

# The Macon County NEWS

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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## Macon County Fair underway

The Macon County Fair is underway at the Wayne Proffitt Agricultural Center now through Saturday night at 9 p.m. Pets, livestock, chickens, rabbits, barbecue, classic fair food, prize-winning produce, arts and crafts and much more are part of the local county fair tradition. A horse show on Sunday afternoon rounds out the activities. The Macon County Fair is the only purely agricultural fair still in operation in the state. At left, Hunter Duncan investigates the goats on display in the Livestock barn at the fairgrounds. For a schedule of events and a preview of this year's offerings, see page 7.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

### IN THIS ISSUE



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Standdown offers resources to area veterans

## FPD, NCDOT at odds over homeless camps

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the homeless population in Macon County has seemingly grown and makeshift dwellings tucked under town bridges have become an increasing concern for local law enforcement.

While some of the homeless camps are out of the public eye, others, such as the homeless camp under town bridge are not only visible by the general public, but they pose a safety concern due to the location near public parks such as the Little Tennessee Greenway.

Enforcement issues surrounding the homeless camps date back nearly a year — with both the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Franklin Police Department (FPD) disagreeing on not only what actions to take, but who is responsible for those actions. A public records request for emails between the NCDOT and the Town of Franklin show Franklin



Bridges in Macon County have become repositories for trash generated by the homeless including the one near the Little Tennessee Greenway.

Police Department requesting the assistance of the NCDOT to address the issue as early as February 2021, however NCDOT

See AT ODDS page 4



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FHS names new Hall of Fame members

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# Fentanyl possession a felony

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed Senate Bill 321 into law last week, which contains several changes to the state’s Controlled Substances Act, most notably now classifying and possession of Fentanyl as a felony. N.C. Senator Kevin Corbin served as a co-sponsor of the legislation and said this is a needed step for the state.

“These amendments are a step in the right direction by giving law enforcement officers in our state an added tool when addressing the drug epidemic,” said Sen. Corbin. “The dangers of Fentanyl are becoming more and more apparent and I think that is evident on the state’s effort with Senate Bill 321.”

A preliminary report released by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in January found there was a 23 percent increase in visits to emergency rooms in 2020 due to opioid overdoses. That was after a decline of 1 percent in 2019 and 9 percent in 2018.

In December, the CDC issued a report describing overdose deaths as “accelerating” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate Bill 321 includes several modifications to the Controlled Substances Act, including the following changes:

- Defines “isomer” to mean the optical isomer unless otherwise specified.
- Amends the definition of “narcotic drug” to specify the term includes cocaine

and any isomer with optical or geometric.

• Adds new substances to those classified as Schedule I, II, III, and IV controlled substances.

• Most notably, the bill makes possession of fentanyl or carfentanil or any salt, isomer, compound, or derivative thereof, or the chemical equivalent, a Class I felony.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse describes fentanyl as “a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent.”

Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 321, under North Carolina law, possession of 4 grams or more of fentanyl triggers trafficking liability under G.S. 90-95(h)(4), just like other opiate and opioid substances, such as heroin, making it a felony. However, a pin needle size amount of fentanyl can be deadly. Fentanyl and carfentanil are exponentially stronger substances, and users presumably require a much, much smaller dose—3 mg. of fentanyl, or a few grains of the substance, is a lethal dose for most people. Felony possession could be charged if more than 100 doses were found — however, given the strength of the substance and the sometimes microscopic dosage size, even 100 doses would be far deadlier than any other controlled substance classified in the same manner.

Senate Bill 321 now amends the substance control act to reclassify Fentanyl from a misdemeanor Schedule II to a classified Schedule I which states that any possession amount would be deemed a felony.



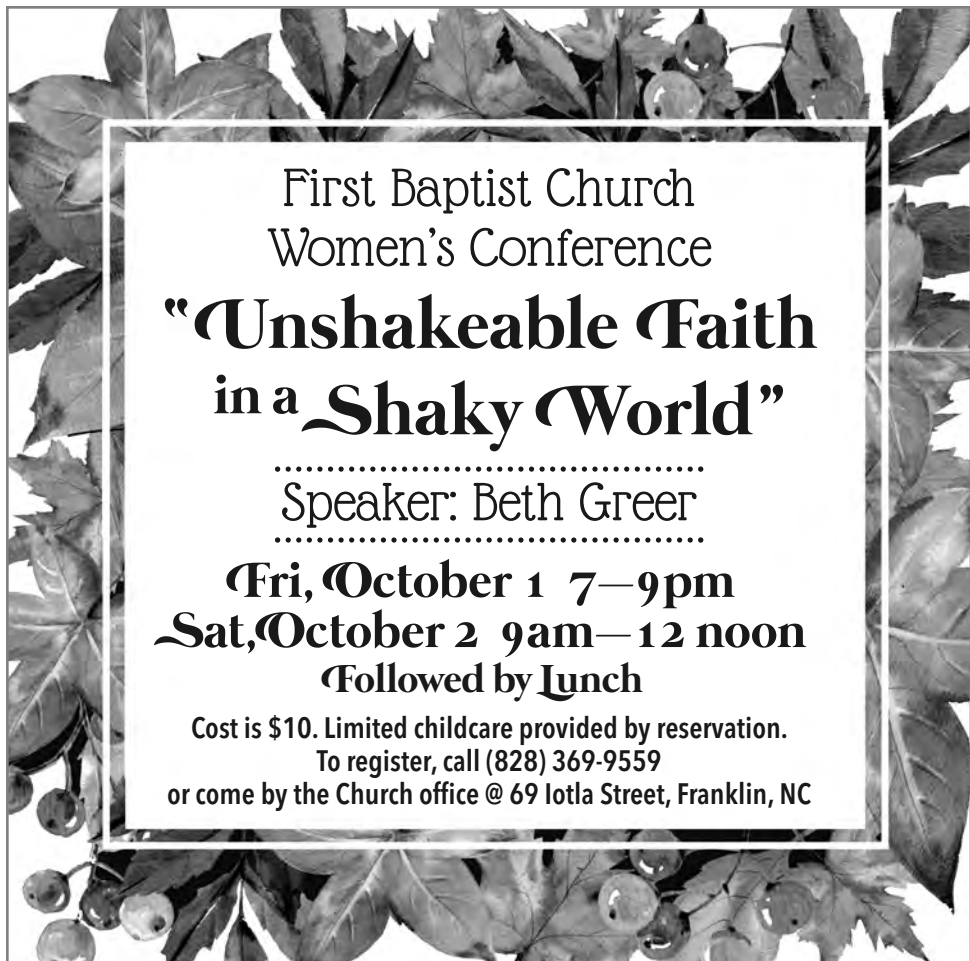
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# AT ODDS

