardt Jr, whose six Talladega wins ties Gordon for most in Sunday's iRacing field, ran among the front pack at various times – even leading two laps – but he also collected in one of the multi-car melees and finished 30th.

Pit strategy certainly worked in Bowman's favor – the fortunate timing of the cautions something he acknowledged after the race. He, LaJoie, Preece, Smithley, Cassill, Dillon

in a late race multi-car accident, ultimately finishing 38th but remained all smiles on the FOX Sports broadcast where he traditionally handles the color commentary duties.

"It's incredibly realistic," Gordon said of his debut, adding "I loved being a part of it, it was great being back in there in the action and competition on the track. I had a blast."

As the statistics indicate this was absolutely anyone's race – a deviation from the last few weeks where one driver – Byron – really dominated.

Team Penske's Brad Keselowski and NASCAR Cup Series rookie John Hunter Nemechek led the most laps on the day – 11 each. Keselowski, who earned his very first NASCAR Cup Series victory at Talladega back in 2009 and has five wins there, finished 19th after being collected in a late race



Jeff Gordon, driver of the #24 Pepsi/Axalta Chevrolet, flips in the air during a crash in the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series Geico 70 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 26, 2020 in Talladega, Alabama. (Editors note: This image was computer generated in-game)



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and Byron provided all the dramatic feels fans are accustomed to in a wild, take-what-you-can-get finish – complete with wild wrecks back in the field.

Bowman conceded that he isn't as experienced at iRacing as so many of the others he competes against in this series and admitted the whole overall strategy change – no team orders – was also a new dynamic.

"That part of it's definitely different," Bowman said. "I feel like if we keep doing this long enough, we'll have teammates and manufacture orders in it, but it was definitely different to just focus on your deal and do your deal all day.

"It was kind of a weird race for us just with how we didn't get fuel under that first caution and then had to pit earlier under green and was kind of going to put us in a really bad spot, and the cautions kind of saved us."

It all worked out.

"Just glad to be able to get a win," Bowman said. "You know, it's good for everybody with Chevy Goods on the car and it's good to have some momentum. You know, obviously the season was going really well for us in real life, and then as we got into this virtual deal, had some ups and downs, but to get a win is really cool."

The next eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series race is set for Sunday, May 3 at virtual Dover International Speedway.

Former NASCAR Cup Series Champion Matt Kenseth set to join Chip Ganassi Racing

Chip Ganassi Racing has announced that when the NASCAR Cup Series returns to the track for the remainder of the 2020 season, Matt Kenseth will be behind the wheel of the No. 42 Chevrolet Camaro. Kenseth, the former Cup Series Champion and two-time Daytona 500 Champion, most recently competed full-time at NASCAR's highest level in 2017, where he finished seventh in the points and won the second to last race of the season at Phoenix Raceway.



The Wisconsin native is a 39-time Cup Series winner and will join a talented group on the No. 42 team, which entered the 2020 season following a best-ever sixth place finish in the 2019 point standings, a fourth consecutive trip to the playoffs, and a playoff race win at Dover International Speedway. With a newly designed Chevrolet Camaro for the 2020 season, the No. 42 team started the year strong, with three top-10 finishes in the first four races.

Notes:

- **Running Up Front** – With 18 years of experience in the Cup Series, Kenseth has consistently run near the front, averaging 10 top-five and just over 18 top-10 finishes a year in his 18 full-time seasons behind the wheel. During his career, Kenseth posted at least one win in all but four seasons and made the playoffs in all but one season in which he was eligible, finishing his full-time career with eight consecutive appearances.

- **A Winning Attitude:** Overall, the former Cup Champion, has 39 Cup wins including the Daytona 500 twice, the Coke 600, the Southern 500 and the All-Star race. He has 181 top-5s and has finished in the top-10 in points in 13 of his 18 seasons. When Kenseth scored his first Dayton 500 victory in 2009, he became only the fifth driver in NASCAR history to win a Cup Series Championship, the Rookie of the Year Award and the Daytona 500 – joining Hall of Famers Dale Earnhardt, Jeff Gordon, David Pearson, and Richard Petty.

