



The Franklin High School 2021 Homecoming Court has been selected. The court is chosen and voted on by the entire student body in their respective homeroom classes. Homecoming queen will be crowned on Sept. 24, during half-time of the Panthers vs. Tuscola Mountaineers football game. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m. Chosen for the court are (front row, L-R) McKayla Sanders, Abby Carpenter, McCall Sanders, Corey Burrell and Claire Holland; (back row, L-R) Nadia Owle, Taylor Moss, Andrea Terrell, Anya Valentine, Sydney Williams, Gracie Cochran, Carmen Sgro, Avery Moffitt and Tori Ensley. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Franklin observes 20th anniversary of 9/11



Volunteers gather to help clean up Lil' Tennessee



Taste of Tuscany raises funds for local causes

Town to put skatepark on Whitmire property

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Franklin Town Council first decided to move forward with plans of establishing a public skate park in May and by July had began eyeing Franklin's Veterans Memorial Park — also known as the Jaycee Park. However, due to flooding concerns as well as the size of the park being designed, Franklin leaders resisted the future park's location on Monday night.

During a special continuation meeting of the board, town leaders met with more than two dozen members of the community at the Whitmire Property in town. The property, which is located at the corner of the Highlands Road and Main Street, is currently home to the Sunnyside Disc Golf Course. After walking the property, town leaders voted unanimously to move forward with plans to construct the new 6,000 square foot skate park on the corner of the property.

"I think placing the park in the corner would allow that piece to be separated out in the future if the town decides to put the



Town officials and interested stakeholders met at the Whitmire property Monday afternoon to discuss the possibility of locating a skatepark there.

See SKATEPARK page 2

SKATEPARK

Continued from page 1

rest of the property up for sale at some point,” said Council member Joe Collins. “The unused property would still be marketable.”

The skate park would be an addition to the recreation options already on the Whitmire Property and will not adversely impact the existing disc golf course.

The skate park will be constructed as a public-private partnership project, with funding from the town of Franklin, funding raised from the community, and funding from JE Dunn Construction. JE Dunn Construction was originally hired by HCA Healthcare to build the new Angel Medical Center in Franklin, but after learning of the public’s desire to see a skate park developed in Franklin,

Project Superintendent Steve Suttles told members of the town council in June that the company was willing to volunteer to make the park a reality.

Suttles has estimated the cost of materials for the project to be around \$100,000, with much of the time and labor for the project being donated from HCA and JE Dunn partners. The total price of the project will depend on engineering and design services for the park, something Suttles said was necessary due to legal liability.

With a location identified, the next step is to solicit design and engineering concepts to fit the designated space, which will then give town leaders a better idea of the costs associated with completing the project.

JE Dunn is on a time crunch, so the project is expected to escalate quickly over the next few weeks.



Constitution Week September 17-23

At September’s Town of Franklin council meeting Mayor Bob Scott signed a proclamation to recognize Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2021 honoring the 234th anniversary of the drafting and signing of the U.S. Constitution. This proclamation is sponsored by the Battle of Sugartown Chapter NSDAR, the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Regent Vicki Baker represented the DAR Battle of Sugartown Chapter.

Constitution Week, September 17-23, begins a weeklong commemoration of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. The purpose is to remind Americans that the Constitution is the basic law which guarantees the freedoms American citizens enjoy.

The United States Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties and freedoms and to ensure those unalienable rights to every American.

The tradition of celebrating the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the US Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



Regent Vicki Baker representing Daughters of the American Revolution Battle of Sugartown Chapter offers Franklin Mayor Bob Scott a proclamation to sign declaring Sept. 17-23 Constitution Week.

- The aims of the celebration are to:
- Emphasize citizen’s responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution.
 - Inform people that the Constitution is the basis for American’s great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.
 - Encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

For additional information about Constitution Week, contact your local DAR chapter or visit DAR.org.

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Sheriff's Office reports Covid cases within detention center

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

As many inmates being held in the Macon County Detention Center were scheduled to appear in Superior Court this week, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland announced that due to a substantial COVID19 outbreak within the jail, those cases would have to be handled differently.

Last week, Sheriff Holland reported that all inmate visitations had been suspended due to multiple cases of Covid being confirmed within the detention center. According to Holland, the decision was made in the best interest of staff and inmates and was done as a precautionary measure. Jail officials are reportedly working with the local health department as well as the detention center physician and nurse to have all inmates and all detention officers tested. The testing within the detention center was voluntary and all but two inmates agreed to be tested for Covid.

Holland reported that as of Sept. 12, 82 of the 83 tests that were conducted had been returned. A total of 58 negative tests were recorded and 24 tests came up positive for Covid19. All 24 positive results were of male inmates and are in the dormitory section of the jail facility.

"We currently have no positive cases in the female dorm," said Sheriff Holland. "All MCSO detention officers tests resulted in negative for Covid19. Although negative, we will continue to monitor all employees and inmates as we have done throughout this pandemic and conduct additional tests when appropriate. In addition to this week's testing, we conducted 'rapid tests' for additional officers who reported for work this weekend and all those tests were returned negative for Covid19."

With a Superior Court session planned for this week, positive COVID19 cases and quarantines prevented many from being transported to and from court.

While visitation was suspended and because sheriff's office staff were concerned for all the inmates mental health due to denying opportunity for visits, the detention center staff has worked to make sure inmates have had the opportunity to call family or friends as needed.

"Staff reported that inmates voiced appreciation for looking out for their well-being," said Sheriff Holland. "Earlier this evening I called and had my staff communicate with each of our dorms via intercom system and asked if all inmates had the opportunity to use the phones today to call anyone if they needed to and the inmates confirmed they had. I also had them confirm all phones within our facility were operational throughout the weekend."

At this time, only one inmate remains hospitalized due to Covid and has been on oxygen. The detention facility is unable to adequately provide an appropriate location for an inmate needing an device to provide oxygen due to all of the isolation cells being occupied with other Covid positive inmates. All other inmates' symptoms range from no symptoms to minor symptoms. Medical staff from the health department and MCSO detention center physician have maintained continuous communication throughout the weekend with staff and inmates. All inmates continue to be doing well.

Sheriff Holland stated that for anyone concerned about a family member incarcerated within the facility, they can contact Macon County Jail Administrator Lieutenant Dereck Jones.

"Please understand that our staff will not confirm your family member has Covid and will not provide you with any medical information by telephone," said Holland. "They legally are not permitted to do so. You has access to a telephone and can call you to provide their medical information if they choose. No inmate currently incarcerated in our facility is severely ill at this time but all of them continue to be closely monitored."



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Franklin commemorates the 20th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attack

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Macon County residents gathered in the Panther Pit Saturday morning to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack. Franklin Mayor Bob Scott and Macon County Commission Vice-Chair Ronnie Beale opened the 9/11 ceremony with remarks remembering the lives lost and showing appreciation for the first responders who continue to serve the community.

Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell had the honor of introducing the event's guest speaker, Retired New York Police Sgt. Pat Howard, who told of his experience on September 11, 2001, when he lost his brother George in the terrorist attack.

"The unthinkable was now our reality," Howard said of the realization after watching the second World Trade Center Tower be struck. "America was once again under attack on our home turf. I say again, because in February 1993, there was a bombing at the same World Trade Center. It was a truck bombing that narrowly missed taking down that building."

George Howard was an officer with the New York/ New Jersey Port Authority Police Department and was at home when the first tower was struck. After receiving a call from his coworkers, George left the safety of his home and went to Ground Zero. George was on the ground when the second tower collapsed. While attempting to escape the rubble, George was struck in the back of the head by a projectile from the World Trade Center as it was falling.

Pat, who relocated to Franklin after being born and raised up North, said that as President George Bush toured the destruction left in New York City after the terrorist attack, he kept close Pat's brother's badge, as a way to honor his sacrifice and service.

Pat stated that with the pain and suffering so many have experienced, he looks for inspiration and hope in other places. After moving to Franklin four years ago, Pat said he often finds that inspiration in different areas of the community and the people in Macon County.

Franklin's new fire chief, Ben Ormond read the timeline of events on September 11, followed by a moment of silence to remember the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives.


The event was followed by the first annual Never Forget 5K race which raised money for the Franklin Fire Department to help with equipment needs. The race featured 94 runners, with Logan Russo and Hannah Ludwig coming in as the top two overall finishers of the race. To honor the fallen, many of the runners, volunteers at various fire departments in Macon County, ran the race in full turnout gear.