Continued from page 1

cited COVID19 protocols as the reason not to.

After being requested to look into the homeless camp under the bridge near Walmart, NCDOT said that without other resources for those individuals, the NCDOT couldn't address the camp.

"Upon inspection of the homeless encampment under the dual bridges along US 441 near Walmart, we have determined that there is not an issue in regards to the safety of the traveling public," states an email sent to Franklin Police Department by NCDOT County Maintenance Engineer Mark E. Hill on Feb. 22, 2021. "Also, we have researched the availability of homeless shelters in the area and have found none for the citizens to be sent to for help at this time. The NCDOT currently observes current CDC guidelines during this time in regards to homeless camps, and it is stated that we are to not relocate them unless they are causing a safety concern to not only the traveling public, but to general public safety as well."

Hill went on to say that NCDOT was not able to determine if the camp was a safety risk to the general public, outside of the scope of traffic issues, but if local law enforcement deemed it a safety hazard, NCDOT would provide assistance.

"I am not trained to evaluate the impacts to general public safety, but if your department feels that it is a concern, then we will defer to you," said Hill in his email. "If there is no concern to public safety, then the NCDOT will allow these individuals to stay under the bridge until guideline revisions are initiated, or until there is a change in the threat level to public / traveling public safety. I thank you for your time and help in this matter, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Captain Devin Holland with the Franklin Police Department continued to correspond with NCDOT with the following email in March:

"I recently inquired with Mark Hill for the Franklin Police Department to have authorization to remove homeless/vagrant persons from NC DOT bridges, as well as, erect No Trespassing signs on the few bridges that do not have them.

"Mr. Hill was helpful, and gave me the State level explanation. He told me that the NC DOT observes the current CDC guidelines during the pandemic period in regards to homeless camps, and they are not to be removed. He said unless they are causing a safety concern to the traveling public or general public safety. In no way am I complaining about Mr. Hill. He has helped me in previous matters, and was very helpful. We are only reaching further for assistance.

"Our reasonings in removing these individuals are many: "They appear to be stealing from neighboring retail businesses

indicated by the numerous amounts of same item packaging.

"They are causing extreme littering which gets carried over onto other properties and roadways.

"They are in close proximity of the Macon County Greenway which is enjoyed by citizens and visitors.

"They have been offered all available resources in the Franklin area by myself, Chief Harrell, and others. We have made a great effort in trying to help these people get in contact with housing assistance, employment, and drug addiction resources.

"This type of culture deteriorates a community. We have been making great strides in improving the quality of life and tourism in Franklin. I realize this is a statewide problem, but we would like to get a grasp on our problem before it gets out of hand.

"Two weeks ago I checked the bridge on U.S. 441 near Belden Circle. A known homeless male was there sleeping. It looked like the contents of a bedroom, kitchen, and trashcan were scattered all



The homeless population in Macon County has taken advantage of the shelter offered by state bridges, setting up encampments that have some citizens anxious to find a solution.

about. I told him that if he cleaned up his mess and left I would not later charge him with littering and/or trespassing. Later that same day I saw him and he said he cleaned it up. I went to check, and sure enough it was clean as could be. With that being said we are trying to cooperate with these individuals. We want a clean and beautiful Town. The trash and litter is increasing which will ultimately be left up the DOT to clean up.

"A few years ago the DOT hired a private company to clean the U.S. 441 Bridge near Belden Circle because of all the trash, needles, etc... When the bridge waters rise and lower they take with them the litter which is deposited down stream for example the Macon County

Recreation Park and Greenway.

"Please know that we aren't looking to lock them all away, we just want compliance, order, and for these individuals to improve their situations.

"Please consider our request to enforce trespassing which will halt the detrimental camping and loitering at the DOT bridges, and any other DOT property."

Around the same time Hill responded to the Franklin Police Department regarding the homeless camp off the highway, Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell reached out to North Carolina House of Representative Karl Gillespie seeking assistance with the increasing litter on local roads and highways.

"As we discussed and you've noticed through your own eyes, we have had a tremendous but devastating upkick in litter on our local roadways," Chief Harrell wrote to Gillespie on March 25, 2021. "However, it's especially noticeable on our Town-State maintained roadways. This unfortunate rise is in large part because of certain town streets that are maintained by the DOT are the thoroughfares to the county landfill and the location of all fast-food eateries. Also, every receptacle/dumping station must pass through town by any means. Now most realize it has been more noticeable recently because of the pandemic, presenting a halt to funds for state laborers, along with civic groups unable to swarm and tackle these problematic/despicable habits with regards to getting them cleaned up in a timely manner. Those contributing factors however can be addressed, at least to a limited degree, now that H196 has been passed. It is also not lost on me that we (FPD) have a part to play as well, but the reality is that not many of the littering offenders are going to distribute their trash directly in front of a marked cruiser and uniformed officer."

