



At last year's Little Tennessee River Cleanup, Tara Black and her son, Taran, collected quite a pile of trash out of the river from their inflatable raft. This year's cleanup is set for Saturday, Sept. 11. Volunteers are asked to report to the Mainspring office at 557 East Main Street for supplies and assignments either the week before, or between 9 and 10 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 11.

Volunteers needed for river cleanup Sept. 11

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

While many people will be observing the 20th anniversary of 9/11, volunteers throughout the community will come together on that day to clean trash from the Little Tennessee River. Hosted by Mainspring Conservation Trust, the annual Little Tennessee River Cleanup, Saturday, Sept. 11, will involve volunteers assigned to a variety of litter zones. Each volunteer will work from the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. time slot, depending on their individual schedule that day.

Mainspring volunteer Guy Gooder has been organizing this event for 16 years and spends considerable time scouting locations most in need of litter removal along the Little Tennessee and its tributaries. Gooder assigns locations to volunteers based on their ages and comfort levels.

"I hate litter like most people," said Gooder. "And I love to paddleboard and kayak, so when I looked down and saw cans and tires, I decided I wanted to be involved in cleanup efforts."

In order to encourage social distancing, Mainspring staff and other coordinators will have supplies, such as bags, gloves and grabbers, available for pickup at Mainspring's office on 557 East Main Street either throughout the week prior to the event, or from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, on

See CLEANUP page 2

Help Homeless Veterans Week Sept. 5-11

Deena C. Bouknight
 Contributing Writer

At the August 2021 Town of Franklin Council meeting, a proclamation was signed by Town of Franklin Mayor Bob Scott designating the week of Sept. 5-11 as Help Homeless Veterans Week. The proclamation calls attention to the needs of homeless and "distressed" veterans in the town and surrounding areas.

According to Ned Kraft, president of the First Presbyterian Church Men's Group, the organization has been raising money since 2014 for the effort. In 2018, the group decided to start an "on the counter" program by placing collection containers at area businesses and restaurants to raise money. In 2019, the Men's Group raised \$9,000. Last year, due to COVID-19, the collection containers were not placed, but First Presbyterian Church collected \$3,100. Kraft said he has no idea what the 2021 effort will achieve.

"The Town of Franklin knows that there is a need to help homeless Veterans and feels that by proclaiming the second



Collection containers have been placed in area businesses to raise funds for homeless veterans.

week in September as Help Homeless Veterans Week it will help with the fundraising efforts," said Kraft. "We have partnered with the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM). Their facilities include transitional housing, one for men and one for women and children."

In fact, Kraft said that ABCCM helps veterans in 74 counties in North Carolina, including all Western North Carolina counties. He added, "In 2019, there were about 18 veterans in Macon County that needed help, according to ABCCM. Some were homeless and needed housing while others needed help with utilities, rent, transportation, food, health co-pays, child care, and more. We spend the year raising funds to donate to ABCCM."

Although Kraft is not a veteran, several men in the men's group are, and he explained they all, collectively, believe in the importance of assisting veterans in need.

Kraft encouraged citizens and visitors alike to look for the collection containers while patronizing area businesses and restaurants.

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Woodworker hones skills with intricate artwork

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CLEANUP

Continued from page 1

the Mainspring property across the street from its office. A dumpster will be on that site for trash to be loaded. In addition, a list of both roadside and vessel cleanup locations will be identified so that helpers can choose to work on floodplain land, along the riverbanks, or in the water itself. Plus, canoes, boats, and paddleboats are needed for trash removal in the water.

Gooder added, "We can make our beautiful rivers look undisturbed and save wildlife. Trash kills ducks, turtles, and fish from entanglements. It's great to be stewards of our watershed."

Gooder said he will be thankful for anyone who shows up to help with the Tennessee River Cleanup.

Volunteers can also contact Rachel Newcomb, Mainspring's conservation outreach associate, at 524-2711, extension 305, to notify Mainspring of their intent to pick up trash on their own.

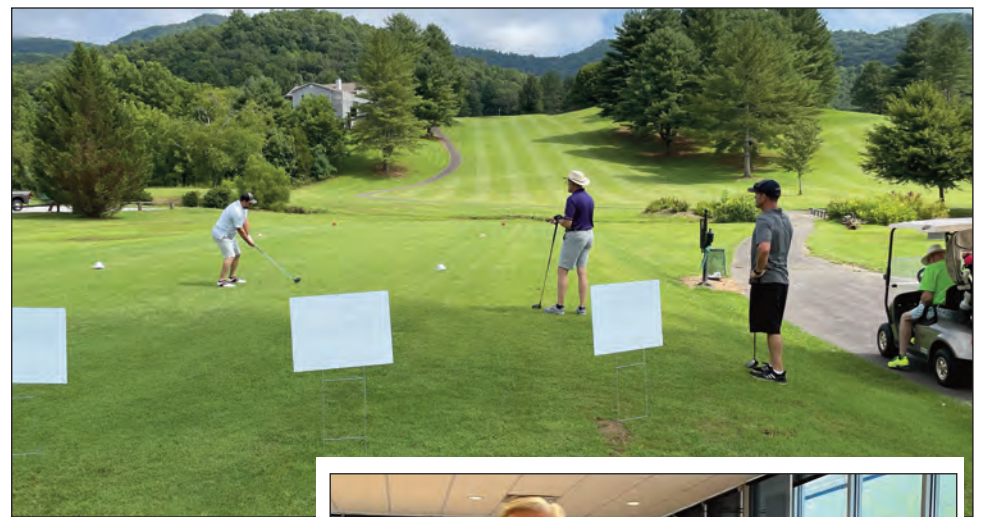
"This cleanup is significant to Mainspring and the Franklin community at large because this is the one time we collectively assemble volunteers to protect this natural resource from the littering that has occurred over the previous year. Microplastics, which are small fragments from larger plastics that



Chris Thornton paddles a boatload full of trash collected from the 2020 Little Tennessee River Cleanup.

have broken down, end up in our streams and threaten the health of our waterways," said Newcomb.

Dedicated to saving nationally significant places in the Southern Blue Ridge, Mainspring Conservation Trust serves the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Ga. For more information, visit www.mainspringconserves.org.



Golf tourney benefits Teen Challenge

Countryside Chevrolet hosted a golf tournament at Mill Creek Country Club Aug. 21 to benefit Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies. A total of \$4,100 was raised. At right, tournament organizer Countryside Chevrolet's Ava Alvarez presents a check to the center's director, Mike Barres. Men's and Teen Challenge is a faith based 12-month residential addiction recovery program.



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School board names principal, teacher and support person of year

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

At last month's meeting of the Macon County School board, three people were honored for their service to Macon County Schools. Mark Sutton has been chosen Principal of the Year, Thomas Graham was named Teacher of the Year and Christina Talient was honored at Support Person of the Year.

Principal of the Year

Mark Sutton has been the principal of Macon Early College (MEC) for the past five years.

He began his teaching career at East Franklin Elementary School in August 2000 and then went to South Macon from 2001-2004. He taught at Franklin High School (FHS) for half a year and then Macon Middle School (MMS) from 2005 - 2007. Sutton taught Health and Physical Education at all those schools until he became Assistant Principal at MMS in 2007. He served at MMS until Mountain View Intermediate School (MVI) opened in 2010 where he became MVI's first principal.

"I served as principal at MVI for six years. I then choose to transfer to MEC to gain some high school experience and have been serving in this role ever since," said Sutton. "MEC is a wonderful school. The family atmosphere that is created by the students and staff make it a safe place for students to learn and grow. MEC allows students to obtain a high school diploma and two-year college transfer degree simultaneously."

Some advice that he would give to a middle schooler about MEC is, that it is a place where students are serious about their studies and dedicated to working hard to achieve their goals.

Sutton has been married to his wife Alise



Principal of the Year Mark Sutton with his wife Alise, and sons, Addix, 14, Paxton, 11 and Michael, 7.

for 20 years. They met as students at Western Carolina University (WCU). They have three boys, Addix, who is 14, Paxton is 11, and Michael who is 7. They also have a dog named Bella.

Sutton enjoys exercise and sports.

"I believe that exercise and taking care of myself makes me a better husband and father. I have also volunteer coached multiple sports teams in Macon County and served on many community organizations that revolve around youth. I truly enjoy working with youth and trying to make a difference. I was born and raised in Macon County. I have continued to pour my time and efforts into the community, mainly the youth," said Sutton.

ton.

His final words of wisdom to all students is, "Always believe in yourself!"

Thomas Graham is Teacher of the Year

Thomas Graham has been chosen as Macon County Teacher of the Year. This is his ninth year teaching Band at MMS.

"This is my 13th year as a teacher," said Graham. "I graduated from West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. I received my Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Technology from Grand Canyon University. I have taught band, chorus, piano, gen-

eral music and computers."

Before MMS, he taught in west Virginia for 20 years. He currently teaches 7th grade band and 8th grade band and jazz band.

"Teaching music is a fantastic way to connect with students in a different way than they often are able to in other classes," said Graham. "In band, students learn to be creative in the way they perform music and also learn how to be a family and be supportive of each other as they learn. Strange sounds come out of band instruments when played by beginners, but one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching band is to hear how amazing student abilities can grow in just a year. All jobs have their ups and downs, but I have found that teaching is something that I thoroughly enjoy. I do not dread going to work, I look forward to going each day. When students I taught years ago connect with me on Facebook or see me in person, it is always heartwarming to listen to them tell me something they learned in my class helped them as adults or how much band was a positive part of their youth."