After the race, the public was invited to attend a Public Safety Day hosted by the Franklin Police Department in the Franklin High School parking lot.



Retired New York Police Officer Sgt. Pat Howard shared his memories of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack in which he lost his brother, George, an officer with the NY/NJ Port Authority Police Department. At left, piper Michael Waters plays "God Bless America." Below, Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell introduces Sgt. Howard.



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Photos by
Brittney Lofthouse &
Deena C Bouknight



Franklin Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Ormond congratulates the winners of the Never Forget 5K Logan Russo and Hannah Ludwig.

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Groups, volunteers on a mission to clean up Little Tennessee River

Deena B. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Last Saturday was bright, beautiful, cool, and for some people, wet. Hosted by Mainspring Conservation Trust, the annual Little Tennessee River Cleanup involved multiple volunteers in various areas of the river pulling out large pieces of trash, such as a sofa, pieces of metal, old tires, and more, as well as collecting plenty of discarded cans and bottles around the river's edge.

Rachel Newcomb, Mainspring's conservation outreach associate, said the results of the cleanup were significant.

"The weight was just over 2,500 pounds, which was 500 more than last year. It's exciting that we removed this much debris out of and around the river, but disheartening that littering continues to be such a rampant problem in Franklin," said Newcomb.

Focus on a 'Living System'

While there are many at Mainspring and other entities who are tuned into the environmental needs of the river, someone who has spent a good portion of his life in or beside the Little Tennessee is William (Bill) McLarney, Ph.D., an aquatic conservation biologist.

Before settling along the Little Tennessee River in the Oak Grove community, Dr. McLarney worked in aquatic ecology in such areas as the Great Lakes region and in Alaska. Currently, he splits his year between Macon County, where he has directed a biomonitoring study of the upper Little Tennessee watershed for more than 30 years and the Talamanca region of Costa Rica. He said



This year's Little Tennessee River Cleanup resulted in the removal of more than 2,500 pounds of trash – 500 pounds more than last year.



he was motivated to make fish his life's work after his father took him fishing as a young boy.

He explained that the watershed includes all streams and creeks that flow into the river starting in Rabun County, Georgia, and flowing down through Macon and Swain counties in North Carolina.

"The upper Little Tennessee watershed is an outstanding biodiversity resource; in particular, the 27 miles of free flowing river between Franklin and Fontana support the most nearly intact assemblage of aquatic life in the southern Blue Ridge."

Dr. McLarney's ongoing Biomonitoring

Program at Mainspring is nearly unique in its effort to involve local people in the process and in subsequent conservation activities. The program has been recognized with the North Carolina Governor's Award for Water Conservationist of the Year in 1994 as well as numerous other awards throughout the last few decades, including the American Fisheries Society's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award in 2014.

Often accompanied by other students and conservationists, Dr. McLarney spends much of his spring-to-early-fall days conducting biomonitoring surveys on the streams and creeks of the upper Little

Tennessee watershed. Essentially, the health of the waterways is tracked by studying the fish and organisms that live there.

For example, the Central Stoneroller, a spotted minnow-type fish, predominantly eats algae, which needs sunlight to grow.

"So if an excessive numbers of stonerollers are in the creek, you could conclude that the water is inadequately shaded," said Dr. McLarney. "All kinds of information determines if the habitat continues to be livable or unlivable for sensitive species. And we also learn, potentially, how to fix problems of urbanization and agriculture, which change the rivers over time."

Conserving the water quality of Western North Carolina, including the Little Tennessee River, is one of the main goals for Mainspring Conservation Trust, shared Newcomb. Mainspring's ongoing efforts have resulted in more than 35 miles of protected streambanks, making it one of the cleanest and biodiverse rivers in the Blue



Canoes and small boats were also used so volunteers could remove submerged trash from the Little Tennessee.

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Ridge Mountains.

While periodic cleanup efforts and general river health education are both imperative to the overall viability of water bodies, Dr. McLarney encourages anyone interested to participate in periodic Stream Visual Assessment Protocol activities, which teach people how to observe the elements of the water habitat.

“Anyone who is observant can be trained to do it,” he said. “Volunteers or people that live on a stream can and should learn this.”

He added, “Part of the purposes of all this is to encourage and motivate younger people to take an interest in this field of work that has been my life’s work ... to motivate and educate.”

For more information about how to get involved in Little Tennessee conservation efforts, visit www.mainspringconserves.org, or contact Rachel Newcomb at 524.2711, extension 305.



William (Bill) McLarney, Ph.D., an aquatic conservation biologist, oversees the ongoing bio-monitoring Program at Mainspring Conservation Trust.



Mainspring Conservation Trust’s Rachel Newcomb (left) helped coordinate the Little Tennessee River Cleanup so that community volunteers like Lois Rice could assist in removing trash from the water and the riverbank.

Aviation Club starting up at FHS

Diane Peltz
Contributing Writer

Franklin High School (FHS) will soon be home to a new club. The Aviation Club is set to begin in mid September and will include an airplane simulator for students to log in flight time. The club is the brainchild of the new Principal Michael Noe and ISS teacher Scott Hanna. The two began a successful aviation program when they worked at Hayesville High School and also helped Cherokee County get involved in teaching aviation at their Early College. They also taught students aviation at the Oaks Academy in Cherokee this past summer. The goal is to afford FHS students the same opportunity here in Franklin.

The week of Sept. 20 -24 is homecoming week at FHS and also what is known as club rush week. During this time students will be able to visit the various clubs offered at the high school to gather information on those they may be interested in joining. The Aviation Club will be boasting about its simulator where students can log in actual flight time to advance toward receiving a pilot’s license. While the simulators are still being built thanks to ESSER funds, the school hopes to have four simulators built within the month. Eventually, Noe says FHS will be offering an aviation class for those students who are interested in learning all the aspects of flight.

As of now, more than 40 students have expressed interest in the club. Any student at FHS is eligible to join the club, which will be held after school. Details on days and times



An Aviation Club at Franklin High School will incorporate flight simulators that will log actual flight time for students who want to learn to fly an airplane.

are still in the works. Flight time requirements to obtain a pilot’s license include a combined 40 hours in a simulator and in the air. FHS is in the process of aiding students with the actual flying time with the assistance of the Macon County Airport. Hanna is a licensed pilot himself. He explained that this club ties in directly with STEM, via math and science. Students who join the club will have the opportunity to advance toward a pilot’s license if they so desire. Noe says this is a great way for students to learn about time and behavior strategies, whether or not they continue on to advance to flight school.

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Identifying signs of child abuse and reporting suspicions essential to helping N.C.'s children

Summer recess is over and children all over North Carolina are back in the classroom. Though still in the midst of a pandemic, in-class learning is important not just for a child's educational well-being but also for their physical and mental health.

It is at school where signs of child abuse are often discovered. Teachers, school nurses and counselors are trained to know many of the signs of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect.

"It was deeply concerning when schools closed before we had a COVID vaccine," said Deana Joy, executive director of Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina (CACNC). "Children were isolated in their homes and could only participate in remote learning. For children being abused, it meant that they were trapped in their homes with their abuser. They suffered in silence and in secrecy."

With its 49 locations throughout the state, CACNC provides resources and assistance to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members.

When a young victim comes into one of its centers, they tell their story to a nationally trained interviewer. The information gathered is shared with investigative team members. An assessment is then conducted to determine the victim's medical and mental health needs. A family advocate is assigned to the child and non-offending family members to ensure that proper services are rendered and to provide guidance

through the investigative and legal process. All services are provided free of charge to a family for as long as they are needed.

"Throughout all of North Carolina last year, our centers provided services to more than 11,000 new child abuse victims," Joy said. "While that is a startling number, the sad reality is that we are certain there are many more. Abuse is often a secret that children feel they must keep. Therefore, it is critical that adults use their voice to protect children by identifying abuse and reporting it."

Red flags may include changes in behavior such as aggression and anger; anxiety or depression; frequent absences from school; reluctance to leave school or church activities, a fear of going home or to certain locations; rebellious or defiant behavior; physical symptoms such as bruises in uncommon places.

Any of the 49 local centers in North Carolina can provide resources to train people how to spot suspected abuse. One can also access the Children's Advocacy Center of North Carolina website at [CACNC.org](https://www.cacnc.org) for additional information.

"We want to help train an army of advocates to be courageous and join us in our efforts to be hope in action for child abuse victims in North Carolina" said Joy.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect in North Carolina, immediately call your local Department of Social Services and your local Sheriff's office. If you are a witness to child abuse, call 911.