Gillespie followed up with contacts from the state, which triggered an email from Wanda H. Austin, Division Engineer with the NCDOT, who claimed that there were efforts being made to address homelessness in the area.

"The department is in the process of picking up trash in all our counties. You can also contact me directly should we miss an area that needs attention," reads Austin's email dated March 31, 2021. "Also, I have recently received guidance the department is able to work with local jurisdictions to address homelessness. I have requested Mark Hill to reach out to Chief Harrell and discuss this issue. Let me know if we can be of further assistance."

However, on April 27, Chief Harrell reached out to Rep. Gillespie again after not receiving any follow up information from Austin or the NCDOT.

"I've never heard from or seen anyone (stated below) and if you're back through in the near future, nothing on 441 that is very visible has

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been touched since who knows when, unfortunately,” reads Chief Harrell’s email to Rep. Gillespie. “We’re still getting complaints for State roads and our Rotary Clubs did a good portion of the access roadways to Lowes, Westgate and Rollermill Road – over 600lbs. We’re also using community service workers all around Town every time we get them. Goes without saying how big this bill would be...” Rep. Gillespie then reached out to Austin again for a follow up which resulted in an email from Wesley Grindstaff, Division Maintenance Engineer with the NCDOT on April 28 which provided stats on the state’s clean up efforts regarding litter, but failed to address the homeless issue.

“There is no doubt that litter along our roadways is problematic, unsightly, and costly to taxpayers. Over the past two fiscal years, Division 14 has spent an average of \$975,000 per year on litter removal alone. We perform several litter removal cycles by contract each year on our higher volume roadways...” reads Grindstaff’s email... Additionally, Adopt-a-Highway, volunteer groups, individuals, and NCDOT forces also work to remove roadside litter. NC’s Spring Litter Sweep occurred over the past two weeks and NCDOT forces alone removed over 2,000 pounds of litter from Macon County road-sides during this event. As Chief Harrell stated in his previous email, for whatever reason there has been a noticeable increase in roadside litter statewide this year. NCDOT is putting considerable resources towards removal of this litter, but oftentimes it seems that the effort is futile because it is replaced with new litter within just a few days. We are happy to work with you and others to come up with a solution. Similar conversations are occurring in almost every county across the State.”

Captain Holland with the Franklin Police Department then attempted to reach NCDOT again on August 31 regarding COVID19 protocols regarding removing homeless camps under state bridges.

“... has the NCDOT lifted the observance of the CDC guidelines? We still have active camps set up under DOT bridges,” reads Holland’s email to NCDOT. “We would like to remove them due to the massive mess they are creating, public nuisances, and crime spawn. This mess is going to be quite the clean-up for DOT which we would like to deter now and in the future.”

Grindstaff responded to Holland on September 7 and informed him that the NCDOT was still not in a position to address the homeless camp, but they would provide support to the town if the town wanted to pursue enforcement action.

“Thank you for your concerns about the homeless encampments located at various bridges around Franklin. The latest guidance that we have received is that although the NCDOT does not initiate removal of homeless encampments unless there is an eminent threat or hazard to either our assets or to the traveling public, Law enforcement agencies can initiate removal of homeless encampments if they feel it is in the best interest of public safety,” said Grindstaff in an email dated Sept. 7, 2021. “In this scenario and if requested, NCDOT would assist in the removal of the encampment. Please keep in mind that we are not an enforcement agency, but if the homeless encampments were removed, the NCDOT would be willing to come, or hire a cleanup company if it is deemed to have hazardous material on-site, and remove litter from the abandoned homeless encampments. At this time, the homeless encampments do not represent an eminent threat or hazard to either our assets or traveling public, so the removal would need to be initiated by your office, but we would be willing to clean up the litter left behind.”

While NCDOT would be willing to assist the Franklin Police Department in cleanup if the camps were removed, local law enforcement said the issue falls in a long term fix. Without the NCDOT, who serve as the property owners where the homeless camps are located, being willing to trespass the individuals, law enforcement can remove the camps, but it would be temporary. Franklin Police Department have attempted to assist the individuals with other resources such as connecting them with Macon New Beginnings and other opportunities in the area, however, the individuals residing under the bridges have not been agreeable to accepting such assistance. The camps are flooded with litter, drug paraphernalia, human waste, and runoff that can easily find its way into local rivers and streams. While the camps can be temporarily cleared out and then cleaned up, as they have been in the past, without a joint effort between the Franklin Police Department and the NCDOT, a longterm viable solution has not been forthcoming.

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# Stand Down offers resources to veterans

Macon County Veteran Services sponsored the annual Smoky Mountains Veteran Stand Down Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Robert C. Carpenter Building in Franklin. The event was created for veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, who struggles to get by and cannot afford proper care. Veterans were treated to free haircuts, resource information on housing, mental health, education and other services and lunch was provided. Photos by Vickie Carpenter





# MACON COUNTY FAIR 2021

## FAIR SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 23

9 a.m. – Doors open to the public  
 10:30 a.m. – Special Needs Livestock Show, Show Arena  
 5-6 p.m. – Dairy Cattle Show, Show Arena  
 6 p.m. – Cross-Cut Saw Demonstration, Field  
 Market Lambs, Junior Show, Show Arena  
 6:30 p.m. – Goat Show, Show Arena  
 7 p.m. – Rabbit Show, Rabbit Area  
 9 p.m. – Doors close