One of Graham's favorite quotes is "Success does not consist of never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time," by George Bernard Shaw.

"I have enjoyed being a Macon Middle School Panther more than I can say in a few words. I appreciate all my fellow teachers, administrators, and staff at MMS for all their hard work and making our school so successful. I have made many friends here and hope I have positively affected some lives along the way," he said.

"I am happily married to a wonderful lady named Marina Hunley-Graham. Marina is the Artistic Director for the outdoor drama "Unto these Hills" in Cherokee. I have three sons, two daughters-in-law and four grand-

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children - all of whom live in Florida except for one son who currently attends Swain High School and still lives with us. I have a cat named Jumper that truly lives up to her name. She is as energetic at 16 years old as she was as a kitten," he shared.

Graham's hobbies include snow skiing, playing musical instruments, and he and his wife love to watch movies.



Thomas Graham, Teacher of the Year

I also assisted in the third-grade classrooms and monitored the fourth grade during their recess time."

Before working at Cartoogechaye, she was a substitute for Macon County schools starting in 2018, shortly after relocating back to the Franklin area. Her previous career was as a Marine Biologist, working for both the UNC

Institute for Marine Sciences in Morehead City and then the Virginia Institute for Marine Sciences at the College of William & Mary in Gloucester Point, Va.

"I really enjoy interacting with the students and seeing them acquire a new skill or achieve a goal. Each day is different, meaning that although my rotation schedule is set, there are always new tasks or needs that arise. I've yet to really find anything that I would consider a 'dislike' about my job."

Tallent has been married to her husband Joe, for almost 23 years. The couple has two daughters. Abby is 16 and has just started her junior year at Macon Early College. Maddy is 10 and is beginning 5th grade at Mountain View Intermediate.

"The family has a tortoiseshell cat that 'chose us' shortly after we moved into our house," she said of the family pet. "Although she is an outdoor cat, she doesn't wander far from our front porch, where she can be found sleeping almost any time during the day. I enjoy cooking, working outside, gardening and also birding."

Something she might tell her students is,

"You can learn something new every day!" and to always "Be Kind."

"After living all along the East Coast of the U.S., due to relocating for my husband's career in the Coast Guard, I feel very blessed to be back in Franklin. Although the town has grown considerably since I grew up here, it is a very special place and my heart is happy to be home," she shared.



Christina Tallent, Support Person of the Year

Christina Tallent selected as Support Person of the Year

Christina Tallent began working at Cartoogechaye Elementary School in November of 2019. She is a teacher assistant for the second grade block, which consists of four teachers. She explains, "I visit each of their classrooms at set times throughout the day to support them in any way needed. This could involve working with small groups of students that need extra help, assisting with grading papers, filing completed work/forms, managing communication folders, and helping prepare weekly assignments/making copies, etc. I try to take care of time-consuming, daily tasks, in order for the teachers to have more time for student engagement. However, during the 2020/2021 school year,

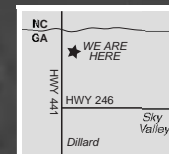
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Woodworker takes practical skills to create intricate works of art

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Frank Whitcomb had his hands on wood all his life. He maintained and renovated structures. But when the 80-year-old retired a few years ago, he decided to transition from practical application to artistry.

A half-a-year seasonal resident, along with his wife, Betty, Whitcomb has a meticulously organized, detached woodworking shop at his home just off Highlands Road. It is there that he made birdhouses for a while, until cedar became too expensive. Currently, his shop is equipped with an inventory of about a dozen different woods from all over the world, including zebra, black walnut, and monkey pod, ordered from a Wisconsin supplier. Whitcomb uses the different hues, densities, and textures to craft painstakingly detailed likenesses of animals and birds.

"I just heard about [wood art] and started experimenting with it," said Whitcomb. "At first, I had to throw away lots of attempts. I would zig when I should have zagged and zag when I should have zigged," he quipped.

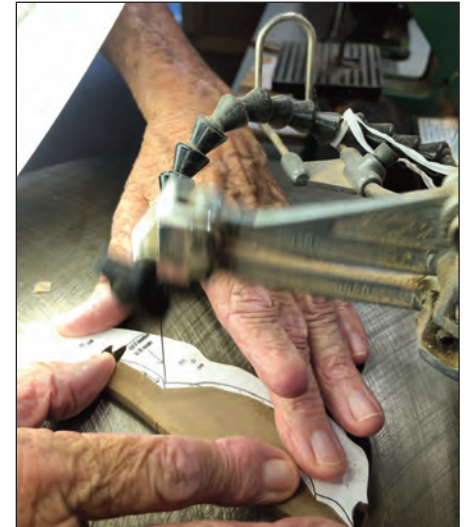
Whitcomb is talking about the precision saw, called a scroll saw, that he uses to cut through the wood based on an intricate pattern. He either uses already established patterns, such as ones by Tennessee woodworker Judy Gale Roberts, or he makes a pattern – such as that of a beloved pet – out of a photographic likeness. The pattern might include dozens of larger to minute pieces that, when cut, fit together like a puzzle. But after Whitcomb cuts each piece out of selected woods that best convey the image, he has to then carefully sand them to precision in order to create the wood art. Finally, he finishes each piece so that the wood grains and colors shine.

"I spend at least six hours a day out here [in the shop], and it takes me a week or two to complete each piece," said Whitcomb. "But I enjoy working with wood and it keeps me busy ... gives me a sense of accomplishment in my retirement years."

While he frequented craft shows post-pan-



Above the door of Frank Whitcomb's woodworking shop is his likeness he created from wood.



In order to accomplish his wood art, Frank Wickham must use an intricate pattern and then cut each piece of selected wood with a precision saw.



demic in order to present and sell his wares, Whitcomb said opportunities have been few this past year. Still, he is able to sell his wood art pieces, which fetch around \$50 each, by word of mouth and commissions.

Plus, he gives them away as gifts to family members and friends.

"We have two daughters, five grandchild-

dren, and nine great-grandchildren, and they all want pieces," he said. "The children especially love the animals."

Whitcomb also displays wood art pieces in his home and shop and garage. And a likeness of him, "my self-portrait," hangs over the entrance to his woodworking shop.

Last year, during the 2020 quarantine, Whitcomb fashioned whimsical animals into cell

phone stands. He admits that the "toughest" wood art subject so far has been a lion.

"Getting all the colors right in the mane and the waves of the mane ... that was a challenge." He added that art focusing on hummingbirds is his best seller.

Whitcomb would like to see more young people interested in wood crafts and art, and he has tried to teach the skills necessary. However, he said woodworking requires "patience and hand/eye coordination. I try to encourage young people, but if it's not happening on a computer; they lose patience before they learn the skills. It took me a few years to perfect the work. All that time, you're getting better and better. But they don't want to stick with it."



A final art piece is constructed of many different hues, textures, and densities of wood. During the 2020 quarantine, Frank Whitcomb made several whimsical animal cell phone stands (far left).

Whitcomb has not met anyone else in the surrounding area who creates art using wood. He plans to continue to create art with wood for as long as possible and – even though he only makes enough money on each piece to cover the cost of the wood – he conveyed that the fact that people own and enjoy his creations is satisfaction enough.

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MAHEC expands Ob/Gyn services in Franklin

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is expanding its women's health services in Franklin with the addition of Amelia Cline, MD, who specializes in full-spectrum obstetrical and gynecologic care. Dr. Cline is passionate about rural women's health and is a graduate of the UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill and MAHEC Ob/Gyn Residency Program in Asheville.

"I'm excited to be a part of MAHEC's efforts to expand women's care services across Western North Carolina," Cline shares. "I'm especially looking forward serving women and their families in Franklin and providing the same high quality care we have here in Asheville."

Dr. Cline joins Suzanne Dixon, MD, at the Franklin practice and is currently accepting new patients. Beginning Sept. 14, the Franklin practice will expand its hours to three days a week. Women's health services include complete obstetrical and gynecologic care, contraception and family planning, post-reproductive age care, evidence-based hormone replacement therapies, women's nutrition and health counseling, and in-office surgical procedures. Prenatal patients can choose to deliver at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva or Mission Hospital in Asheville.

As the region's only high-risk ob/gyn provider, MAHEC's maternal-fetal medicine specialists have supported Macon County residents for many years through expert consultations with local primary care and ob/gyn providers and specialty services in Asheville. MAHEC has been committed to improving access to women's and primary healthcare services in Western North Carolina since 1974.

MAHEC Ob/Gyn Specialists at Franklin is located at 56 Medical Park Drive. New and existing patients can schedule appointments by calling 828-634-4565.

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Suzanne Dixon MD and Amelia Cline MD

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About MAHEC

Mountain Area Health Education Center was established in 1974 and is a leader in healthcare, education, and innovation. With a main campus in Asheville, MAHEC serves a 16-county region in Western North Carolina and is one of nine Area Health Education Centers in N.C. MAHEC's mission is to recruit, train and retain the workforce needed with a focus on primary care in rural communities and those with less access to resources. MAHEC offers residency training in family medicine, ob/gyn, general surgery, psychiatry, pharmacy, and dentistry as well as fellowship training in addiction medicine, sports medicine, hospice and palliative care, and rural medicine. MAHEC's Asheville campus is also home to UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC, an academic health center in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill that includes programs from the UNC School of Medicine, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and UNC Adams School of Dentistry. For more information, visit www.mahec.net.