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SCC's job fairs move outdoors

Due to public safety concerns related to COVID-19, Southwestern Community College officials have decided to move two upcoming job fairs outdoors at the Macon Campus.

The first event, which will be focused on the trades and skilled professions, is set for 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Two weeks later, the general job fair will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Sept. 30.

Both events will now be held – rain or shine – on the sidewalk behind SCC's Groves' Center in Franklin.

"At Southwestern, our top priority is the safety of our students and everyone who attends our events," said Mike Despeaux, SCC's Director of Career Services. "I'm personally very glad we've found a solution that allows employers and students to connect while minimizing safety concerns. The job market around here is wide open. Many organizations are in desperate need of quality employees, so these types of events are critical to keeping our economy rolling."



Mike Despeaux

A third job fair exclusively for healthcare professions is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, on SCC's Jackson Campus in Sylva.

In addition to organizing job fairs, Despeaux offers support with resumes and interview preparation along with a variety of online resources.

For more information about either of these events, contact Despeaux at m_despeaux@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4212.

Survey finds 50% of small businesses nationwide have openings they can't fill breaking a 48-year record high

Fifty percent of all small business owners nationwide reported job openings they couldn't fill, a record high reading according to NFIB's monthly jobs report. The number of unfilled job openings has remained far above the 48-year historical average of 22%.

"Small employers are struggling to fill open positions and find qualified workers resulting in record-high levels of owners raising compensation," said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg. "Owners are raising compensation in an attempt to attract workers and these costs are being passed on to consumers through price hikes for goods and services, creating inflation pressures."

State-specific data is unavailable, but NFIB State Director Gregg Thompson said small business owners in North Carolina are facing the same challenges.

"The inability to find qualified job applicants combined with the surge in COVID-19 cases is forcing a lot of small businesses to scale back, reduce operating hours, and, in some cases, close temporarily because they don't have enough workers," Thompson said. "Our members need the General Assembly to find solutions to help small businesses remain open and operate as safely as possible."

According to NFIB's jobs report, 66% of owners nationwide reported hiring or trying to hire in August, up five points from July's reading. A seasonally-adjusted net 32% of small business owners are planning to create

new jobs in the next few months, up five points and a 48-year record high reading. The 48-year historical average is 11%.

Finding qualified workers remains a problem for small employers with 91% of those owners hiring or trying to hire reported few or no "qualified" applicants for the positions they were trying to fill. Thirty-one percent of owners reported few qualified applicants for their open positions and 29% reported none, a 48-year record high.

Other key findings:

- Small business owners reporting raising compensation is up three points from July to a net 41% (seasonally adjusted) and a 48-year record high reading.

- A net 26% of owners plan to raise compensation in the next three months, down one point from July's record high reading.

- Ten percent of owners cited labor costs as their top business problem and 28% said that labor quality was their top business problem, up two points from July and both record high readings.

- Forty-four percent have openings for skilled workers and 27% have openings for unskilled labor. Sixty-six percent of the job openings in construction are for skilled workers, up 7 points.

- Sixty-seven percent of construction firms reported few or no qualified applicants.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

A citizen contacted me and asked why I stopped writing my Mayor On Duty column? I responded that I hadn't stopped and that I had been writing it every week for the last eight years. He responded that it had not appeared in the *Highlander Newspaper* for the past two weeks. I said he must be mistaken, that the editor probably placed it where he didn't notice it. I normally do not read my columns in the papers so I hadn't noticed any changes.

This past Saturday I decided to check the current *Highlander*. To my surprise my column was not in the paper. My initial thought was that there must have been a glitch in the email system, that the editor didn't get the column. When that infrequently happens, editors of the newspapers begin contacting me Tuesday afternoon about whether I am sending a column before the late evening deadline. No contact about a missing column had been sent.

So on Saturday afternoon I contacted the *Highlander* about why my column had not been published for the past two weeks. I was told that since I was a candidate for reelection the *Highlander* administration staff had decided to stop running my columns.

I embarrassingly contacted my friend to let him know why he had not seen the column in the newspaper. I accept the decision of the *Highlander* not to continue my column during this election season. I will say, I have written the column every week for all these years in the spirit of keeping the public informed about what is happening in town government.

Now if other news sources, newspapers or the radio station, want to stop running my columns and programs during the election season, that will be fine with me. Or, if they want to edit anything I say that they think is electioneering, the media has carte blanche. I simply request that they inform me of their decisions.

Tonight [Thursday] is the September meeting of the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners. It will start at 7 p.m. by way of ZOOM. The access information for the meeting will be available on the town website. The meeting will begin with public comment. This agenda is not very long, and I hope we can complete all business within a normal period of time.

I am cancelling the Community Coffee with the Mayor series for the remainder of the year. The Hudson Library has done a wonderful job of organizing these informal public meetings. During the pandemic the coffees were suspended. I resumed the in-person meeting at the library earlier in the summer. Given the current spread of COVID, I think it is in the best interest for the public to not to continue these sessions until we see a significant decrease in the virus spread.

Letters to the Editor

We can choose love

There is a lot of fear in the world. It comes at us from all directions. It seems that every level of our existence is to be feared. Sadly we add to it by our treatment of each other and our harsh judgements. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the message from our leaders, media and each other was one of comfort and love, support and caring? We can get through this. We can choose not to be brought down by fear and hatred.

Barbara Erben – Franklin, N.C.

It is possible for two good people to disagree

I reread the letters to the editor in *The Macon County News* for the last few months.

Some want big government. Some want small government. I am glad we can debate which is best in letters to the editor rather than in secret rooms and attics. In my opinion it is possible for two people to disagree about how much government is safe to have and neither person be evil.

For me, there is ample evidence that most people in the world are good. Most people in our country are good. If this were false there would not be more than 7 billion of us today; we would not have doubled the average life span in that last 120 years; we would not have decreased the number of wars and deaths from war so dramatically in the last 75 years; we would not have reduced violent crime almost 50% in the last 40 years; and we would not have reduced extreme poverty by 137,000 people every single day for the last 25 years. It's not everything but I think this progress is impressive.

Make no mistake, there is much more to be done and humanity has serious challenges, but we have not been stagnant either. If most people weren't good, I could not leave my house without fear that the veneer of civilization has fallen away and I am faced with barbarians at the end of my street. Most people are good and if a person falls for something that isn't true, I think, in my own way, I should share my perspective. I cannot convince everyone to see things my way but some convince themselves.

A contemporary of Mark Twain (I can't remember who) said, "It is easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled." I'm afraid, from my experience, this is true.

Having very little success at changing someone's mind in one sitting, I don't try anymore. Lately, I share a perspective or ask a question that the other can consider in their own time. I just try to give their mind something to gnaw on. I believe more minds are changed by gnawing than by hearing anyway.

David Hubbs – Franklin, N.C.

Ordinance needed for barking dogs

Currently there is no noise ordinance outside the city limits for barking dogs and I don't know about anyone else but we need one. If anyone else feels the same let's all stand up and tell the county commissioners to change it. There used to be a good neighbor policy as rule of thumb but now it seems that the constitutional right to annoy your neighbor wins out. Most neighbors have respect for their neighbors but the ones who don't are usually disrespectful in other ways, too. Yes, people have a right to have dogs but they also have a responsibility to control them too. I understand that it's a balancing act to make everyone happy and you can't because of certain reasons but a noise ordinance is right for all of us. Let's call or write our commissioners or go to a meeting and get this ordinance changed.

Felicia Henderson – Franklin, N.C.

Is lying still a sin?

Brianna Keilar "interviewed" Franklin Graham on CNN. That brought back memories of my mother's powerful respect for Billy Graham. She thought he was a Christian minister, not a politician. He never endorsed a presidential candidate. Franklin, though, endorsed Donald Trump. That makes Franklin a politician. He has refused to condemn Trump's flood of lies. He is ignoring the ninth commandment: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Those words come from Exodus 20:16 KJV.

Have Trump and Graham "modernized" the Bible? Is it too old?

When I was a child my mother admonished me for lying. So did the preachers in the small rural Baptist churches I attended. Do mothers and preachers still do that?

Why did Moses bring those tablets down from the mount anyway? Should he have omitted number nine?

If I go to church this Sunday and confess that I have lied to/about someone maybe the preacher will say, "AWH, quit fretting over that. Let's just move on." Move on is what Franklin Graham is advocating.

But, doesn't the Bible recommend atonement for sins? Is lying still a sin?

Dave Waldrop – Waldrop, N.C.