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

9 a.m. – Doors open  
 3 p.m.-Until? – BBQ Supper, Pavilion  
 5-6 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Registration, Entrance to Livestock Barn  
 6 p.m. – Kids Pedal Tractor Pull  
 6 p.m. – Hog Show, Show Arena  
 9 p.m. – Doors close

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 25

9 a.m. – Doors open  
 10 a.m. – Market Steer Show, Show Arena  
 Market Steer, Raleigh Bound  
 Market Steer, Born & Bred Show  
 Heifer Show  
 Feeder Calf Show  
 10 a.m. -11 a.m. – Best Cake Contest Registration, Pavilion  
 11 a.m. - noon – Best Cake Contest Judging, Pavilion  
 Noon – Best Cake Contest Auction  
 2 p.m. – Tractor Driving Contest, Field  
 7 p.m. – Market Steer Sale, Show Arena  
 8 p.m. – Market Hog Sale, Show Arena  
 9 p.m. – Doors close

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

2-5 p.m. – Horse Show, Horse Ring  
 2-5 p.m. – Exhibits Check Out

### MONDAY, SEPT. 27

9 a.m.-noon – Exhibits Check Out  
 7 p.m. – Harvest Sale, D Building



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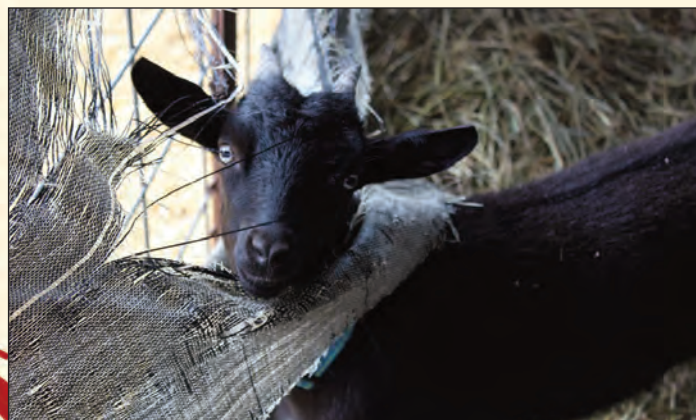
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## News from the Legislature

From the office of  
N.C. Rep. Karl Gillespie



Karl Gillespie

The House held no-vote sessions Monday, Sept. 6, and Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021. Meanwhile, budget negotiations continue to progress between the House and the Senate.

On Wednesday, the House reconvened at 1 p.m., to consider numerous bills, including:

- SB257, Medication Cost Transparency Act, would require pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) to be licensed. It would add to the consumer protections in G.S. 58-56A-3, restrict PBMs from prohibiting pharmacies from taking certain actions, and establish rules for claim overpayments and PBM networks. PBMs and health benefit plans would be required to provide coverage for biosimilars and credit all amounts paid on behalf of insureds toward cost-sharing requirements. The bill would also increase the Commissioner's ability to take enforcement action against PBMs. The bill passed via voice vote and heads to the Governor.

- HB181, Wildlife Resources Comm'n Amendments, would make various changes to statutes governing the Wildlife Resources Commission. The House voted via voice vote to concur with the Senate changes. The bill now heads to the Governor.

- HB890, ABC Omnibus Legislation, would make several changes to the laws concerning ABC stores, distilleries, and other alcohol-related statutes. The House concurred with the Senate changes via voice vote and sent the bill to the Governor. Governor Cooper signed the bill into law on September 10, 2021.

Wednesday evening, the Joint Redistricting Committee held its first public comment hearing at Caldwell Community College. This will be the first of 10 hearings held throughout the State.

The House held no-vote sessions on Thursday and Friday.

The North Carolina House held no-vote sessions on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 13-14. Two public comment sessions were held by the Redistricting Committee Tuesday afternoon at Forsyth Technical Community College and Elizabeth City State University.

The House reconvened on Wednesday for an afternoon voting session that consisted of votes on several bills, including:

- HB103, Automatic Renewal of Contracts, would amend the disclosure and notice requirements for consumer contracts with an automatic renewal clause and require that a consumer who enters into such a contract online be permitted to cancel the contract online. The House voted unanimously to not concur with the Senate version and a conference committee has been appointed.

Continued on page 13

## Letters to the Editor

### Individual rights and freedoms should apply to all

Thank you, Sheriff Holland, for reminding everyone last week that testing and vaccination are voluntary for all citizens, even those incarcerated, despite the government's threat to force vaccinations. I am referring to the two inmates who refused COVID testing. Additionally worth noting in the November 2012 Revised Inmate Information Handbook Federal Bureau of Prisons are a prisoner's health care rights. Page 50 outlines the following:

16. You have the right to be involved in all aspects of the decision making process regarding your medical/mental health care. Every effort will be made to honor your beliefs and expectations regarding the care provided.

17. You have the right to expect that your medical/mental health information will only be shared with individuals involved in your care as limited by state and federal laws. You may share your information with whomever you choose.

18. You have the right to receive care in a safe environment and to be free from neglect, exploitation, and all forms of abuse to include sexual, physical, mental, and verbal.

19. You have the right to refuse any experimental research, or educational activities that may be involved in your treatment plan without fear of reprisal.

Certainly if federal prisoners are afforded these rights, the personal freedom to make healthcare decisions should be left up to each individual citizen, as guaranteed in the 9th amendment which states, "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

With the upcoming sheriff's election, it is of utmost importance that citizens become informed about the candidates, attend debates, and ask questions of the candidates to evaluate their commitment to their sworn duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to preserve our individual rights and freedoms in the face of unconstitutional mandates as well as unconstitutional laws handed down from the federal and state levels. Local sheriffs have the ability and should stand between the people and the looming threat of tyranny.