Jackson Co., Highlands reinstate mask mandates

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners announced Monday morning that due to rising positive COVID19 cases in the community, the county would be reinstating the mask requirement for all county-owned facilities. An amendment to the county's local State of Emergency was signed by County Commission Chairman Brian McMahan Monday morning.

The order is similar to the one that was first issued in March 2020, and was lifted in May of this year. It includes several exceptions to the masking requirement, such as people who:

- are actively eating, drinking or strenuously exercising;
- are speaking for broadcast to an audience or to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired;
- are required to remove a mask for identification purposes or to secure government or medical services;
- would be at risk from wearing a face covering at work;
- is a child whose parent, guardian or responsible person has been unable to safely place the mask on the child's face or is under the age of 2;
- are working in an interior office or protected area with a barrier such as a plastic or glass shield;
- cannot wear a face covering due to medical or behavioral conditions.

The county order does not mandate masking outdoors or in privately owned spaces and only covers buildings owned by Jackson County. The amendment puts the order into effect immediately and states that it will remain in effect unless terminated or modified by county officials.

At a special meeting Friday, Aug. 27, the Highlands town board passed an order reinstating the wearing of masks in all business zones, in both inside and outdoor spaces. Inside capacity limits are not part of this order. Customers in restaurants and bars do not have to mask while eating and drinking.

Tom Neal, CEO of Highlands Cashiers Hospital and director of the vaccination initiative, made a compelling case to the board for the necessity of masking in business areas. The positivity rate for the plateau area is at 18%, which is considered to be a high code red zone. The order will remain in place until the positivity rate drops below 10%. At that time, based on the recommendations of health professionals, the board will consider rescinding the mask requirement. Warren Cabe, director of Macon Emergency Services, supported Neal's assessment and concerns. Both agreed that the COVID situation in the area is as intense, or even more so, than at the beginning of the year. Health experts are seeing a surge with the spread of the Delta variant.

This order does not apply to residential zones, although everyone is encouraged to socially distance in crowded situations.




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Visitation policy changes now in effect at VA facilities due to COVID

Charles George VA Medical Center, and its three Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Franklin, Hickory and Rutherford County (Forest City), continue to make adjustments in an effort to protect the veterans it serves and minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. A no visitor policy went into effect on Aug. 30.

Visitors will not be allowed to enter the medical center or CBOC facilities. This measure is being taken for the safety of patients, visitors and staff and to help to limit the spread of COVID-19 infections. Visitation under specific circumstances, such as for patients under our care in the facility with grave illness or are near death, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the treatment team.

Family/Caregiver attendants for specific clinics will be

arranged in advance of scheduled appointments.

Walk-in availability will be limited for several services; contact the individual clinics for specific instructions.

Those entering VA facilities will continue to be screened prior to entry. A surgical mask covering the nose and mouth will be required for entry. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided at all screening entrances.

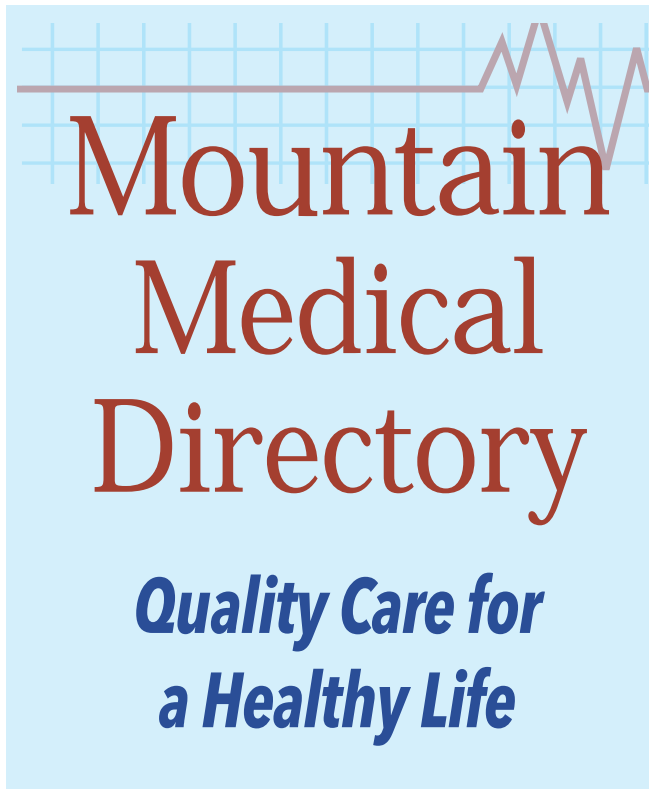
Enrolled veterans who are suffering from any upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath should not seek to be seen face to face unless they feel that it is an emergency. The Emergency Department remains open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you are sick, you should call 1-828-298-7911 ext. 3 to coordinate care prior to visiting any provider at the VA med-

ical center or local VA clinics. Virtual care is available in addition to face-to-face care.

Veterans and staff are encouraged to continue to take every day preventative actions to avoid being exposed to the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home if you are sick or becoming sick
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol
- Continue to use a mask and practice social distancing



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The great Martin Luther wrote a letter to the faithful during the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1527. He had chosen not to flee Wittenberg where he taught at the university, but rather to stay and minister to others. Below is a portion of the letter which has been circulated on the internet in recent days. It seems to strike a cord as we deal with the spread of COVID.

Luther wrote: "Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence or has recovered, and act like a man who wants to help put out the burning city. What else is the epidemic but a fire which instead of consuming wood and straw devours life and body? You ought to think this way: "Very well, by God's decree the enemy has sent us poison and deadly offal. Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God." Luther's Works, 1999.

The Highlands Cashiers Vaccination Initiative put on a vaccine clinic this past Saturday for people with compromised immune systems needing a third booster shot. Volunteers also vaccinated people who were getting their first vaccine shot. I am so thankful for those folks stepping forward to be vaccinated even though they may still have concerns.

I am also grateful for the wonderful volunteers that put on the clinic. They embody that spirit of ministry and grace that Luther lived and practiced as the leader of the Reformation.

The town board reinstated the mask requirement in business zones at a special meeting last Friday. It applies to both inside and outside activities. Tom Neal, the CEO of the hospital and director of the vaccination initiative, presented a compelling case to the return of wearing masks without delay. He stressed that our community is in an emergency code red zone with the spread of Covid. Our medical and first responder systems are being challenged.

Let's embrace the grace and concern for others that Luther practiced.

Letters to the Editor

Visitor appreciative of compassionate care at HCH

I spent a happy weekend over the 4th of July chasing waterfalls and hiking in the mountains in the Highlands area. No one ever wants to find themselves visiting a hospital when enjoying a holiday, but unfortunately, I did.

Even though it was a holiday weekend, attentive medical staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital were quick to help when I walked through the Emergency Department doors. I was so grateful for the doctors' and nurses' professionalism and kindness, and the compassionate care they provided.

Rural areas like Macon and Jackson counties are fortunate to have a quality hospital like Highlands-Cashiers available to them. Nature-lovers traveling through the area, like me, and the many residents living out there can take advantage of the hospital's superior care.

I am so grateful for this rural hospital and its staff. They were there when I needed them the most, and I can't wait to get back to the area to visit all the places I didn't have time for the first time!

Laurie Moody – Morganton, N.C.

Moral high ground may turn out to be quicksand

There seems to be a one way argument against the vaccine hesitant. It goes on a spectrum ranging from "you are putting me at risk for getting sick" to "you are a murderer." People arguing thus believe that others are putting their lives and health in danger for trivial reasons like a stubborn insistence on freedom to do as they please. They believe, therefore, that they are on moral high ground that allows them to pass judgment on and disregard those who think differently.

In fact, the vaccine hesitant may have come to the conclusion that they may be more harmed by the vaccine than taking their chances with Covid. They may think that you are considering your life more valuable than theirs. It is a fact that a number of serious side effects and some fatalities have been associated with the vaccine so the fear is not entirely unwarranted. I've had the vaccine and suffered no ill effect that I know of but guitarist Eric Clapton had a severe neurological reaction to it and for a while despaired of being able to play the guitar again. That has made him a staunch opponent of vaccine mandates.

But they're wrong, you say. They may be but their concern for their health certainly is to be respected as much as your concern for your health. The blame for so much opposition, I believe, can be laid at the feet of our public health officials who have blown hot and cold about so many things related to this virus that they have destroyed their credibility and people don't readily accept the message du jour. There has been a political stench about the whole subject from the start.

We should extend some grace to those who do not get

the vaccine on our schedule. There are certain classes of people who should not be forced into it such as pregnant women, children, and those who have been previously infected. It is clear now that natural immunity is superior to that of the vaccine. There is evidence to believe that natural immunity provides more protection against variants while those who are vaccinated may inadvertently allow breakthrough infections with variants and provide means of their spread. If that is the case, who is harming whom? There is a lot that still needs to be sorted out and we need to bear with our fellow citizens in this matter. When all is said and done, I believe the moral high ground some are taking will be seen to be more like quicksand.

David Parker – Franklin, N.C.

Masks, lockdown didn't work so let's do it again?

Here we are, 18 months or so after the Covid-era started, which was 20 years or 155 years after the end of deocracy in these "united" States.