The Macon County News letters page is a public forum open to a wide variety of opinions as a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Letters are neither accepted nor rejected based on content. Letters must be signed and contact information provided. Views expressed are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of publisher, editor or staff. Writers are asked to refrain from personal attacks against individuals or businesses.

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Shades of gray exist in vaccination scenario

Joe Biden has just declared war on the unvaccinated. He has a lot of support among the media sycophants who see nothing wrong with demonizing huge numbers of people. This is a cold civil war that is being waged and for the stupidest of reasons. Think with me for a moment. Biden stated that we have to protect the vaccinated from the unvaccinated! If that is the case, then vaccinations are not that effective. This further undermines confidence in the vaccine and shifts one's cost-benefit analysis away from getting it. If the vaccinated can get and spread covid so easily, why are the unvaccinated singled out? In this scenario there is no black and white but shades of gray and the only black and white is the government's assertion to believe such nonsense and don't think for yourself. Also, the MAGA people are not the most vaccine hesitant and blacks as a group are the most hesitant. Check the polling on that. Does the (mal)administration really want to lose their historically biggest supporters?

For the record, I did my research and concluded it would be to my benefit to take the vaccine and have done so since I am in a higher risk group due to my age. This does not apply to everyone and each person has their own health issues that may have a bearing on the wisdom of getting the shots. This is especially true of pregnant women or those considering becoming pregnant and especially those previously infected. There is a lot we still don't know about the long term effects of these vaccines so a little humility should be in order. If there are serious consequences 15 or 20 years down the road it won't matter to me because I'll be checking out anyway. For those who are younger and have very little risk of getting seriously ill it will matter a great deal. It is now clear that natural immunity is superior to that of the vaccines. If you are afraid of the virus, take what precautions are deemed necessary and let others do the same. Let's quit going insane over this.

David Parker – Franklin, N.C.

'Misinformation' is potentially dangerous

I was amazed at the amount of misinformation in the Sept. 2, 2021, Letters to the Editor. Misinformation of the type in those letters is potentially dangerous and needs to be addressed. There is much we know about the COVID-19 virus and the mRNA vaccines. Because of overwhelming scientific evidence and outcome data we know masks work and are highly effective. They do not do more harm than good, and they do not decrease your oxygen levels. In fact, many healthcare professionals easily work in them all day long. We also know the mRNA vaccines are safe and effective. They are not mysterious or sinister. In fact, their ingredients and function are fairly easy to understand. They are the result of years of high-quality research, and we should be proud of how our country has been a leader in this research.

One of the dangers of people not getting fully vaccinated is that the continued spread allows for the development of variants. These variants are potentially more lethal and infectious. It is theoretically possible a "doomsday" variant could result unless many more people are vaccinated globally. It is astounding people will listen to the advice of those who have never studied virology and epidemiology. Television newscasts and the opinions of Fox pundits are not scientific evidence, nor is the opinion of fringe medical quacks. The peer-reviewed studies and well-designed random control trials are the evidence to which we should be paying attention. The actual evidence overwhelmingly supports the use of masks and vaccines.

The scientists at the CDC are not boogeymen out to bamboozle the populace. They are dedicated scientists and

healthcare professionals who are passionate about protecting the health of our country and stopping this horrible pandemic. Do not distrust science and healthcare evidence. Distrust the uninformed and uneducated opinions.

As someone who has cared for many critically ill patients, I can assure you that you do not want to be in an intensive care unit struggling to breath and awaiting intubation so you can be placed on a ventilator. The death from COVID is horrible and lonely. Do the right thing. Get vaccinated, wear your mask indoors when indicated, wash your hands, and socially distance. Together, and with the right information, we can save lives.

Dr. Norman Olsen, DNP, MSN, AHN-BC – Franklin, N.C.

Veteran offended by ad in VFW magazine

I fear for my country. The cause of my anxiety is the judgment that our nation has regressed beyond the point of no return. A number of events have led to that conclusion, chief among them, America's acceptance of Donald Trump's neutralizing our collective ability to determine right from wrong.

Presently available (thru American Mint), for just \$99, is the MAGA Movement Commemorative Coin Set. To quote from the ad I saw in the August 2021 issue of the VFW Magazine (I'll get back to that): "From visionary economic initiatives, to his strong stance and decisive actions to protect our nation against harm, President Trump has proven that his commitment to putting America first was just what the nation needed. As President, he showed little patience for the status quo that has crippled Washington politics for decades and has taken the bold steps necessary to put America back on top as the most respected nation in the world."

That's simply untrue. The 45th President betrayed the nation and the people he took an oath to protect. He tweeted, he watched FOX News, and he golfed. He used his power to spread lies and disinformation and poison our politics. He pandered to dictators, alienated our allies, and encouraged and emboldened white supremacists. On top of all that, throughout his last year in office, he downplayed and actually worsened the global pandemic costing tens of thousands of Americans their lives. He was twice impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Republican Party (in the face of overwhelming evidence) twice revealed its cowardice and complicity by acquitting him.

We have always defined the United States as a nation of laws and the incontrovertible premise that no one is above those laws. Donald Trump and the GOP have, over and over and over again, proven that doctrine - an illusion.

Donald Trump obstructed Congress, violated his oath of office, betrayed the public trust, undermined the Constitution, disregarded the rules of law and abused the power of the presidency on occasions too numerous to list (including asking the president of a foreign power to investigate a political opponent). As if that isn't enough, to insure history records and reviles the presidency of this consummate liar and conman (and I truly believe history will confirm this exactly), days before leaving office he incited a deadly attack on our Capitol in a last ditch effort to overturn a free and fair election he lost.

That the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization (of which I am a Life Member and have been for decades) would agree to carry an ad glorifying such a man (in my opinion as a career veteran who served in a war zone -Vietnam) is inappropriate and discredits VFW members and all veterans who have served honorably.

I fear for our country. I fear that our people no longer hold inviolate the principle that truth matters and that our nation cannot long survive a divided, disconnected and disengaged society.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

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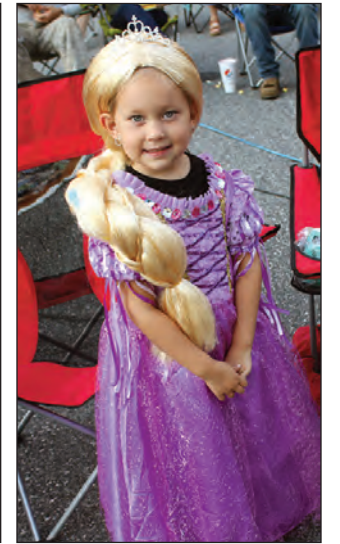


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On a Dream and a Wish

The Overlook Theatre Company presented *On a Dream and a Wish: A Royal Celebration* this past weekend on an outdoor stage at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. Back by popular demand, the show was first presented last year in an outdoor event. Aspiring princesses were invited to attend in their finest royal attire to participate in the coronation of Cinderella. The celebration included all the heroes and princesses in the land with a few jealous villains thrown in who weren't invited and showed up just to cause trouble.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



Taste of Tuscany benefits local causes



The Zonta Club of Franklin presented a Taste of Tuscany last Saturday. The SenAmore Vineyard & Farms offered locally made wines for the wine-tasting event. Live music was provided by Sweet Charity and both live auction and a silent auction took place throughout the evening. Proceeds from ticket sales and the auctions go to benefit the Special Liberty Project and Franklin Fire & Rescue's Child Safety Seat program. Pictured (L-R) are Dion and Cathy Sen, SenAmore Vineyard and Farm owners; Franklin Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Ormond; Cory and Jessica Merritt, co-founders of The Special Liberty Project; Deb Williams, Zonta Vice President and Fundraising Chair; and Deanna Wagner, Zonta President. Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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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 September 3 - 12. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

September 3

William Guimar Ramos, was charged with breaking and entering, injury to personal property, injury to real property, communicating threats, second degree trespass. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Jason Christopher Webster, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance.

Hannah Eve Morrow, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Robert Brandon Clark, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

September 7

Lori Wiley Turpin, was charged with driving while impaired, assault on a government officer/employee, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer.

Kristin Amy James-Bates, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

September 8

Heath Allen Leggett, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance. David Blanton made the arrest.

September 9

Joshua Gage Davis, was charged with probation violation. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

September 10

Matthew Dakota Shuler, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, going armed to the terror of the people, discharge firearms, driving while license revoked. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Morgan Faith Byrd, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

September 12

Jennifer Marie Gerba, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

September 2

Robert Samuel Snyderburn, 38, was charged with posses-

sion of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kevin Dwight Tallent, 47, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, cover/conceal registration plate. A \$7,000 bond was set.