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

Last Week's Race: Alex Bowman won iRacing race at Talladega

Hendrick Motorsports earned its third straight eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series victory Sunday when driver Alex Bowman nipped Corey LaJoie and Ryan Preece in a three-wide finish in the GEICO 70 at virtual Talladega Superspeedway. The final frantic laps in a re-start with three laps remaining was every bit the dramatic close-quarter conclusion that race fans expect at the 2.66-mile superspeedway, virtual or real-life. Bowman's margin of victory was a scant .037-seconds over runner-up LaJoie and .038-seconds over third-place finisher Ryan Preece. Garrett Smithley and Landon Cassill rounded out the top five. William Byron, Bowman's Hendrick Motorsports teammate and a two-race winner in the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series, finished sixth. Brennan Poole, brothers Kyle and Kurt Busch and Daniel Suarez finished inside the top-10. "I guess just right place, right time, kind of the normal speedway



racing deal," Bowman said afterward. There were 14 leaders and 27 lead changes in Sunday's 74-lap overtime race featuring a full field of 39 cars that included NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon's virtual debut. He ultimately finished 38th after getting caught in a few wrecks but remained all smiles on the FOX Sports broadcast where he traditionally handles the color commentary duties. "It's incredibly realistic," Gordon said of his debut, adding "I loved being a part of it."

Top News Stories

Ryan Newman says he will be driving the No 6 Ford when NASCAR resumes

Ryan Newman said Sunday that he will return to racing when the season resumes after he was involved in a fiery crash during the last lap of the Daytona 500 in February. The 42-year-old driver was hospitalized for two days with serious but non-life threatening injuries. Newman announced his plan to return to the racetrack during the broadcast of the eNascar iRacing Pro Invitational Series at virtual Talladega Superspeedway. "That's the absolute plan, for sure," Newman said. "I'm healthy. I've been blessed with another layer of this situation giving me more time to heal and look forward to being back in the seat." NASCAR responded with a statement encouraging his return when he is medically ready. "We share Ryan's enthusiasm in his return to the track. We look forward to Ryan returning to racing as soon as he is medically cleared to race." Ross Chastain took his place during his three race absence prior to the suspension of the season due to coronavirus. Chastain tweeted that he was happy about Newman's announcement. "I'm happy Ryan is returning to the No. 6 when NASCAR resumes," Chastain tweeted. "He has a wonderful team around and it'll be great to see him back competing."

NASCAR Race Schedule News

Texas, Florida govs eager to help NASCAR start on road to return from coronavirus

The race is on among states willing to be the first to host NASCAR races without fans. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that NASCAR was working with Texas Motor Speedway on a plan to race there. "I hope to announce the exciting details in the near future," Abbott said. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had already spoken to Daytona Beach-based

NASCAR executive Lesa France Kennedy, potentially putting both NASCAR-controlled Homestead-Miami Speedway and Daytona International Speedway in play at some point. Marcus Smith, the CEO of Speedway Motorsports, which owns Charlotte Motor Speedway and the Texas track, said he is eager to work with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to ensure the Coca-Cola 600 runs as scheduled May 24.

2020 Standings

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

- **Return to Team Chevy:** While this marks the first time Kenseth will race with Team Chevy in the Cup Series, he is no stranger to the manufacturer. Kenseth began his racing career in 1988 in a Camaro and made his debut in the NASCAR Southeast Series in 1994 behind the wheel of a Chevrolet, and continued racing Chevrolet's in the Xfinity Series through the 2001 season.

QuoteBoard

- **Chip Ganassi, Owner, Chip Ganassi Racing:** "I have always said that when we have to fill a driver spot, that I owe it to our team, our partners and our fans to put the best available driver in the car. We are doing exactly that with Matt. Throughout my time in NASCAR, I have always admired the way Matt Kenseth raced. He has proven to be a consistent winner, strong competitor, and respectful driver, and I'm glad we are able to add another NASCAR champion to the team for the remainder of this season."