The masks didn't work, actually caused and are causing harm, so, of course, let us mandate masks again. Especially for kids, since they don't get the virus and don't give it. But, since the Board of Education (BOE) says so, it's ok. (Perhaps it should be Board of No Education, BONE, so the board members could be called boneheads).

Same with the vaccines, actually experimental drug therapy with us as guinea pigs. Let's do the kids, too, the jabs are safe, Lord Falsy says so. How about a booster shot (every three months, ok?), more goodies into your bloodstream. BTW, what's in the stuff?

Lockdowns didn't work, suicides, alcoholism, depression, anxiety, loss of friendships way way up, so let's do it again, every year. Social distancing, make up a number.

Now it's the "vaccinated" versus the "unvaxed," good versus evil. There is more evidence very day that the vaxed are spreading more virus, are getting sicker (and dying) than the deplorable unvaxed. Answer: Forced "vaccinations."

In summary, more masking, lockdowns, jabs, vaccine passports and ID, small businesses shutting, the State forfeiting all your great grandchildren's futures, loss of family and friends, no end in sight.

The Plan continues to work. Here's to the Plan Makers, our buddies. (Aren't they?)

Eric A. Blair – Franklin, 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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Educated choices require free exchange of ideas

These are trying times. Where are Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry when we desperately need them? Thomas Paine said in "The Crisis," "These are the times that try men's souls. ... Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

Our nation faces a crisis on many fronts. One that underlies others is loss of our First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Educated choices require knowledge and a free exchange of information, facts and data, without censorship.

We also face a health crisis of huge magnitude, made more extreme and divisive by the loss of freedom of speech surrounding it. COVID-19 and the lies, censorship, and fear of it perpetrated by the mainstream media and big tech have done enormous damage to the emotional health of our country in addition to the illness, deaths, and economic destruction which have occurred.

A short 8-min. video with statements by the inventor of the PCR test, a developer of the mRNA technology, doctors, and others summarizes some of the critical issues: "Powerful. The Narrative Is Crumbling. Resist COVID-1984" (8 min)

<https://rumble.com/vlf012-powerful-the-narrative-is-crumbling-resist-covid-1984.html>

Do you know:

1) Kary Mullis, inventor of the PCR test and recipient of the Nobel Prize for his work, has said the PCR test is not intended to diagnose illness. He has said "PCR is not a reliable test." [It] can't tell you if you're sick." He also said that if you amplify it enough "you can find just about anything in anybody." He also explains why Dr. Anthony Fauci is not to be trusted. See CV Test Inventor Kary Banks Mullis Explains Why Dr. Fauci Isn't to be Trusted (7 min)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=gary+mullis+pcr+test&...>

2) Masks do more harm than good in that our oxygen levels go down, carbon dioxide goes up, we are breathing in toxins that our bodies are meant to expel, and the microscopic size of COVID-19 passes through most masks. The research and data on this are overwhelming.

<https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/megan-fox/2020/05/14/neurosurgeon-says-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-healthy-people-n392431>

See Tucker Carlson "You Don't Need a Mask if You're a Rich Democrat" (\$30,000 a plate fundraising dinner in CA)

<https://resistthemainstream.org/the-photograph-that-brought-an-end-to-1918s-mask-mandate-during-spanish-flu/>

3) Dr. Robert Malone, one of the originators of the mRNA technology has spoken out against its use in vaccines. He has done numerous videos. See Dr. Robert Malone Sounds Alarm on Liability of Pfizer Vax (11 min)

<https://rumble.com/vlmce2-dr-malone-sounds-alarm-on-liability-coverage-of-pfizer-vax.html>

4) What happened to the regular flu in the winter of 2020-21? Almost no deaths were attributed to flu. There are numerous reports of doctors coerced to count any deaths as COVID-19 and of hospitals receiving exorbitant amounts of money for "COVID-19" deaths. There's a saying "follow the money."

5) The CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which is way behind has reported 595,622 adverse events and 6,018 reported deaths as of 8-13-21 following vaccines for COVID-19. Whether all of these events or deaths can completely be attributed to the vaccines or not, shouldn't vaccines be stopped pending investigation?

Horror is setting in for doctors who got maimed by the vaccine on their own Medscape website: 950-plus sick and dying doctors! Blockbuster: Over 950-plus comments by doctors maimed by the jab on doctor's only web site hosted by WebMD. Yes, the doctors know. Only now is the horror

setting in.

<https://www.medscape.com/sites/public/covid-19/vaccine-insights/how-concerned-are-you-about-vaccine-related-adverse-events>

6) Have you ever questioned what's in these mRNA vaccines which make your body manufacture spike proteins? This is technology that has never been used before and in some of the animal trials with mRNA technology, all the animals died. Spanish researchers found graphene oxide in all types of COVID-19 vaccines tested. What's graphene oxide?

Nutrition Protocol Deactivate & Neutralize Graphene Oxide: <https://katrinah.com/nutrition-protocol-to-neutralize-graphene-oxide/>

<https://rumble.com/vkwqgt-what-does-graphene-oxide-found-in-the-covid-19-vaccines-do-to-the-human-bod.html>

7) There are ways that those who have been injected with mRNA vaccines can protect themselves from some of the adverse reactions, from the continuing multiplication of the spike proteins and the damage to blood vessels, etc. Have you heard about that? Likewise those unvaccinated can protect themselves from the spike proteins being shed by the vaccinated.

Dr. Gabriele Stahler Countermeasures if You Have Taken the Jab (D3, etc.) German health professional

<https://youtu.be/2FTpigMLJXM>

Dr. Gabriele Stahler interview by Bill Ryan where she goes into the benefits of it [D3] in general (particularly immune system) but also of taking more than the daily recommended dose. (Not suggesting you go overboard, look at the figures she herself takes and why ...)

8) Experimental mRNA vaccines are a violation of the Nuremburg Code. Those vaccinated become part of a huge medical experiment without informed consent. It is not possible for a vaccine mandate to be legal or constitutional.

People have been dying needlessly. Why has the media lied and covered up truth? Why has there been no talk about building one's immune system to avoid illness? I could share much more. Patrick Henry in 1775 in a famous speech said "Give me liberty or give me death." If we continue to have free speech squelched, the America we've known will die. If people have lifelong damaging health effects from experimental "vaccines," their right to "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" has been taken from them without consent. Knowledge is power. Please do your own research, and most importantly ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and discernment and do not fear.

Panthea Crawford – Franklin, N.C.

Destructive ideologies keep cropping up

"Greater good" is not always so great nor so good.

It is amazing that certain ideologies long proven to be destructive keep cropping up like mushrooms.

The term "Greater Good" has long been the battle cry of those who would destroy freedom and liberty.

In the book "The Tyranny of Good Intentions," by Paul Craig Roberts, the author, explains how it was used for evil and control. He explains how politicians and governments use it to convince voters to agree with them. People are told that voting for a certain person or bill will be what is best for everyone. They are led to believe that if they do not act in a certain way then society will decline.

The greatest example of such tyranny is under the fascist Nazi regime. Hitler and the Nazis convinced the German people that they would be better off under their rule. It was for the greater good of the German people to take control of certain lands and people. Hitler even went as far as to say that he was helping the Jews by moving them from Germany into a new country where they had no influence.

Nazi leaders in Germany and Italy also used this phrase for their actions against their enemies. They said that things would be done for "the Greater Good." This was a manip-

ulative phrase that showed they did not care about any individual's personal belief or freedom.

George Orwell, in his book "1984," elaborated on this concept. In "1984," the government has so much global control that everyone must do what they are told or they will end up in the "dungeon" or "Room 101."

The "greater good" fallacy is preposterous in its usage as it assumes the individual is doing something or making a choice out of selfishness. This assumption has been shown to be false as well as has the claim that this line of thinking makes people more selfless in their actions. Instead, it actually does the opposite. It encourages people to act from a place of selfishness because they are told that is what they should do, regardless of the consequences and will be rewarded for it.

Those who espouse the "greater good" are also Fellow Travelers advocating for the classic Marxist/Communist philosophy which is destructive to the basis on which America was founded.

Someone can mindlessly read the Constitution (which one, by the way?) from beginning to end as many times as they wish but that will do little to help them to educate themselves or others on the broader underlying foundation of this country unless they also take time to fully educate themselves before bleating out time worn meaningless Communist Party line phrases.

The document titled "The Articles of Confederation," March 1, 1781, the first Constitution of this country's government, is a good place to start understanding what the Founding Fathers contemplated and debated.

Follow that with "The Declaration of Independence."

If one wants to know and fully grasp the foundational premises and arguments of the efforts applied to the founding of this country, it is probably a good idea to fully read and understand The Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers which are the written recordings of the what was actually debated during the creation of our Founding Documents.

It is also important to grasp that the generally accepted current Constitution of March 4, 1789, replaced "The Articles of Confederation" was written as a contract between the newly formed government and the People. It was put into place as a fence supposedly to constrain government power within only those delegated by the people through that contract.

"The Bill of Rights" was put into place to restate and clarify the Rights afforded to the People by God and Nature's Law and secured by the contract.

People who advocate that it is okay to erode those Freedoms for "the greater good" are clearly announcing their open disdain for all those who fought and died to preserve the basis on which this country was founded and for those who want to live in a free country.

It would be well for people who lean "personally heavily toward serving the greater good" to be encouraged to further educate themselves before they attempt to pontificate.

If they are not happy living in our country, pack a bag and move to Cuba, Viet Nam, Russia, China, or any of the other nations where their population lives and labors only for the good of the State under the tenets of "for the greater good."