Leah Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

### New sheriff must uphold N.C., U.S. Constitutions

A sheriff swears an oath of office to protect and serve, and to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution. Sadly, in Macon County, this job description has not been taken seriously for many years. But during this time of upheaval in our government, your sheriff is the one person who has the power to protect you from overreaching federal agencies in your county. He serves as the upholder, defender, protector

and servant to the liberties of the people within the county. He is the first line of defense in preserving the Constitutional rights of a citizen. He is charged with upholding the supreme law, the Constitution.

The law enforcement powers held by the sheriff supersede those of any agent, officer, elected official or employee from any level of government when in the jurisdiction of the county. It is this responsibility that grants a sheriff the Constitutional authority to check and balance all levels of government within the jurisdiction of the county. Other peace officers, including police officers and others with arrest powers, join with the sheriff and deputies, as Constitutional guards with one mission – to protect life, liberty and property.

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Patricia Monahan – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)

*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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## Exercise your right to liberty from tyrannical rule

What is or is not liberty?

Let us reflect on the words of John Dalberg-Acton, a philosopher, moralist, and writer of great renown who is famous for being the first major advocate for Liberty in the true sense of the word.

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority; still more when you superadd the tendency of the certainty of corruption by authority.”

“Despotic power is always accompanied by corruption of morality.”

“Authority that does not exist for liberty is not authority but force.”

“Everybody likes to get as much power as circumstances allow, and nobody will vote for a self-denying ordinance.”

“Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end.”

“Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right to do what we ought.”

The truth in Lord Acton’s words still rings true today.

Regrettably the uneducated, power hungry, petty and despotic tyrants that have infested the political offices in America for many decades do not believe in or practice steps to insure liberty. They callously and diligently work every day to whittle away at the God-given rights of Americans to have unfettered liberty.

Be it the open threat of “get vaccinated or I will have to impose the mask mandate again” recently uttered in the recently published Letter to the Editor by Franklin Mayor Bob Scott, or the concurrent torrents of threats coming from Joe Biden and his cabal, it is time for all Americans to wake up and start asking some questions of those who are supposed to be working for us, not ruling over us as do dictators.

If the Covid Vaccine is so great, why are those with the vaccine worried about those who choose not to be a lab rat?

If the Covid vaccine is so great, why are many who took the jab coming down with infections at double digit greater percentage rates than those who are unvaccinated, as the CDC recently announced on their website?

If the Covid vaccine is so great, why do doctors counsel some folks such as pregnant women, people with past cardiac problems, possible anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction), not to take the jab?

If the Covid vaccine is so great, what are the short term and long term effects of the polyethylene glycol (similar to antifreeze chemicals), and other chemicals to the human body? Note that there cannot be a long term study since these concoctions have only been around for 18 months.

If the Covid vaccine is so great, why is there a recorded death rate attributed to VITT of 20%-50%? See [www.ehealthscask.ca/services/Manuals/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccine-Contraindications-and-Precautions](http://www.ehealthscask.ca/services/Manuals/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccine-Contraindications-and-Precautions). Did Flip-Flop Fauci and the CDC forget to tell you something? Read the 07/23/2021 Contraindications document cited above for an idea of what you have not been told.

The mask Nazis shriek about how masking up will protect everyone and how masks must be mandated.

If the Covid vaccine is so great, why is anyone who has taken the jab worried about who is or is not masked?

Why don’t those who are so fixated on this subject take the time to educate themselves on the truth by reading the document titled “Is a Mask That Covers the Mouth and Nose Free from Undesirable Side Effects in Everyday Use and Free of Potential Hazards?” found at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8072811/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8072811/)

The long tabulation of the extensive research on the negative effects of mask wearing, both short term and long term, articulated by the National Institute of Health (Flip Flop Fauci’s group) document, are never heard from the lame scream media nor from the lips of those in office, yet they are obviously real.

The high prevalence of quantifiable, identifiable, statistically compelling and confirmed negative impact on the physical, neurological, psychological health and quality of life are shockingly prevalent across the extensive population wearing these devices.

Do your research and ask yourself why haven’t you been made aware of this state of affairs?

Could it be that they don’t want you to be able to make a fully informed decision on what they are telling you to do?

Could it be that they know that if you had the full truth, you might not blindly bend your knee to their dictatorial commands and do as they demand you to do?

Could it be that they know that if you had the full truth, you might weigh your decisions on balance from a position of being fully informed, exercise your right to liberty from their tyrannical rule, say “No!” and thereby diminish their power over you?

Could it be that they know that if all of us, and there are a lot more of us than there are of them, have the full truth, we would vote them out of office or recall them?

What could be depends on you.

God bless this great nation and all the Patriots that strive to protect it. A pox on the tyrants trying to destroy it.

Peter K. Stern – Franklin, N.C.

## New sheriff must uphold N.C., U.S. Constitutions

A sheriff swears an oath of office to protect and serve, and to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution. Sadly, in Macon County, this job description has not been taken seriously for many years. But during this time of upheaval in our government, your sheriff is the one person who has the power to protect you from overreaching federal agencies in your county. He serves as the upholder, defender, protector and servant to the liberties of the people within the county. He is the first line of defense in preserving the Constitutional rights of a citizen. He is charged with upholding the supreme law, the Constitution.

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Patricia Monahan – Franklin, N.C.

# GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

SB360, Prohibit Collusive Settlements by the AG, requires that when the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate have jointly intervened as a party on behalf of the General Assembly, or are jointly named in their official capacities as parties to a dispute, claim, or controversy, both must approve any consent judgment or settlement agreement prior to the Attorney General entering into the judgment or agreement. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed by a vote of 58-47. SB360 now heads to the Governor for consideration.