September 3

Max Colton Edwards, 30, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Joseph Eugene Jones, 52, was charged with driving while intoxicated. A \$600 bond was set.

September 4

Patrick Alan Gilcher, 37, was charged with assault and battery, resisting officers. No bond was set.

September 5

Charles Gilber Ownby, 67, was charged with assault on a female. A \$75 bond was set.

Jacqueline Helana Kidd, 36, was charged with larceny. A \$850 bond was set.

September 7

Casey Wayne McKeehan, 39, was charged with trafficking methamphetamine by transportation, trafficking methamphetamine by possession, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, carry a concealed gun, carry a concealed weapon, display fictitious registration plate, driving while license revoked. A \$125,000 bond was set.

September 8

Mary Elizabeth Henson, 21, was issued warrant service. A \$1,500 bond was set.

September 9

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with trespassing, resisting officers. A \$250 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

September 6

Thomas Michael Joseph Wade, 19, of Touch Stone Lane, was charged with assault on a female, battery of unborn child. No bond was set.

Travis Lee Collins, 43, of Sylva, was charged with child abuse. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Amanda Jo Dixon, 31, of Sylva, was charged with failure to report a crime against a juvenile. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Casey Wayne McKeehan, 39, of Bryson City, was charged with driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Travis Lee Collins, 43, of Elizabeth Trail, Franklin, was charged with felony child abuse inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

September 7

Heather Nicole Moose, 31, of Gardenia Lane, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance law violation, obtaining property by false pretenses. A \$6,000 bond was

set.

September 8

James Phillip Howell, 63, of Arnold Hill, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Brandon Marsell Barker, 18, of Cheek Circle Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for criminal summons. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Justin Reeves Lambert, 39, of Sunset Farm Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of fentanyl, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

Tracy Vonetta Shepard, 40, of Sylva, was charged with resisting a public officer.

September 9

Phillip James Manley, 32, of Julian Dr., Seneca, S.C., was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Brandon H. Evans, 41, of Cullowhee Mint. Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Ariane Alene Cucumber, 40, of Lambert Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, drug equipment violation. An unsecured bond of \$2,500.

Kyle Lee Lackey, 38, of Haley Court Manor, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond was set.

September 10

Kaitlyn Brooke Price, 28, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of stolen motor vehicle, resisting a public officer, false report to police station. A secured bond of \$5,100 was set.

September 11

Kristen Danette Jones, 43, of Chipper Curve Rd., was charged with forgery of instrument, uttering a forged instrument, obtaining property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Jeffery Lynn Carpenter, 46, of Willow Pond Rd., Franklin, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Gabielle Uriah Carver, 35, of Highland Wood Dr., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation, possession of a stolen property. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

September 12

Lacy Anne Bryson, 30, Brahman Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for felony larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Heather Nicole Steele, 28, of Lands End, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$31,000 was set.

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Upcoming music opportunity at Porchfest in Highlands Sept. 19

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Highlands Porchfest is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 19, from 1-6 p.m. While this is the first such event planned for Macon County, sponsors and organizers are hopeful that it will be an annual event – and that a Porchfest is also in Franklin’s future.

The Sept. 19 event’s organizer and presenting sponsor is Center For Life Enrichment (CLE), a 30-year-old 501(c)3 nonprofit organization offering life enrichment opportunities through educational lectures, gardening, art, nature, travel, and music to area residents and visitors.

Highlands Porchfest will feature around 26 musicians, including nationally recognized musicians and local legends, such as Blue Jazz, Norma Jean Zahner, Lady and the Tramps of Franklin, Zorki, Highway 441 and many others.

The downtown Highland businesses hosts of the musicians at outside areas are: The Bascom, 200 Main, Highlands Wine Shoppe, Town Square, Sotheby’s, First Presbyterian Church, Old Edwards

Lodge Croquet Lawn, Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park, Chambers Realty, Hudson Library and The Performing Arts Center.

“The length of time that musicians will need to play will depend on the number of musicians, and they will be allowed to play for tips and can have CDs and t-shirts and any other products available for sale,” said Karen Hunt, a board member of CLE and the brainchild behind Porchfest. She added: “It’s a way to have fun together, get outside together, and to support local musicians.”

Numerous Porchfest community volunteers have been working for several months to prepare logistically for the event. Porchfest volunteers will be wearing bright orange volunteer t-shirts the day of the event.

The pre-registration system for the free Porchfest event is already indicating more than 1,000 attendees are expected. To get updates on Porchfest and to learn more about registering, musicians, and sponsors, visit www.highlandsporchfest.com. Or, follow Highlands Porchfest on Facebook and Instagram.

Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture series: The Critters of Coweeta

The next program of the lecture series, “Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture” will be held on Monday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center. Jason Love will talk about the fascinating lives of the critters found in Macon County at Coweeta.

Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory is world renowned for its research in forest hydrology. However, the 5,400 acre field station also boasts more than 135 research publications on wildlife. Learn about the wildlife that roam the forest and streams at Coweeta, from the tiny Pygmy Salamander to the American Black Bear, and from the Peregrine Falcon to the Timber Rattlesnake.

Love has both a bachelor's and master's in wildlife and is the former Site Manager for the Coweeta Long-Term Ecological Research program. He currently works as the Associate Director for the Highlands Biological Station, Western Carolina University.

The lecture series is designed to give people an opportunity to learn more about our local area, from many different angles, and to enjoy a pleasant, informative evening together. Come join us at the school at 51 Cowee School Road.



Peregrine Falcon

Masks are required.

Next month, on Oct. 18, Michael Ann Williams will speak about the homeplace in the Southern Appalachians.

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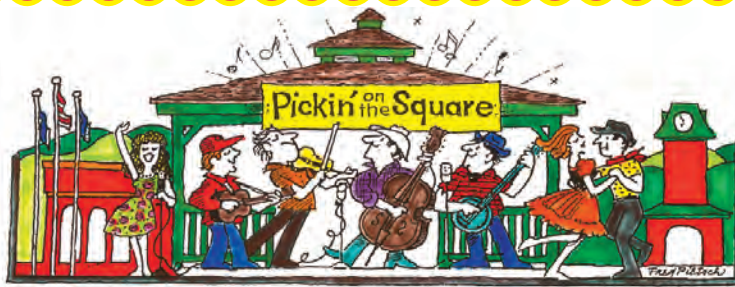
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This week we will have a legend of our own. That's right, we will be having *Curtis Blackwell & the Dixie Bluegrass Boys*. Curtis was once a member of the legendary *Bill Monroe* band. This weekend they will entertain us with their fantastic bluegrass and treat us to some great music.

So bring yourself a chair and kick back with us this Saturday at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. See you Saturday.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Treetop brooms said to be witches' resting sites

Dr. Bob Gilbert – Columnist

Have you ever looked up into a tree canopy and spotted what appears to be squirrel's nest, but on closer inspection you find it alive with atypical needles or leaves and abnormal growth patterns? These masses are called witches' brooms. There are various causative agents. The most commonly seen brooms are on hackberry (Celtis). In fact, multi-brooms on a deciduous tree is a good clue it may be a hackberry. A mite and a mildew fungus cause these brooms (1). Other brooms are caused by different sources. Cherry and blueberry brooms are caused by a fungus and pine brooms by a rust, while viruses on peaches and black locust can create abnormal growth (2). The name evolved in ancient times when brooms were often found in old trees in very old cemeteries. It was believed they occurred where a witch had rested during her nightly travels (3). Now that witches are almost extinct it is understood that stresses from both environmental factors and parasites can induce these curious growths. Also, a broom that originates from one central bud on a pine can result from a genetic change (3).

Another feature about brooms is that pieces can be rooted or grafted and rarely revert back to normal growth patterns. Most stay small, becoming dwarf or miniature plants. They can produce seeds that may have further variations. When you find miniature plants, especially conifers, in a nursery almost always they were started from a broom. In fact, a whole new industry has evolved of miniature, semi-dwarf or dwarf conifers that appeal to people with rock gardens and bonsai collections.

How do you collect a broom, as they are often high up in an old tree? The tree could be climbed and the broom cut down or a crane would enable the same collecting technique. But most often a shotgun is used. A shower of broken pieces rains to the ground. The entire broom mass would not survive left whole as there are no roots. So, roots have to be created. Trees like pines do not produce roots easily. So, the small portions (scions) are grafted on rootstocks of the same type. Most commonly pine brooms are grafted on Western White Pine rootstock because it is very vigorous in our climate. In fact, there are seedlings grown by specialized nurseries for rootstock grafting.