As so well stated by Brand Whitlock, "When you define liberty you limit it, and when you limit it you destroy it."

Peter K. Stern – Franklin, N.C.

What's on your mind?

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

Franklin Panthers take the sting out of the Yellow Jackets, 44-14



Franklin High School Panthers beat the Hayesville Yellow Jackets by a whopping 20 points, 44-14, making their record perfect so far at 2-0. The Panthers were only up by 3 at the half, 17-14 but it was all Panthers the second half with touchdowns from Watts, Handley and Vernelson and an interception by Pollock to seal the deal. The Panthers play at Swain this Friday.
Photos by Vickie Carpenter



Artful parking spots



Franklin High School seniors have the opportunity each year to purchase a parking spot at the school and paint it in the design of their choice. Their designs must be approved by school officials. Students pay \$15 for the privilege of personalizing their space. If a junior was able to procure a space last year, they are able to keep it another year for \$10. In the past, proceeds have gone to local causes such as Shop With a Cop. A charity for this year's proceeds has not been decided.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter

Soccer Shots Mini launched for children ages 2-6

Soccer Shots Asheville is expanding into Western North Carolina and will now be serving Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties. Soccer Shots is a children's soccer program with a focus on character development.

Kevin McBride has owned and operated Soccer Shots Asheville for years and with more and more interest from parents in Macon and Jackson counties, has teamed with Tom Jones to expand the program to serve children from two to six years old.

"Soccer Shots is in 37 different states and two providences in Canada," said McBride. "I have been involved for the last 17 years and am excited about this opportunity to bring the program to more families in the Western part of our state."

Soccer Shots Mini is a high-energy program introducing children to fundamental soccer principles, such as using their feet, dribbling and the basic rules of the game. Through fun games and positive reinforcement children will begin to experience the joy of playing soccer and being active.

There will be two age divisions — 2-3 year olds and 4-6 year olds. The groups are kept small — with fewer than 10 kids in each class to optimize time with coaches.

The sessions are designed to be 30-minute sessions that focus on learning a new skill and then building on those



skills through stacked learning during the duration of the program. Soccer Shots is set to launch in September and will feature eight weekly sessions. In Macon County, the sessions will be held Mondays at the Macon County Recreation Park. For Jackson County, sessions will be held Thursdays at Monteith Farmstead and Community Park.

For more information and to register, visit Soccer Shots Asheville Facebook Page at [WWW.facebook.com/Soccer-shotsasheville](https://www.facebook.com/Soccer-shotsasheville).

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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 August 18 - 29. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

August 23

Dallas Lyle Shropsh Dempsey, was charged with failure to appear. Lieutenant C. A. Bryson made the arrest.

Wyatt Lane Qualls, was charged with probation violation. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

August 24

Griffin C. Sanders, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

August 25

Ryan David Finn, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Megan Elizabeth Thomas, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

August 26

Kelly Lee Bowers, was charged with first degree trespass, failure to appear for assault and battery. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

August 27

Wyatt Lane Qualls, was charged with breaking & entering a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen motor vehicle, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, larceny of a firearm, possession of stolen firearm, possession of burglary tools, flee/elude arrest with a motor vehicle, resisting a public officer. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

August 28

Karen Michelle Ashe, was charged with possession of counterfeit instrument/currency, uttering a forged instrument, attempt to obtain property by false pretense, shoplifting and concealment of goods. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Patrick Joseph Bayles, was charged with possession of firearm by a convicted felon, carrying a concealed weapon. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Kayleb Chase Bates, was charged with violating a domestic violence protective order violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

August 29

Alexandria Rae Anglin, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order violation. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

August 21

Ronald Allen Michaels, 70, was charged with driving impaired.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

August 18

Amber Carol-leigh Bradley, 31, of John Larch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin/schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set. William S. Collins made the arrest.

August 19

Michael David Touger, 37, of Sunrise Park, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine, possession of burglary tools, breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set. Robert D. Nicholson made the arrest.

Tabitha Lynn Klier, 33, of Citadel Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen property. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Dustin L. Bishop made the arrest.

August 20

Dustin Lyle Jones, 39, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault/communicating threats, domestic violence protective order violation, court violation. No bond was set.

Hiram Lee Butler, 47, of Union Hill Rd, Whittier, was issued a child support purge. A \$4,150 bond was set. Jamie V. Ashe made the arrest.

Charles Edward Henson, 43, of Laurel Knob Rd., Cashiers, was charged with break or enter a motor vehicle, felonious larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, attempted larceny, attempted break/enter a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

August 21

William Kenneth Drasdo, 41, of Sylva, was charged with probation violation, resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Conner L. Wilson made the arrest.

Johnnie Ray Arch, 48, of Franklin, was charged with felony death by vehicle, no operators license, reckless driving to endanger, serious injury by vehicle. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set. Josh A. Yopp made the arrest.

Drew Garrett Hoyle, 21, of Bagonia Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set. Brandon D. Hooper made the arrest.

August 22

Patrick Freeman Springer, 54, of Hampton Place Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

Tinola David Wildcat, 44, of Acree Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.

Brandi Nicole Moore, 27, of Floral Dr., was charged with failure to appear for larceny, probation violation, possession of stolen property. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set. Josh A. Yopp made the arrest.

August 23

Chad Everette Greene, 50, of Terrace Village, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

April Lea Lesprier, 39, of Bob Owle Rd., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation, probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$30,000

Patrick Dewitt Parris, 57, of Cat Creek Estate, Franklin, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Melody Faith Stone, 31, of Mystic Lane, was charged with trespass of real property. No bond was set.

August 24

Michael Eugene Price, 47, of Divinity Dr., was issued a warrant for arrest for assault on a female, simple assault, assault inflicting a serious bodily injury. No bond was set.

Uriel Valencia Hernandez, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Carolyn Rachael Reed, 23, of Potato Patch Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for harassing phone call, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of court order, stalking, second degree trespass, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set.

Melissa Nicole Townsend, 40, of Alman Rd., was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to appear for resisting a public officer, possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

August 26

Charles Alden Brooks, 18, of Sugar Loaf, was charged with failure to appear for consume alcohol by 19/20 year old, trespassing, injury to personal property, larceny, damage to property, resisting a public officer, obtain property by false pretense, felony conspiracy, breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

August 27

Michael Damien Wolfe, 31, of Crystal Lane, Leicester, was charged with resisting a public officer, noise ordinance violation. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Robert Kenneth Harniman, 74, of Goshen Rd., Franklin, was charged with first degree trespass enter/remain. No bond was set.

August 28

Lily Elaine Clinton, 25, of Duckett Cove Rd., Waynesville, was charged with possession of stolen property, motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Michael Hunter Reed, 45, of Meadowbrook Loop, Maggie Valley, was charged with failure to appear for drive a motor vehicle with no registration, no insurance, fictitious tag. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Garrett Kelly Nations, 25, of Nations Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. No bond was set.

George Vernon Norton, 30, of Lloyd Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay. No bond was set.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society has cancelled its Sept. 2 meeting due to the increase in the COVID virus. This program will be rescheduled in the future. The status of the October meeting will be announced later in September.

Macon County Art Association Encaustic Painting Classes are held on Fridays, Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Uptown Gallery 30 E Main St., Franklin. For more information, call Karen Smith, at karen@programservices.org

Writer's Club will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1 p.m. at the library in the large room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your stories. For more information, call Jim Steeley at (828)524-5708 or email jsteeley@dnet.net

Pine Grove School Community Club's Last Meeting will be held on Sept. 8, 10 a.m., at the Normandie restaurant. Decisions on dissolving the organization and the disposal of artifacts and holdings will be discussed. All past and current members are encouraged to attend. If you donated an item and would like to have it returned or have any questions, call Kathy Kahler at (828) 524-8430 and leave a message.

Franklin Women's Club will meet on Friday, Sept. 10, noon, at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza. The program will be a Fashion Show sponsored by Diva's on Main. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at (828)421-0411. For more information about the club, call Joy Wood at (828)349-4440.

Nantahala Hiking Club will meet on Friday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library. Lamar Marshall, Research Director and Historical Graphics Designer for Southeast Heritage, is the speaker. His presentation is entitled "Cherokee Geography in Western North Carolina: Trails and Towns." The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Rd. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

Smoky Mountains Veteran Stand Down will be held on Thursday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Rd. Haircuts, dental screenings, medical, education, employment resources, veteran's benefits, legal, housing, mental health, and ministry. Lunch will be provided. Bring your VA ID card or DD-214 if possible. For more information, call Macon County Veteran Services at (828)349-2151.

Thursday Painters meets at the Environmental Research Center every Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own project, a table covering, and a bag lunch. All skill levels and mediums welcome. Contact Pat Mennenger pm14034@yahoo.com For more information Franklinuptowngallery.com

AL-ANON Family Groups In-person meeting with Covid 19 preventive measures is held each Thursday, noon at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom meeting is held on Saturday, 10:15 a.m. ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit. Call to speak with a member of AL-ANON at (828)342-6866.

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd., Sunday at 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave., Tuesday, 8 a.m., Thursday, noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St., 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On Line Meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828)349-4357.

Macon Chips, Franklin's Wood Carving Club meets on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. inside the Franklin High School Wood Shop just off McCollum Drive. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (828)342-8126.

Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. While allowing play without masks, current regulations require all players to be fully vaccinated.