– HB320, Modernize Remote Business Access, would do the following: authorize remote meetings of corporation shareholders, nonprofit corporation members, and mutual insurance company policy holders > authorize nonprofit corporations to conduct all business electronically > make technical and conforming changes to related statutory provisions > exempt certain corporations not for profit formed prior to enactment of the Business Corporation Act from being required to have at least one class of shares with unlimited voting rights. The bill passed unanimously and heads to the Governor.

Additional redistricting public comment sessions were held Wednesday evening at Nash Community College and Durham Technical College.

The NC House held no vote sessions on Thursday and Friday.

## 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

It was an honor and privilege to speak at the ceremony of the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, in Franklin. We reflected on the thousands of Americans who lost their lives at the hands of terrorists and we remembered and honored the bravery of the first responders and strangers that risked their lives to save their fellow citizens. We will never forget.

## Should everything come with a warning label?

One can find treasures in the most improbable places. For me, the Letters to the Editor captures the flavor, thought, and concern of local residents. Whatever the tenor, whether amusing, strident, or irreverent, the letters offer the spectrum of current concerns. There is seldom universal agreement, but the crux of the matter is that opinions are not just possible, they are encouraged.

Contrast local opinion with the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Incomprehensibly, the federal employees on the Archives staff have posted a warning sign above founding documents, including a copy of the United States Constitution. They warn that our Constitution “may reflect racist, sexist, ableists, misogynistic/misogynoir, and xenophobic opinions and attitudes; Be discriminating towards or exclude diverse views on sexuality, gender, religion and more; Include graphic content of historical events such as violent death, medical procedures, crime, wars/terrorists’ acts, natural disasters and more; demonstrate bias and exclusion in institutional collecting and digitization policies.”

Further, it states that the document is “outdated, offensive and insensitive.” Staff wishes to “forewarn audiences of content that may cause intense physiological and psychological symptoms.”

If this evaluation of the documents which guarantee our freedoms is accurate, then one must expect that the Letters to the Editor page will soon carry a warning label. The same must apply to all printed matter, movies, TV, etc.

Where will government correctness and repression end? Thomas Jefferson said that “A government that is big enough to give you everything that you want is a government big enough to take away everything that you have.”

Don’t let them confiscate your freedoms.

Kathryn van Heyningen – Franklin, N.C.



# WCU's Mountain Heritage Day prepares for 'triumphant return' for 2021

When Mountain Heritage Day makes a triumphant return to the Western Carolina University campus on Saturday, Sept. 25, it will come with a full day of live music.

The annual festival of Southern Appalachian traditions and culture is renowned as a showcase of bluegrass, old-time and traditional music, as well as family activities, vendors and the region's finest arts and crafts. The 2020 festival was an abbreviated, virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have the perfect lineup for us to get back in front of a live audience. Many of our favorites are returning and we get to welcome some new artists, too," said Christy Ashe, WCU special events director and festival chair. "We will be following COVID-19 protocols



Whitewater Bluegrass Company

- When Whitewater Bluegrass Company start their set at 11 a.m. it will mark a major milestone, as it will be their 25th time playing at Mountain Heritage Day. More or less founded at WCU in 1982, the band blends its own brand of bluegrass, country ballads and mountain swing with down-home humor.

- At noon, the Apple Blossom Cloggers, a dance troupe of 7 to 9 years old girls, join Whitewater Bluegrass Company for lively clogging demonstration, followed by presentation of the Mountain Heritage Awards at 12:15 p.m. to an individual and organization in recognition of work within Southern Appalachian history, culture and folklore.

- The Queen Family starts picking at 12:45 p.m. Known as master musicians and experts in regional lore, the Queen Family were honored with the 1999 Mountain Heritage Award and the 2001 Brown-Hudson Award by the North Carolina Folklore Society.

- Phil and Gaye Johnson at 1:30 p.m. play guitar and sing an acoustic blend of bluegrass, folk and favorites. The prolific songwriters and storytellers from Polk County travel across the country to perform and are among the longest running repeat performers at Mountain Heritage Day.

- The Grascals, three-time Grammy nominees and twice International Bluegrass Music Association entertainer of the year, perform at 2:15 p.m. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers will join the Grascals at 3:30 p.m. for foot-stamping and high stepping mastery that is a perennial of Mountain Heritage Day.

- At 3:45 p.m., the Merle Monroe band bring their mix of Bill Monroe-style bluegrass with Merle Haggard's style of songs of the common man (hence the name) to the stage for their own brand of bluegrass, gospel and traditional country.

- "Mountain Heritage Day allows us to share culture," said Uncle Ted White of the Whitewater Bluegrass Band. "It is so important that it includes children, so we can keep traditions alive. That is what Mountain Heritage Day does, bringing us together and creating a legacy for coming generations."

- There will also be the Circle Tent and the Children's Tent with continual performances, including workshops, sing-alongs, storytelling, and a community square dance, along with

children's play-party activities. Ann Woodford will bring alive local stories of the African American community; the Deitz Family, who played bluegrass and mountain folk songs at the first festival up until now; the Pressley Girls, an authentic Appalachian duet from Brasstown who have tight harmonies in classic tunes; and Sparky and Rhonda Rucker tell stories of their southern Appalachian roots and the African American component, with Jack Tales, ghost stories, preacher yarns and Br'er Rabbit stories. Will Ritter will play interludes and provide music for the square dancing.