- **Matt Kenseth, Driver No. 42 Chevrolet Camaro:** "This was an unexpected opportunity for sure. I can't say racing was even on my radar two weeks ago. After spending some time thinking about it and all the unique circumstances surrounding all of us right now, it just seemed the timing and

the opportunity was perfect to come back. I know I have a lot of work ahead of me to get up to speed in a relatively short period of time, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. I'm excited to work with Kurt again and to meet all my new CGR team members, and I'm really looking forward to getting back in a Chevrolet. In 1988, I started my career in a Camaro and I can't wait to finally race a Chevy in the Cup Series. I also need to thank Chip and all his partners for this opportunity. Hopefully we will be on the track soon."

About Chip Ganassi Racing

Chip Ganassi has been a fixture in the auto racing industry for over 30 years and is considered one of the most successful as well as innovative owners the sport has anywhere in the world. Today his teams include three cars in the NTT IndyCar Series and two cars in the NASCAR Cup Series. Overall his teams have 19 championships and over 220 victories, including four Indianapolis 500s, a Daytona 500, a Brickyard 400, eight Rolex 24 At Daytonas, the 12 Hours of Sebring and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Ganassi boasts state-of-the-art race shop facilities in Indianapolis and Concord, N.C., with a corporate office in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Racing Trivia

How many first time winners have there been at Talladega? ?

- a) 5
- b) 8
- c) 11
- d) 14

Answer: c) There have been 11 first time winners at Talladega. Only 5 of them ever won another race in the Cup Series.

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

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD

THEME: MOTHER'S DAY

ACROSS

1. "Ali Baba and the Forty _____," sing.
6. Eureka!
9. Schools of thought
13. Sound of artillery
14. Car nut
15. Without illumination
16. Nosey one
17. Kind of trip?
18. Lasso loop
19. *Little Women's mom
21. *Tracee Ellis Ross on TV
23. _____ o' shanter
24. Quitter's word
25. Like a fiddle?
28. Like Charles Dickens' Tim
30. Quarantine state
35. *Egyptian goddess of fertility
37. Insane, in Spain
39. Mother or daughter, in Italy
40. *Biblical Rebecca's son
41. Online reviews
43. Research facil.
44. Fisherman's decoys
46. Daytime entertainment
47. Furniture wood
48. End of the road, pl.
50. Blatant promotion
52. Swedish shag rug
53. Yours and mine
55. Little squirt
57. *Mother's mom
61. *She fought for Mother's Day, then against it
64. In advance
65. *Bambi's mom
67. Fancy tie
69. Less than femier
70. I have
71. "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" host
72. Fairies
73. Galley equipment
74. Feed the fire

DOWN

1. Kitchen meas.
2. Stay out of its way!
3. Pelvic parts
4. Tennis great Chris _____
5. Particular arrangement
6. Away from wind
7. *Mother's favorite gift?
8. Ancient marketplace
9. Part of a scheme

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19					20			21	22				
				23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
					53		54			55		56		
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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10. No neatnik
11. Sushi restaurant soup
12. One-pot meal
15. Like the States
20. *One of the Gilmore girls
22. Hill dweller
24. One-eyed giants
25. *She played Forrest Gump's mother
26. May edition, e.g.
27. *Worn atop the Queen Mother
29. Denials
31. Nike's "Just _____"
32. Private
33. "Take it back!"
34. *Mother in Kraków
36. Lard cousin
38. October birthstone
42. Plural of sputum
45. Rundown
49. Bottom line
51. Kind of ungulate, pl.
54. Where you'll find AM
56. Living room centerpiece?
57. Gamecock's spur
58. *Greek goddess of fertility
59. Bald eagle's nest
60. *Mums' mums
61. Opposite of cheer
62. International Civil Aviation Org.
63. Puppet precursor, possibly
66. *Female gametes
68. Café alternative

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