For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email LarryRNoyes@gmail.com

Slow Spokes Franklin, a bicycle riding group, meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at FROG headquarters for a ride on the Greenway. Ride begins at 6:45 p.m., at an easy pace, with several options of starting and stopping according to riders' needs. Find them on Facebook at Slow Spokes, Franklin, NC, or call (828)371-4925.

Gem & Mineral Museum, located in the Old Jail on Phillips Street in downtown Franklin is now open Fridays and Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m., featuring gems and artifacts from North Carolina as well as all over the world.

Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Community Services are open on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to help Macon County residents in need with rent, power bill and a fully stocked food pantry. The church is located at 93 Church St., Suite 212. For more information, call (828)369-9000.

Habitat for Humanity of Macon/Jackson County needs volunteers to share skills or gain some experience learning new ones. From carpentry to cleaning, marketing to moral support, computer skills, planning and organizing or just plain common sense, the greatest gift you could ever give is time. Any amount is good. Some great times, lasting friendships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

Friends of the Greenway FROG Quarters is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 573 E. Main. Stop by for coffee, a soft drink and a snack, and free internet. Reservations taken for the shelters.

Macon County Public Health is currently vaccinating those eligible in all groups. Individuals that want to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, must call Macon County's Vaccine Call Center at (828)524-1500 to register and schedule an appointment. The Call Center is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church every Monday night, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. Free childcare up to five years old for attending parents. Discover Church is located at 47 Macon Center Dr. (behind Bojangles). For more information, email cr@discover.church for questions.

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smppcc.org

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Bob Sellers will present a Concert at Ridgecrest Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 5, 6 p.m. For more information, call (828)371-4711 or (828)524-7700.

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. They follow COVID-19 health protocols for in-person worship. Plan to arrive early for check in, masks are required. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at http://www.firstumcfranklin.org

Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Intercessory Prayer is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Ladies prayer and Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465 or (828)421-4153.

Grace Baptist Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. Frank Rodriguez is the pastor. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 130 Setser Branch Rd.

Prentiss Church of God is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing is observed and safety measures are in place. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

Seventh Day Adventist Church meets on Saturday, with Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Masks are optional. The church is located at 71 Brendle Rd.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Franklin Services are held Rite I, 8 a.m. without music and Rite II, 10:15 a.m. with music, every Sunday. First and third Sundays at St. Agnes Chapel, 66 Church St. and second and fourth Sundays at St. Cyprian's Chapel, 216 Roller Mill Rd. Sunday 10:15 a.m. services can be viewed live on the website: www.allsaintsfranklin.org and past Sundays can be viewed on YouTube by searching "All Saints Franklin" to find our YouTube page.

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. with social distancing observed. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

Email church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

S	T	A	R	S	A	T	E	S	E	M	S	E	M	S	I	L	D	
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U	N	I	O	N	E	M	U	E	M	D	I	A	N	A	N	A	N	
F	A	V	R	E	A	U	H	A	L	S	T	O	N	E	A	N	A	
S	A	T	N	A	V	C	R	A	B	Y	E	A	L	I	S	T	L	
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11th season of Concerts on the Creek wraps up Sept. 3

The 11th season of Concerts on the Creek in Sylva concludes on Friday, Sept. 3, with a performance by SKA City.

SKA City is a British-American nine-piece collective, spreading the music of Ska, Two Tone & Trojan Rocksteady to Asheville, the Western North Carolina region, and beyond. SKA City is one of the scene's leading bands, bringing ska music to life with energy and authenticity. They are a big band with a big sound, that knows how to bring the party, and whether you're new to ska or a life-long fan, this is the band for you.

Concerts on the Creek are held every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Bridge Park in Sylva through Labor Day.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. These events are free but donations are encouraged. Dogs must be on a leash. No alcohol, smoking or coolers are allowed in the park.

It is strongly suggested that concert goers obey safe Covid-19 practices in accordance with state and county protocols in place at the time of the event.

These concerts are organized and produced by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Sylva and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call the chamber at 828-586-2155, visit www.mountainlovers.com or Concerts on the Creek's Facebook page.



Grains of Sand brings doo-wop back to Franklin

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts will welcome The Grains of Sand Band, a doo-wop group specializing in music from the '60s and '70s with a touch of the '50s, in concert on Saturday, Sept. 4. This group of talented musicians are bringing the beach to the Carolina mountains providing a trip back to the good ole' days as they celebrate the sounds of summer. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$18 each.

The Grains of Sand Band is composed of seven musicians, including a three-piece horn section. They play the best of Motown, R&B, Soul, Beach, and classic hits that have been enjoyed for multiple decades. The Grains of Sand Band has performed with music legends such as Marvin Gaye, The Platters, Pattie Labelle, and many others.

A fresh and energetic sound allows The Grains of Sand Band to give concertgoers a warm feeling, like sand between their toes. Some of their most requested songs include,



“Dancing in the Street,” “Unchained Melody,” “Carolina Girls,” “Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie,” “Kiss and Say Goodbye,” “Get Ready,” and “Too Late to Turn Back Now.”

This group of stellar musicians, who hail from the Northeast Georgia area are: Scotty Piotrowski on trumpet, Donny Whitehead on sax, Phil Boleman on trumpet, Jody Worrell on lead guitar, Greg Smith on keyboard, Greg Veale on bass guitar, and Deane Quinter on drums. Many of these talented men take on lead vocals in various songs while others provide backup.

The Grains of Sand Band has been described as seven of the finest musicians in the country. To purchase tickets to see this phenomenal band in concert at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the theater, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.

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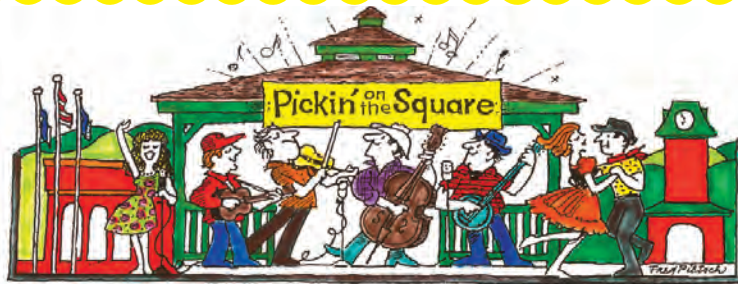
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This weekend we are having a new up and coming star from Nashville, Tennessee. He is *Casey Clark*. We were lucky to know someone from his band and his management gave him permission to do this show, more or less, as a favor and we are grateful and you will be entertained.

So bring your chairs and come early. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. See you at the gazebo in downtown Franklin.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Deaths & Funerals

Taylor Lynn Heinszen

Taylor Lynn Heinszen, 31, of Franklin, N.C., died on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021.

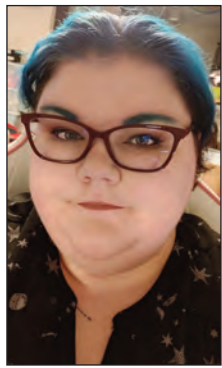
Born in Harvey, Ill., she was the daughter of Arthur Johnson Jr. and Susan Pappas Johnson.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husbands, Donovan Heinszen and Ozy Howe; children, Madalyn Grace Heinszen, and Severus James Arthur Heinszen both of the home, and Rafeal Alcantar III of Chicago, Ill.; sister, Nicole Porzell of Franklin; grammy, Patricia Neese of Florida; mother-in-law, Rachel Neese of Jacksonville, Fla.; father-in-law, Doug Heinszen (Jessica) of Florida; sister-in-law, Leigha Howe of Rhode Island; and brother-in-law, Nick; and nieces and nephews, Willow, Kimberly, Jordyn, Gillian, Jakob, Charlz, and J.J.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Aug. 30, at Macon Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Taylor Heinszen

Robert Charles Criswell

Robert Charles Criswell, 67, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021.

Born in Savannah, Ga., he was the son of Geraldine Hand Lanier of Guyton, Ga., and the late Edro "Dean" Criswell. He was of the Church of God faith and was a retired welder with Lockheed Martin. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, wood carving, barbequing and NASCAR. What he enjoyed most was time spent with his family.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 45 years, Melodie Beaupre Criswell; daughters, Jennie Linares of Springfield, Ga., Melissa Jackson of Port Wentworth, Ga., and Brandy Luna (Amaya) of Franklin; and brothers, Billy Criswell of Rincon, Ga., and Terrell Criswell of Canton, N.C.; six grandchildren, Destiny, Brandon, Nicholas, Preston, Allen, and Emily; one great grandson, Kaidyn; and numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to The Boys Ranch, in care of the Chatham County Sheriff's office in Savannah, Ga.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Robert Criswell

Maxine Carver Wilson

Maxine Carver Wilson, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Hayes Junior and Ruth Pauline Passmore Carver. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by an infant; her brother, Bobby Carver; and infant, Linda Ann Carver.

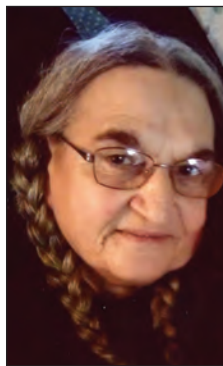
She was a member of the Olive Hill Gospel Chapel. She loved tending to her garden and crocheting.