Traditional crafts and skills will be on display with exhibitors Ramona Lossiah, Cherokee basketry; Jeff Gottlieb, kudzu crafts and baskets; Louise, Butch and George Edward Goings, Cherokee basketry, woodcarving, flint knapping; Brock Martin, blacksmith; Nora Mosrie, cornshuck crafts; William Rogers, coppersmith; Dede Styles, natural dyeing; Nate Darnell, tractor rides; Nathan Woods and Ethan Fortner, horse and mule demonstrations; Cove Youth (Kolanvyi), stickball team; and Richard Tichich, quilt making.

## Neighbors helping neighbors

Collection boxes on the grounds placed for donations to support Mountain Heritage Day will this year instead support a WCU Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning initiative to sponsor a house renovation for one of more than 100 families that suffered damage during the recent flooding in Haywood County. It has been estimated that \$17,500 would help a family make needed repairs to get back in their home. WCU is hoping to collect enough money to sponsor at least one rebuild.

## Mountain Heritage Day 5K

The Mountain Heritage Day 5K is back. The race starts at 8 a.m. at the Stillwell Science building on a route past iconic



Cherokee crafts

and are actively encouraging everyone to get vaccinated, so we can actually return to being together in this celebration."

Ashe announced the schedule for the Blue Ridge Stage:

- Brooke and Brayden kick off the music at 10 a.m. Known for leading the award-winning Mountain Faith Band, the brother and sister bluegrass virtuosos are beyond popular and graciously provided the concert for 2020's Mountain Heritage Day virtual performance.




Clogging is a crowd favorite at WCU's Mountain Heritage Day.

landmarks, including Alumni Tower. The family-friendly activity is ideal for both advanced runners and casual walkers. All proceeds support the Sport Management Association Scholarship Fund. Online registration is now open, with special advanced pre-registration rates. Participants will be asked to adhere to physical distancing guidelines outdoors at check-in and in the start/finish area. Face coverings are required when using restrooms indoors. In lieu of gathering for a post-race awards ceremony, custom handcrafted medals will be shipped directly to the overall winners and age group winners. The first 100 to register are guaranteed a free Mountain Heritage Day 5K T-shirt. Register at RunSignUp.com.

For more information and updates, go to [www.mountain-heritageday.com](http://www.mountain-heritageday.com).



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This weekend we will be having *Caribbean Cowboys*, a great band playing fantastic beach and Jimmy Buffett music. They certainly are a crowd pleaser.

So if you like good music and musicians, come spend this Saturday evening with us at the gazebo in downtown Franklin. Bring yourself a chair and come have a good hand-clappin' time. Remember, these concerts are brought to you by the Town of Franklin, free of charge. Hope to see you there.

Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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# FHS holds Hall of Fame induction ceremony



Homer Holbrooks played football, basketball and ran track. He was voted the most athletic in his senior year and went on to become Macon County sheriff, serving four terms before retiring.



Donnie Clouse has been the voice of the Franklin Panthers for 36 years. He announced JV football games on Thursday and Little League games on Saturdays. He spent 20 years working for local radio stations, assisted by his wife, Angel.



Crystal Tallent was arguably one of the greatest female athletes in FHS history, leading the Panthers' softball and basketball teams in the late '90s and early 2000's. By the time she graduated in 2000, Tallent was the all-time leading scorer in the basketball team's history amassing 1,172 career points. She remains fourth on the all-time scoring list and is one of just eight members of Franklin's 1,000 points club. In softball, .692 was her batting average during the 2000 season. She is known as one of the best Franklin athletes of her era in any sport.



The late Randy Raby was known as "The Voice of the Panthers" for more than two decades. Working in radio for more than 30 years, Raby called games for football, basketball and some baseball.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



The 1971 football team will live forever in FHS history as the first to go to state playoffs. Under the direction of head coach and Hall of Fame Class of 2016 inductee Pat Pattillo, and coach Joe Hall, the Panthers finished the '71 regular season with an 8-2 record, claiming their first-ever Smoky Mountain Conference title and defeating two reigning state champions in Robbinsville and Murphy. Star tailback Randy Chastain led the offense with 1,686 yards and 25 touchdowns recording shutouts in four different games on defense. Even though the Panthers lost to Edneyville in the first round playoffs, the successful team of 1971 paved the way for Franklin's AA state championship in 1976.





The 6'11" Lee Scruggs led Doug Plemmons' mid-90s teams with a deadly mix of size and offensive ability. After graduating FHS in 1997, Scruggs went on to a lengthy college and professional career, being recruited to Georgetown by Hall of Fame coach John Thompson and playing professionally in the NBA and around the world. Scruggs coaches Western North Carolina's Team Swish in the Amateur Athletic Union basketball circuit, and also served as an assistant for the Rabun Gap Eagles.

Keith Corbin was a standout football, baseball and basketball player for Franklin in the late '60s and early '70s. In 1966, as a freshman, he was called up from JV to play varsity and became a full time starter. He later played on the 1968-69 team that finished with a 20-5 record. In 1969, Corbin scored all 8 points in Franklin's 8-6 win over Sylva-Webster and earned All Smoky Mountain Conference honors for football. He was also one of the top hitters on Franklin's first baseball teams in the late '60s.



Keith Brooks played four sports in high school – football, basketball, baseball and track and field. He lettered four times in track and field, three times in football and baseball and twice in basketball. He played on teams that won four conference titles in track and field, three in baseball and one in baseball and football, going on to help the team win the 1976 state football championship. He received All-Conference honors in football for both junior and senior years and played in the East-West All-Star game. He played football at Appalachian State while earning a degree in physical education and was a member of the 100 tackle club his senior year. While teaching in Franklin he coached football, baseball and middle school track and wrestling.