Deciduous trees and shrubs can be rooted in a greenhouse. Just about any evergreen or deciduous plant can produce a broom. Just recently I found several in a deciduous tree whose identity is not clear, likely a hackberry.

When a broom has been rooted and grown it can produce seeds. Most of the resultant seedlings maintain the parental growth patterns. Does this mean that the seeds have under-



Dr. Bob Gilbert

gone a genetic change or has the causative agent attached itself to the seed? In fact, has the broom growth undergone genetic changes as well? Perhaps a reader can unravel this mystery?

Another source of miniature plants is seeds. Growers will set out thousands of seeds to germinate. A very small percentage of the seedlings will be different. I once visited a nursery in Tennessee that was interested in developing mildew resistant dogwoods. Thousands of native dogwood seeds were collected, germinated and planted in long double rows. When the seedlings grew big enough the owner would drive down row after row looking for mildew resistant plants or variations. He would tag the trees that looked promising and move them to a nursery bed for further evaluation. The remainders were plowed under making room to repeat the process. The Cherokee series of dogwoods came from Shadow Nursery by this method.

Years ago, a broom was noticed high up in a white pine, *Pinus strobus*, at Biltmore Estate. With a shotgun, portions



Witches Broom

Photo by Karen Lawrence

were collected. These were grafted onto the roots of a Mexican White Pine, *Pinus strobiformis*. This Witches' Broom has been named *Pinus strobes* "Biltmore Blue." Flo Chafin, owner of Specialty Ornamentals in Watkinsville, Ga., has recently donated this rare grafted selection to Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga.

This article first appeared in *Chinquapin*, the newsletter of The Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, winter 2012, Volume 20 (4).

Dr. Bob Gilbert, cofounder of Smith Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw, Ga.

Karen Lawrence is a professional horticulture and wild life photographer from Franklin.

References

1. Purdue University Witches' Boom, Cherry Plant and Pest Digital and Digitally Assisted Diagnosis, West Lafayette, Indiana. www.ppdil.org/dd/id/witches_broom.html
2. Henderson State University, Witches Broom, www.hsu.edu/pictures.aspx?id=1833
3. Alfred J. Fordham, 1967. Dwarf Conifers from Witches'-Brooms, *Arnoldia* 27 (3, 4).



Rev. Norman Rix Meservey

Rev. Norman Rix Meservey, 84, passed away Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, after a long battle with cancer and now rests in the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the son of the late Norman Baldwin and Lydia Rix Meservey.

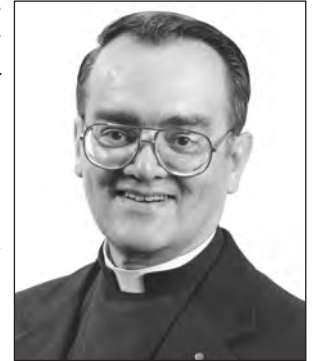
He spent his teenage years in the Boy Scouts receiving the rank of Eagle Scout and the God and Country award. One of his favorite past times was bowling. He served this country in the Army Reserve for six years. He sang in the Western Carolina Community Chorus and in the choir at First Baptist Church of Sylva. He received his Doctorate of Music/Organ from Boston University and a Master of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School Boston at the age of 40. During his career, he served in several churches, and locally he served at St. Agnes Episcopal Church in Franklin for eight years, before retiring from the ministry in 2003.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lorie Smith Meservey. They were married April 22, 1995, at the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin with an attendance of 350 people from as far away as England.

He is also survived by three grown children, Elizabeth McCoy, Christopher Meservey and wife Jen both of Philadelphia and Kevin Meservey and his wife Hanh Tran of London, England; and six grandchildren, Sean, Megan and Molly McCoy of Philadelphia and Leo, Thomas and Alexander of England.

A Celebration of Norman's life with the Word of God and lots of good music will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, at 1 pm at First Baptist Church of Sylva with Dr. Jeff Mathis and Father Jonathan Stepp officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

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



Rev. Norman Meservey

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Deaths & Funerals

Helen Tallent Neal

Helen Tallent Neal, 77, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021. Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late R.L. and Lucille Cunningham Tallent. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Dale Tallent.

She enjoyed working in her garden with her flowers and watching the hummingbirds. She loved everyone, especially her nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Doug; one brother, Kalen Tallent of Franklin; four sisters, Loleta Hodnett of Willow Spring, N.C., Shirley Cope, Joyce Tallent and Katrina "Tinker" Dehart all of Franklin; sister-in-law, Tina Tallent of Franklin; her numerous nieces and nephews, who loved her dearly, and great nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service was held Friday, Sept. 10, at Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Mark Bishop officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Eric (E Rock) Urrutia

Eric (E Rock) Urrutia passed unexpectedly Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021. Our family loss was purchased by his release to eternal glory in the new body he so deserved. He survived three open heart surgeries over his short life, then a debilitating stroke finally giving way to a failed heart.

As a "service brat" he was born in Asheville and after living in many stations in the U.S. and overseas he came to rest in the mountains he loved, second to his love of surfing in Florida where he lived many years. He was full of life constantly looking for an opportunity to share his genuinely wonderful sense of humor as well as his love of family and most important his heart for all who needed to hear him laugh. Die-hard Dallas Cowboy and New York Mets fan, he enjoyed a full repertoire of sports facts. He will be missed by many, and we all know he is waiting at the gate for the rest of us to catch up. He is preceded in death by his mother, Belinda Peele Urrutia.

He is survived by his father and "mom" Ron and Lee Urrutia; his sister and family Griffin and Kimberly Urrutia Lloyd, Caitlin Urrutia (and Brandon) Waite; step siblings, Justin (and Jill) Lloyd, Melody Lloyd, Gina (and Wes) Peer; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

All who knew and loved Eric are invited to a celebration of his life Saturday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m., at Franklin Covenant Church.

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



Helen Tallent Neal



Eric Urrutia

Morris Lee Stiwinter

Morris Lee Stiwinter, 73, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Thursday Sept. 9, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late Len and Ethel Lousie Patterson Stiwinter. He was a founding member of the Otto Fire Department, a founding member the Otto Community Club, Cemetery Trustee at Wright Cemetery and Dryman's Chapel Building Trustee. He loved spending time outdoors, farming and working with his tractor, and camping.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Pauline Dowdle Stiwinter of Otto; daughters, Phyllis Castle (Ronnie) of Otto, Kathy Fountain (Kevin) of Otto, and Gail Stiwinter of Otto; sister, Jessie Henson of Dillard, Ga.; and grandchildren, Terri Fountain, Dakota Fountain, Leigh Castle, and Mia Castle.

A service was held Monday, Sept. 13, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Dryman and Rev. Don Moffitt officiating. Burial followed at Wright Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dakota Fountain, Kevin Fountain, Ronnie Castle, Bill Harkins, Jamie Wiggins, and Terry Rholetter. Honorary pallbearers were Bill Williamson, Bobby Brabson, Roy Chastain, James "Punkin" Wiggins, Mick Mason.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Dryman's Chapel Church or Wright Cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Morris Lee Stiwinter

Dana Phillip Bellavance

Dana Phillip Bellavance, 60, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his fathers, Hollis Williams, and Paul Bellavance.

He graduated from New Hampshire Technical Vocational College with an associate degree in Mechanical Drafting. He was the former owner of the Franklin Billiard Club and worked for Architectural Visions Inc. for many years as a territory sales representative.

He is survived by his wife, Charlene; children, Lydia Marie and Nicholas Ray all of Franklin; his mother, Mary Jo Wilcox Williams; sisters, Carol Charbonneau, Cynthia Williams both of Florida; brothers, David Bellavance of Florida, and Dwayne Williams of Vermont; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service was held Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Dana Bellavance's Go Fund Me page and Messino Cancer Center, 10 One Center Court Franklin, NC 28734

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Dana Phillip Bellavance

Horace Vaughn Neely

Horace Vaughn Neely, 52, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Sept. 10, 2021. He was the son of the late Carl Neely and Geraldine Tritt Neely. He was also preceded in death by one brother Dale Neely.

He enjoyed coon and bear hunting, he loved his dogs and all animals. He was a friend to everyone, and loved his family and friends. He will be deeply missed by everyone.

He is survived by one sister, Denise Zachary and husband Ben Zachary of Highlands; one brother, Terry Neely of Clayton, Ga.; three nieces, Candace Keener, Michaela Kaim, Alexis Neely; two nephews, Kyle Keener, and Quinton Neely.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Clear Creek Community Cemetery in Highlands with Johnny Owens officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Beck Funeral Home to help with Funeral expenses.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Ga., is in charge of the arrangements.