She is survived by her children, William Scott (Susan) of Highlands, N.C., Adalia Lynn Wykle of Sylva, N.C., Michael Carver of Franklin, Nicolle Cameron of Kissimmee, Fla., and Bobby Cameron of Toledo, Ohio; siblings, Faye Carver, Nella Carver, and Rosie Green (Raymond) all of Franklin; 12 grandchildren, three great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service was held Friday, Aug. 27, at Holly Springs Baptist Church cemetery with Rev. Barry Bowman and Rev. Oliver Rice officiating.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Maxine Wilson

Anna 'Ruth' Pickens Holden

Anna "Ruth" Pickens Holden, 82, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Wade and Evelyn Estina Sanders Pickens. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Holden; two brothers, Gene Pickens and Charles Pickens; infant brother, Joseph Howard Pickens; and sister-in-law, Ada Pickens.

She was a member of the Coweeta Baptist Church and loved witnessing to others about Jesus. She started each day with a daily reading in the Bible, and even read it 20 times all the way through. She enjoyed flowers, her tablet, crocheting, word search puzzles, and reading; but what she enjoyed most was spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Diana Melter (Ron) of Wallhalla, S.C., and Mike Holden (Dana) of Franklin; sister, Judy Pickens Shuler (Jerry) of Franklin; and sister-in-law, Lucy Pickens also of Franklin; five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, three great great grandchildren, and numerous step grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Monday, Aug. 30, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Keith Ashe, Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Davis Hooper officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Coweeta Baptist Church cemetery fund.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Anna Holden

John Kirk Impagliatelli

John Kirk Impagliatelli, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.

Born in Sarasota, Fla., he was the son of the late Matthew Joseph and Jeanne Kirkpatrick Impagliatelli. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lori Impagliatelli. He was the director of Wildcat Community Services.

He is survived by his children, Erika Stamey (Justin) of Franklin, Jennifer Lewis (Tripp) of Franklin, and Matthew Impagliatelli (Nina) of Ray City, Ga.; siblings, Nancie Edwards of Sarasota, Fla., Mark Impagliatelli of Wimauma, Fla., and Kathy Marlow of Encinitas, Calif.; four grandchildren, Kirk, Everett, Layton and Madison; and soon to be three more grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A gathering of friends was held Saturday, Aug. 28, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Kaylee's Closet, an organization that helps children in foster care in Macon County. Checks can be made out to Kaylee's Closet and mailed to 4462 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



John Kirk Impagliatelli

Marilyn Ann Johnson

Marilyn Ann Johnson, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Aug. 28, 2021.

Born in Chicago, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Joseph David and Marion Danders McMahan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her twin, Marion Ferro; sister, Joan Termini; and brothers, John McMahan and Joseph McMahan.

She loved to read, do crossword puzzles, and spend time with her family. She attended the Tessenetee Baptist Church.

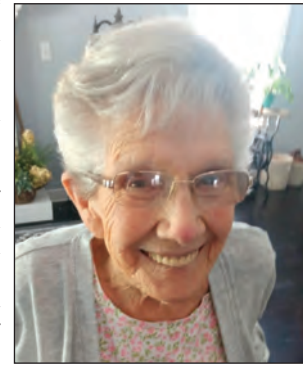
She is survived by her daughters, Carol Mary Gonzales of Franklin, and Patricia Ann Alberty of Prescott, Ariz.; two half-sisters, Mary Jane McMahan of Lisle, Ill., and Margaret Wood of Bloomington, Minn.; and a sister-in-law, Beth McMahan; six grandchildren, Christine Lesaar, Timothy Lesaar, Michael Lesaar, Jennifer Iglesias, Sarah Flynn, and James Gonzales; 15 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be missed by her porch companions, Bo and Spartacus and Grandpup, Lucy.

A celebration of life will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Appalacian Animal Rescue.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Marilyn Ann Johnson

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Deaths & Funerals

Bernard 'Bernie' Maki

Bernard "Bernie" Maki, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021.

He was born in Munich, Germany, and was the son of the late George and Elizabeth Weingartner Maki.

He was a member of the Holly Springs Community Club and enjoyed spending his time outdoors tending to his garden and lawn.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Joan Owen Maki; son, Lee Williamson (Michelle) of Clayton, Ga.; sister, Hildegard Morgan of Baltimore, Md.; grandchildren, Harley Williamson, Jackson Williamson, and Cole Williamson; two great grandsons, Forrest Williamson, and Sutton Williamson; and nephews Christopher Morgan and Ryan Moran.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to SECU Hospice House, 272 Maple St, Franklin, NC 28734.

Carolyn Faust Ammons

Carolyn Faust Ammons, 68, of Franklin, N.C., died unexpected on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021.

She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, the daughter of the late Anson Darnell and Carrie Lee Hernandez Faust. Eight years ago this month, she was preceded in death by the love of her life, Bobby Frank Ammons. She was a member at Community Baptist Church; loved working in her yard and flowers; watching the birds; and being outside on her porch listening to music. The thing she cherished the most was time spent with her family; especially time spent with her three grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Candy Ammons of Franklin; three grandchildren, Madison, Hunter and Jennalee; and a brother, John Faust (Lorie) of Richburg, S.C.; a nephew, Cody Faust (Heather) and their children, Graham and Ellie; and a niece, Katy Mentecana (Vinnie) and their child, Emsley.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, Sept. 1, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Keith Ashe and Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial was in the Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Cody Faust, Todd Higdon, John Faust, Jason Simpson, Aaron Flowers, and Hunter Lowe.

Honorary pallbearers were Madison Lowe and Jennalee Lowe.

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



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Rosa Lee Bradley

Rosa Lee Bradley, 92, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, August 30, 2021.

Born in Macon County on March 8, 1929, she was the daughter of the late George Bulen McCall and Eva Jane Gregory McCall. She was a woman of faith and was a member of Rose Creek Baptist Church. She was an avid homemaker who especially loved yard work and making sure she had the best looking lawn.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Willard "Geat" Bradley; infant daughter, Kate Bradley; brothers and sisters, Lucille McCall Harris, Arland McCall, G.B. McCall, Marlin McCall, Billy McCall and Bobby McCall.

Surviving are her daughter, Brenda Bradley; son, Terry W. Bradley and wife Polly; granddaughter, Rebecca Bradley Pruett and husband Alan; two great-grandchildren, Ethan and Addy Pruett; sister, Marcella McCall Ayers; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, Sept. 2, at 11 a.m., at Oak Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Randy Drinnon and Rev. Brandon Breedlove officiating.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Breedlove, Nathaniel Breedlove, Jim Brown, Darryl Ayers, Blake Ayers and Jeffery McCall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 28 Lakey Creek Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.



Rosa Lee Bradley

Sarah Virginia Leopard Brendle

Sarah Virginia Leopard Brendle, 88, went on to Glory on Aug. 29, 2021. A native of Jackson County, North Carolina, she was born on June 26, 1933, to Lambert and Allie Bryson Leopard. Her family moved to Macon County when she was just a child.

A member of Watauga Baptist Church, she was known in her community as one who not only loved the Lord but also showed her devotion by working for Him throughout her life. Since secular television programs did not interest her, she spent her spare time reading the Bible.

Second to her love for the Lord was her love for her family, especially her husband, John, and her daughter, June. She was a hard worker who always looked for ways to help and make life easier for them. She delighted in both her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They were truly the loves of her life.

She is survived by her daughter, June Cassada (Rick); her grandchildren, Ashley (Scott), Megan, and Luke; her great-grandchildren, Alexis, Victoria, Blake, Rylee, Lillian, Carley, and Ethan; and her sisters, Marie Tilson (Wayne), Eula Carnes (Charles), Hilda Evitt (Harley), Edith Childers, and Nancy Picklesimer, and a brother, Francis Leopard (Phyllis). She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, John Robert Brendle; and a brother, Harrison Leopard.

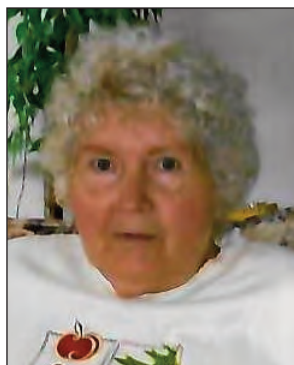
The family would like to thank the staff in the Memory Care Unit at Macon Valley Nursing Center for loving and exceptional care, especially to Kim Henry.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, at 2 p.m. at Watauga Baptist Church with Rev. Wesley Price and Rev. John Hartley officiating. The family requests attendees follow mask and social distancing recommendations.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Watauga Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, P.O.Box 2022, Franklin, NC, 28744.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the Brendle family.

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Blaney wins at Daytona, Reddick makes playoffs and Larson wins regular season

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – The Coke Zero Sugar 400 NASCAR Cup Series' regular season finale at Daytona International Speedway unfolded as billed with dramatic action all Saturday night that included 45 lead changes, a 14-minute Red Flag period and a wild final lap of overtime to decide the championship Playoff picture.

Ultimately, Team Penske's Ryan Blaney managed it all and took his second NASCAR Cup Series victory in as many weeks as a huge multi-car accident happened behind him in the last corners of the track on the final lap.

Blaney's No. 12 Team Penske Ford led only seven of the 165 laps, but the 27-year-old North Carolinian took the lead from fellow Ford driver Roush Fenway Racing's Chris Buescher for the two laps of overtime to claim his third win of the season and seventh of his career.

Richard Childress Racing's Tyler Reddick earned the 16th and final Playoff position with a fifth-place finish in a close and suspenseful battle with his own teammate Austin Dillon.