An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.



Horace Vaughn Neely

Sara Violeta Pautrat De Ronceros

Sara Violeta Pautrat De Ronceros, 95, of Franklin, N.C., died on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Born in Lima, Peru, she was the daughter of the late Carlos A. Pautrat and Sara S. Carrion. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Guillermo Ronceros. She was of the Catholic faith, and she would often say "Long presence of Jesus in our hearts" and "Jesus, I trust in you." She loved the Cowee Valley, its people, and its generous community.

She is survived by her son, Juan Guillermo Ronceros of Lima, Peru; and daughters, Violeta E. Ronceros of Los Angeles, Calif., Elena Ronceros Carlson of Franklin, and Gloria Zevallos of Orlando, Fla. Among her 11 grandchildren are Walter Herz and Sara Carlson of Franklin; nine great grandchildren; and one great great grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

No local services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to KIDS Place, PO Box 693, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Sara De Ronceros



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Deaths & Funerals

Kathy Lavera Ledbetter Hurst

Kathy Lavera Ledbetter Hurst, 70, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Friday, Sept. 3, 2021.

She was born in Macon County to the late Lawrence and Pearl Frazier Ledbetter. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by siblings, Geneva Stanfield, Jane Brookshire, Larry Ledbetter, and Max Ledbetter.

She was lifelong resident of Macon County and a member of Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church. She was a Mars Hill College graduate and devoted her career to teaching. She enjoyed playing Bingo and loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Andy Hurst; children, Adam Hurst, Andrew Hurst, and Rhyann Hurst; brother Charles "Buck" Ledbetter; grandchild, Jaydison Adam Hurst; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Sept. 8, at Liberty Baptist Church with Rev. Don Bates will officiating.

The family served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Betty Zane Henry Hunter Butts

Betty Zane Henry Hunter Butts, 80, went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021.

She was born on Jan. 15, 1941, to the late Edd and Alma Barnes Henry of the Clear Creek Community, Highlands, N.C. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Timothy Edwin Hunter; sister, Clara Jane Henry Edens (W.T.) of Pickens, S.C.; and brother, Clem, L. Henry of Highlands, N.C.

She was a member of the Short-off Baptist Church. She was an inspiration to many that knew and loved her. To her family she was Grannie Boo, Uncle Betty, mom, aunt, counselor, sister, comedian, and friend. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by a daughter, Pamela (Irvin) Smith of Clayton, N.C.; a sister, Helen Henry Talley (Zane) of Highlands; two brothers, Malcom Fred Henry of Highlands, and Eddie (Doris) Henry of Easley, S.C.; three grandchildren, Amber Engert, Caleb Hunter, Savannah Hunter; six great grandchildren, Destiny Sanders, Cayden Engert, Hudson Engert, Paisley Hunter, Kaine Hunter, and Jocelyn Sanders; and several nieces and nephews that loved and adored her.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Macedonia Baptist Church, Clayton. Rev. Zane H. Talley and Rev. Andy Cloer officiated. Burial followed at Clear Creek Community Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Clear Creek Community Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 1321, Attention Joan Hicks, Highlands, NC 28741

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Kathy Hurst



Betty Butts

Mary Hopkins Young Berry

Mary Hopkins Young Berry, 90, recently of Atlanta, Ga., died peacefully in Florence, S.C., on Sept. 9, 2021.

She was born in New Orleans, La., to Barbara Linton Eskrigge Young and John Livingston Hopkins Young on June 5, 1931. She graduated from Washington Seminary in Atlanta, and attended the University of Georgia, majoring in landscape architecture.

On March 27, 1951, she married John Broadus "Jack" Berry Jr. at St. Philips Church in Charleston, S.C., and moved to Fort Monmouth, N.J., where Jack served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

After Jack's Army service, Mary moved with Jack during his telephone company career to Nashville, Birmingham, Lafayette, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Cooperstown. Settling back in Atlanta, she became active at the St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, serving on the Prayer Garden committee, the Flower Committee, and the Vestry. She volunteered for the Budget Helper Shop, the FISH organization, as well as school fund raisers, scouting organizations, and the Civil Air Patrol. After their retirement to Highlands, she was active at the Church of the Incarnation as an usher, vestry member, and Flower Guild member; the Laurel Garden Club, the Highlands Historical Society, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Meals on Wheels, and a bridge club.

She is survived by her five children, John Donaldson Berry (Jane), David Andrews Berry (Carrie Duncan-Berry), Virginia "Ginny" King Berry Jones (Ken), Alan Broadus Berry (Debra), and Brian Hopkins Berry (Jennifer); grandchildren, John Ferguson Berry, William Logan Berry, Edwin Neicy Berry (Justine), Robert Emory Jones (Jessi), Michael Livingston Jones, and Madison Paige Berry; brothers, Robert Eskrigge Young (Nell), and John King Logan Young (Janet); sister-in-law, Clare Terrell Berry; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be long remembered as one who lived the Golden Rule and one who had a servant's heart, always looking for ways to care for others, especially the uncared-for. She leaves us with an incredible legacy of kindness, generosity, and family strength.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at the Church of the Incarnation, Highlands. In lieu of flowers, it was Mary's wish that donations be made to either the Church of the Incarnation Bell Tower Endowment fund or to the Highlands Meals on Wheels.

A second service will be held on Thursday, September 16 at Saint Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, Atlanta, at 11 a.m. Masks are required indoors. A private burial will be performed at Arlington Memorial Park, Sandy Springs, Ga. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Suthers Center for Christian Outreach, which follows in the footsteps of the Budget Helper Shop.

Funeral services are provided by Bryant-Grant Funeral Home.

Jason Christopher Dennis

Jason Christopher Dennis, 34, of Franklin, N.C., passed from this life to an eternal one in Glory on Thursday, Sept. 9, after a three-week battle against illness and complications.

He was born Sept 17, 1986, in Seattle, Wash., to the late Craig Dennis and the late Carrie Swanson.

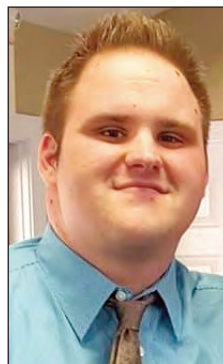
He leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife Jessica; his precious sisters, Heather and Emily; and his twin brother and lifelong friend, Carson and sister-in-law, Pauline; maternal grandmother, Shirley Shaffer, father and mother-in-law, Sam and Tracye Criswell; brother-in-law Zach Criswell; six nieces and nephews as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and a great many friends who are loved as family.

He was always one to serve and help those around him in any way he could, a true example to us all, of a life lived with Christ-like kindness, grace, and love. He was a faithful long-time member of Franklin Truth Church.

A service to celebrate the life of Jason was held on Sunday Sept. 12, at Franklin Truth Church with Pastor Burt Johnson officiating.



Mary Berry



Jason Dennis

Frances Annette Henderson Ledford

Frances Annette Henderson Ledford, 85, who was born on Dec. 21, 1935, went on to Glory on Sept. 10, 2021. She was predeceased by her husband and her parents along with her siblings, John H. Henderson, Jr., Eunice Roberts, James E. Henderson, Ed Henderson, and Mary Nell Henderson, who died as an infant.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." - Psalm 116:15. What better legacy to have than being remembered as a sweet, precious child of God?

Frances Annette Henderson Ledford leaves that legacy. The most important part of her life was her Christian walk; and, in 1971, she became a member of Iotla Baptist Church. There she made many friends and was known as a kind, approachable lady. She took her discipleship seriously, enjoyed reading the Bible, and was an active prayer warrior. She regularly retreated to her prayer closet, furnished with a table, scriptures, and names of those in need of prayer. Her love for God and her enduring faith directed her life.

Second was her love of family. She was fortunate to be born into a loving close-knit family. Her parents, John Henry Henderson Sr., and Annie Rebecca Cates Henderson, reared Frances and her siblings in Knoxville, Tenn. She always loved to keep in touch, and one of her favorite things to do was chat with her sisters on the telephone. In 1955, she met the love of her life, Spence Roosevelt Ledford, and they married in Walhalla, S.C., in 1956. They were married for 51 years until his death in 2007. Frances and Spence were parents of a son, Tony Ledford. She absolutely adored Tony and his wife, Wanda.

She was such a gentle person. She always cautioned, "Be careful," to everyone she came in contact with. When teased about being a worrier, she explained she was not worried, she was just concerned.

She loved Christian literature and songs. She especially enjoyed reading *Guidepost* magazines and listening to music from the Gaither Gospel Series. If her television was on, you could be sure she was watching old game shows or the RFD channel; or, even better than television, she took pleasure in watching the hummingbirds at their feeder and the other birds enjoying the suet feeder.

Surviving are her son, Tony, and his wife, Wanda; her siblings, Betty Hambrick, Patsy Henderson, and Diana (Bumpy) Henderson all of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., and Dorcas Sanford of Parrish, Ala.

A service was held at Iotla Baptist Church on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pastor Brandon Breedlove, Rev. Steve Reeves, and Rev. Kevin Roberts officiated. Pallbearers were nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Iotla Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1537 Iotla Church Road, Franklin, NC, 28734.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the Ledford family.

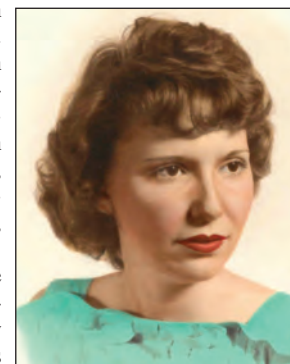
Harry E. Morrow

Harry E. Morrow, 85, of Apopka, Fla., passed away on Aug. 31, 2021. He was born on Jan. 26, 1936, in Aliquippa, Pa.

He was an active member of the Junaluske Masonic Lodge, Oasis Shrine and Smoky Mountain Shrine Club. He was also a retired veteran from the Air Force and United States Postal Service.

He is survived by his children, Richard (Robin) Morrow and Laura Cascaddan; siblings, Robert Morrow and Edith Hites; three grandchildren as well as six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Shriners Transportation at Bahia Shriners Office.



Frances Ledford



Harry E. Morrow

Martin Truex Jr. wins Playoff race at Richmond

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Martin Truex Jr. received a penalty on the opening lap of the race for crossing the start/finish line in front of polesitter Denny Hamlin at the green flag. But 400 laps later Truex led the field across the line again – this time as the race winner of Saturday night's Federated Auto Parts 400 Salute to First Responders at Richmond (Va.) Raceway.

The convincing 1.317-second margin of victory over his Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Hamlin and Christopher Bell marked Truex's third win in the last five races at Richmond, his fourth win of the 2021 season and, most importantly, gave him that coveted automatic bid into the next round of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs.

Truex joins Hamlin, who won last week's Playoff opener at Darlington, S.C., and Regular Season Champion Kyle Larson, who finished sixth on Saturday, as the only three drivers to have officially secured positions in the Playoffs' Round of 12 that begins in two weeks at Las Vegas.

The first thing Truex did after climbing out of his winning No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was acknowledge the importance of the September 11 date to our country and thank the fans for showing their support on the solemn anniversary and for their patriotic support of the sport of NASCAR.

Truex, who led a total of 80 laps, took the lead for good – pacing the field for the final 51 laps – following a series of green flag pit stops in the final portion of the race. Just prior to the pit sequence, another JGR teammate, Kyle Busch, had positioned himself to be a factor at the checkered flag. Instead, Busch received his second pit road penalty of the night – a speeding violation during his green flag stop with 55 laps remaining. At the time, it dropped him to 10th place, the last car on the lead lap after he had been out front for 39 laps just prior to the green flag stops. He ultimately finished ninth.

Last week's winner Hamlin had been the strong car early, leading 100 of the opening 152 laps and a race best 197 on the night, winning both Stages. But the pit road sequence, lapped traffic and an awakened Truex forced Hamlin to play catch-up in the end.



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Red White Blue Toyota, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Federated Auto Parts 400 Salute to First Responders at Richmond Raceway on Sept. 11, 2021, in Richmond, Va.

Reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion Chase Elliott finished fourth in a Hendrick Chevrolet and Team Penske's Joey Logano was fifth in a Ford. Larson finished sixth, followed by the only non-Playoff driver among the top 10, Ross Chastain.

Stewart-Haas Racing's driver Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Team Penske's Ryan Blaney rounded out the top 10.

Playoff drivers Alex Bowman, Brad Keselowski, Aric Almirola and Tyler Reddick finished 12th-15th. William Byron (19th), Michael McDowell (28th) and Kurt Busch (37th) rounded out the Playoff finishers.

Noah Gragson holds off Justin Haley to win Xfinity Series race at Richmond

Noah Gragson led the final 14 laps – holding off the field on a pair of late race restarts- in Saturday's Go Bowling 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Richmond (Va.) Raceway to earn his second win in as many weeks - celebrating the moment by wrapping himself in an American flag then climbing the front grandstand fence to a cheering crowd.

Gragson, 23, was only three years old when the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks occurred, but the Las Vegas native was clearly moved by the opportunity to acknowledge the powerful day in American history. And important day in his career.

His .381-second win in the No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevrolet over a hard-charging Kaulig Racing's Justin Haley gives him a two-race winning streak heading into next week's regular season finale at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway, where the 12-driver Playoff field will be set.

"It's an emotional day. It's a special day. But it's not about us today."

NASCAR Camping World Truck Series championship competitor John Hunter Nemechek finished third with Gragson's JRM teammate Justin Allgaier rallying from an early race mechanical issue to finish fourth, followed by Stewart-Haas Racing's Riley Herbst.

Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Daniel Hemric and 18-year-old Ty Gibbs were sixth and seventh. Gibbs led a race best 67 of the 250 laps and won Stage 2.

Brandon Brown, Harrison Burton and Jeb Burton rounded out the top 10.

The Xfinity regular season wraps up with next Friday's Food City 300 (7:30 p.m. ET on NBCSN, PRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) on the high-banked Bristol Motor Speedway half-miler.



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Go Bowling 250 at Richmond Raceway on Sept. 11, 2021, in Richmond, Va. Photos by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

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SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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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: TV COUPLES

ACROSS

1. Sweeney Todd's weapon
6. It's in the hole?
9. Plural of #6 Across
13. Soft palate dangler
14. Each one for himself?
15. Red Cross supply
16. Short skirts
17. Flightless bird
18. Wavelike patterned silk
19. *Philip Banks' wife
21. *Dre Johnson's wife on "Black-ish" and occasional site around rain storm
23. 31st of the month, e.g.
24. E-mailed
25. Digital audio workstation
28. Essence of idea
30. Mouth infection
35. Fusses
37. Burden or load
39. Official language of Lesotho
40. Choose politically
41. Sashay
43. Thailand, formerly
44. All worked up
46. One assigned menial work
47. Rancher's unit
48. Blue jeans
50. Famous Scottish lake
52. A cause of inflation
53. Number one
55. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's guitar
57. *Stars Hollow Luke's love interest
61. *Louise Jefferson's husband
64. Like a solitary player
65. Government Printing Office
67. Home to BYU
69. Request to Geico
70. Calendar mo.
71. Gladdened
72. 36 inches

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73. *Jake and ____ of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine"
 74. Rub off
- DOWN**
1. Cuba Libre ingredient
 2. Tel ____, Israel
 3. Pueblo tribesman
 4. Good will branch
 5. Leveling to the ground
 6. Congregation's echo
 7. *Mitch's husband in "Modern Family"
 8. Accustom
 9. Long, long time
 10. Baby container
 11. German currency
 12. Old World duck
 15. The ____, an English rock band from the '80s
 20. Goodbye to amiga

22. Marching insect
24. Classroom attendee
25. *Patrick's fiance on "Schitt's Creek"
26. Dig, so to speak
27. King of the gods in Wagner's "Das Rheingold"
29. Barber shop sound
31. Civil Rights icon
32. Ancient city in Africa
33. *Javen's companion on "Temptation Island" or Lamb Chops' puppeteer
34. *Marge Simpson's husband
36. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence
38. Kind of gin
42. Follow as a consequence
45. Bald Eagle to Ameri-

- cans, e.g.
49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
51. Capital of the Republic of Macedonia
54. Fraternity letter
56. Trial's partner
57. Like a doily
58. Paella pot
59. Big cat sound
60. Blyton or Bagnold
61. Like a bloody horror movie
62. Romantic painter Francisco ____
63. December 24 and 31, e.g.
66. *Jim's co-worker and wife on "The Office"
68. Type of poem

Classifieds

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COMPANION HEALTH CARE is looking for compassionate and caring individuals to work in homes. CNAs and PCAs part-time, flexible hours. If you enjoy caring for others, contact Heather (828)524-6444.

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