"How about that," Blaney said. "That was a lot of fun. Gosh, we just barely missed that wreck. Got to line up on the front row and got a good push by the 7 (Corey LaJoie). You never know how the end of these things is going to play out. Down the back you don't know what lane is getting a bigger run. I guess someone got tangled up over there, hopefully everyone is okay."

LaJoie was one of the drivers who was collected in that nine-car crash in Turn 3 on the final lap. He was one of four drivers – including Austin Dillon, Ross Chastain and Daniel Suarez – running among the top-10 on the final restart and needing a victory to qualify for the Playoffs. Instead, all four of them were unfortunately involved in the final incident that eliminated much of the front-running pack.

Kyle Larson, who has a series-best five wins on the season, clinched his first NASCAR Cup Series Regular Season Championship with a 21st-place finish. Both he and Denny Hamlin were in the last lap wreck. Hamlin, who has led the points standings for all but three of the previous 25 race weekends, finished 14th.

Blaney's Daytona wins caps an impressive summer run that is good enough to move him into second place in the Playoff standings – 28 behind Larson – heading into next week's Playoff opener at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway.

Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch are ranked third and fourth in the Playoff re-set, followed by 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion Chase Elliott, Alex Bowman, Hamlin and William Byron. Joey Logano, who led a race best 37 laps Saturday but finished 24th, is seeded ninth, followed by his Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski, Kurt Busch, Christopher Bell, this year's Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell, Aric Almirola,



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 BodyArmor Ford, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway on August 28, 2021 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



race winner. Martin Truex Jr. won at Darlington this spring.

Justin Haley secures Playoff spot with Xfinity win at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Coming to the checkered flag, Justin Haley nudged his No. 11 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet just ahead of his teammates A.J. Allmendinger and Jeb Burton in a

thrilling three-wide finish in the Wawa 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday afternoon.

The blink-of-an-eye .023-second victory marked the fourth superspeedway victory for the 22-year-old Haley but his first win of the 2021 season. He has three wins on the Daytona high banks, also including one in a rain-shortened NASCAR Cup Series race here two years ago.

Allmendinger, who took the white flag in front of the field, may have just missed the race trophy, but he led the most laps on the day (30) and his runner-up effort was good enough to take the season driver standings lead by 17 points over defending series champion Austin Cindric, who was sidelined after a Lap 27 incident.

Although Haley and Allmendinger's third Kaulig Racing

Reddick and Kevin Harvick.

"Got good momentum," Blaney said smiling. "Nice to make it three in a row. We'll see."

Bubba Wallace, who led eight laps late in the race, finished second – his best result of the 2021 season. Ryan Newman, Ryan Preece and Tyler Reddick rounded out the top five; a season best for Newman and Preece as well.

Haley was sixth, followed by Alex Bowman, who won the Xfinity Series race earlier in the afternoon. Chase Elliott, B.J. McLeod and Josh Billicki rounded out the top 10. It was McLeod's first top-10 finish in 76 NASCAR Cup Series starts.

The 10-race elimination style NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs begin with next Sunday's Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway (6 p.m. ET on NBCSN, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Kevin Harvick is the defending



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Justin Haley, driver of the #11 LeafFilter Gutter Protection Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Wawa 250 at Daytona International Speedway on Aug. 28, 2021 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

teammate Jeb Burton made it a three-wide photo at the line, JR Motorsports driver Justin Allgaier actually nudged just ahead in the middle to officially take third place. Burton was credited with fourth place, followed by Joe Gibbs Racing's Daniel Hemric, whose fifth-place finish was a massive comeback after his No. 18 was involved in the same early-race incident that took Cindric out.

NASCAR Cup Series regular Christopher Bell was sixth with Noah Gragson, Myatt Snider, Harrison Burton and Riley Herbst rounding out the top 10. Hemric, Harrison Burton and Haley all clinched spots in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs with their finishes today.

"This has just not been the best season, it's been really, re-

ally hard on this No. 11 LeafFilter team all year," said an emotional Haley, who teared up in car congratulating his crew after the checkered flag. "We've had a lot of bad luck.

"I was trying to formulate a plan there and obviously there were team orders. Hats off to Kaulig Racing. I think we've got the teammate thing down. It's just so special to win here at Daytona."

"I've won twice here and neither time did I get to see anyone [fans] on the frontstretch, so thank you guys for being here," he told the cheering crowd. "I love you."

The first 19 laps of the 100-lapper ran on Friday night, but Florida rain showers forced the Saturday matinee. The competition resumed, however, in the kind of typically flat-out,

thrilling superspeedway storyline that NASCAR fans have become accustomed to.

"That was like the perfect photo shoot right there coming across the line for all the Kaulig Racing Chevys," Allmendinger said with a huge grin. "Proud of my 'son' Justin Haley. He might be one of the best we've ever seen on superspeedways and Jeb did a fantastic job.

"I was just hanging on in the middle there. I thought we might get it [1-2-3 finish] but proud of everyone at Kaulig Racing."

Haley and Burton won the opening two stages in an action-packed afternoon that had great impact on the championship chase.

Cindric, the defending Xfinity Series champion and a series best five-race winner in 2021, has led the series standings all season. But he was involved in a five-car accident toward the front of the field on Lap 26 that eliminated him from the race less than a half hour after it re-started.

Cindric's No. 22 Team Penske Ford was hit from behind by Snider's No. 2 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet entering Turn 1 sending a handful of cars into save-mode, with several – including top-10 finishers Hemric and Snider – suffering damage but returning to the race.

The hard hit into the inside retaining wall did enough damage to Cindric's Ford, however, it could not continue. It marked the second straight race the 22-year-old was sidelined before the second stage even began. He finished 37th at Michigan last week after being collected in a seven-car accident only 12 laps into the race.

"Pretty upset for our Ford Mustang, two weekends in a row we've had race winning capable cars and I've had probably a total of 40 laps in the last two weeks," Cindric said. "Really frustrating to have that situation play out so early. It only takes one, sometimes."

Coming into the Daytona race, Cindric held a 35-point advantage over Allmendinger. Now he trails by 17 with only three races remaining to set the 12-driver Playoff field.

The top-10 work by Riley Herbst was significant in terms of the Playoffs. He came into the race ranked 12th, but was able to extend his lead ahead of Michael Annett (30th) and Brandon Brown (34th) who both had bad luck days at Daytona.

The Sports Clips Haircuts VFW Help a Hero 200 is next Saturday at 3:30 p.m., at the historic Darlington (S.C.) Raceway. Allgaier won at the track this Spring. Joe Gibbs Racing driver Brandon Jones, who finished last on Saturday after his Toyota battled overheating issues, is the defending winner.

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1. *Emmy Awards attendees or celestial bodies
6. "He ____ and drank the precious words..."
9. Skier's transport
13. Move like ivy
14. What Alex and Lexington have in common
15. Power glitch
16. White condiment
17. Schiller's " ____ to Joy"
18. Movie "The ____ of the Chicago 7"
19. *"Last Week ____ with John Oliver"
21. *"Lovecraft ____"
23. Excessively
24. Invitation request
25. Part of graduate's ensemble
28. South American indigenous people
30. Lung pouch (2 words)
35. Giannis Antetokounmpo's target
37. Stain on Santa
39. Take exception to
40. Highland tongue
41. Bar, legally
43. Tropical tuber
44. Time on the job
46. Grey tea
47. Make a picture
48. Satellite Navigation System, for short
50. Mr. Eugene Krabs, e.g.
52. X
53. *Compilation of nominees, e.g.
55. Uh-huh
57. *"Swingers" actor turned "The Mandalorian" director
61. *Ewan McGregor's role
65. Soviet entity
66. Flightless bird
68. Princess of #34 Down
69. Type of weasel

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70. Lady or Tramp, e.g.
 71. Improvise
 72. Young herring
 73. Printing unit, pl.
 74. '90s TV sitcom "Boy ____ World"
- DOWN**
1. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
 2. Jack, Janet and Chrissy from "Three's Company," e.g.
 3. Long time
 4. Rekindled
 5. Faucet
 6. Loads (2 words)
 7. *Jason Sudeikis' role
 8. Golden parachute recipients
 9. U, on the road
 10. One from Great Britain
 11. Culture-growing turf
 12. Bank on
 15. Like an ignoramus
 20. *Hugh Laurie's medical drama, nominated 25 times, that ended in 2012
 22. Egg cells
 24. Great Britain's anti-mob law (2 words)
 25. *"The Queen's Gambit" game
 26. Blood carrier
 27. Suggest
 29. *Drag ball culture drama
 31. Retired, shortened
 32. *"Get _____," Outstanding Comedy Series winner in 1968 and 69
 33. Sainly glows
 34. *Royalty chronicles, with The
 36. Philadelphia's Ivy
 38. Millimeter of mercury
 42. "Vamos a la ____"
 45. *What one needs to be nominated
 49. Itinerary word
 51. Old crone
 54. Like Elvis's famous shoes
 56. Digression
 57. Much ado
 58. Against, prefix
 59. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
 60. One less traveled
 61. Os in XOXO
 62. *The Handmaid's "story"
 63. ____ top of ____
 64. Captures
 67. *Allison Janney's show

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Community Fundraisers

ZONTA CLUB of Franklin Fundraiser, "A Taste of Tuscany", Sept. 11, 2021 from 5-9pm. Funds will benefit The Special Liberty Project, Fire Dept for child car seats. More information, ZontaFranklinNC.org or email ZontaBootsAndBling@gmail.com*

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