Franklin High School Panthers continued their winning ways in Friday's home game against the East Henderson Eagles with a 48-0 win for a record of 4-0 on the season. This Friday is Homecoming with a game against the 2-2 Tuscola Mountaineers. Game starts at 7:30 with the Homecoming Queen to be crowned at halftime.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter







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## Healthy Homes Initiative address need for home repairs in WNC

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF), Nantahala Health Foundation (NHF) and Dogwood Health Trust announce a new collaborative initiative to address the need for home repairs in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary.

“The leadership from all three of these foundations believe that health and wellness begin when people are safely and affordably housed,” said Dr. Susan Mims, interim CEO, Dogwood Health Trust. “Providing support for the Healthy Homes Initiative will allow Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and Nantahala Health Foundation to address the most critical needs for home repairs among those who need it most.”

The initiative is targeted to owner-occupied homes of individuals at 60% of the area median income (AMI). Many of these homeowners are unable to afford the repairs needed to maintain the safety and health of their home’s occupants. Others require home modifications to ensure they can safely age in their homes or to address physical challenges or disabilities. Affordability of repairs and home modifications have been further compromised by supply chain and labor challenges. Dogwood Health Trust is supporting the Healthy Homes Initiative and the work of HCHF and NHF with a \$400,000 grant.

On Sept. 15 HCHF & NHF opened a new grant cycle specifically requesting proposals from non-profit, governmental and faith-based organizations that have demonstrated

success in the past identifying and implementing critical home repairs and rehabilitation projects. Both Foundations’ leaders say they look forward to reviewing applications, awarding grants to address safe, equitable and affordable housing for those in need.

Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director of HCHF, says, “We are grateful to Dogwood Health Trust for providing our Foundations this collaborative grant opportunity, which will undoubtedly increase our capacity to improve health and well-being for those who struggle to repair their homes. By partnering with NHF, we aim to correct housing conditions that threaten life and safety, such as failing septic systems, defective heating systems, or damaged flooring, etc.”

Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey concurred with Tindall’s assessment, adding, “We all know safe and secure housing is a fundamental building block for improved health and wellness for everyone. Yet for many in our community, their safety and wellbeing are compromised because the expense of housing maintenance or needed modifications is beyond their means. We greatly appreciate Dogwood’s faith in our organizations to ensure these funds will make an immediate impact for those who need it most.”

Grant applications will be accepted until the closing date of Oct. 15, 2021. Information can be found at Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation or at Nantahala Health Foundation.

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# New CEO of Angel Medical energized to lead hospital, serve community

**Clint Kendall, CEO/CNO  
Angel Medical Center**

As the new Chief Executive Officer/Chief Nursing Officer (CEO/CNO) for Angel Medical Center, I am grateful for the warm welcome I've received here at the hospital and as a new member of the community. I'm ready to get to work and learn all I can about our hospital, the special teams who drive our success, and the community members who place their trust in us.

I hope to use this column as a way to inform and educate the community about Angel Medical Center's services and teams, as well as a forum to respond to emerging issues and concerns within our community about healthcare. I see it as a way to reach readers and share exciting hospital happenings and plans for our future, as well as a place where I can address questions and concerns from our community.

First, I'd like to share a bit about my back-



Clint Kendall

ground, and how my path led me here to Angel. I'm actually a native Ashevillean, and became interested in healthcare as a possible career when I was in high school. In 1995, I participated in a Health Occupation Students of America program which led to me to obtain my Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification. Next, I earned my Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Western Carolina University, which prepared me for working in the Trauma ICU and Cardiovascular ICU areas of several North Carolina hospitals. I greatly enjoy nursing, and serving where needed.

After working as a bedside nurse for seven years, I accepted my first management position in New Bern, N.C., where my work was focused in the Step-down and Clinical Decision units. I learned from this experience that this was the direction I wanted to go in professionally, so I earned my Masters degrees in Business, Nursing, and Healthcare Management from the University of Phoenix in 2007.

This prepared me well for what followed — my first Chief Nursing Officer position with Community Health System in Carlsbad, N.M. I was, and remain, passionate about meaningfully impacting patient care and serving the community, and this felt like the way to do it. My next position as a CNO with LifePoint Health landed me in Richlands, Virginia. This

enabled my family to be nearer to extended family, thankfully. A LifePoint Health leadership program led me to a Chief Operating Officer position in Henderson, North Carolina, and later I served as the CEO for LifePoint Health in Andalusia, Ala.

The pandemic has made many want to connect even more closely with extended family, and I'm no exception. I feel fortunate that being part of HCA Healthcare, and serving in my new position here at Angel Medical Center, continues to allow this. My wife Robyn is also a nurse and specializes in cancer research. She and I are thrilled to now be Franklin residents and fully part of this community, while our son Dawson, who's 9, recently began his school year at Iotla Valley Elementary.

I share my professional history so readers can know that I'm not only qualified and prepared to serve Angel Medical Center, I'm deeply committed to continuing the legacy of excellence that Karen Gorby and the hospital leaders who preceded her built. My family and I look forward to becoming active members of our community through volunteering, and hope to find a church community as well. My intention is also that, through my work, I can help ensure that our hospital continues to give back to the community by supporting initiatives that contribute to our neighbors' health and wellbe-

ing.

Since I started at Angel Medical Center in August, I've spent time getting to know the committed team members who do everything from care for our patients to ensure that our facility is safe and clean, and I'm impressed at their dedication to our patients and each other. I see myself as serving all who work here in that I will do everything in my power to create a care environment that's safe, efficient, and known for positive outcomes. Additionally, I want to build on Angel's reputation as a great place to work and launch a rewarding career.

Another goal that's important to me is to act as an advocate for both our patients and our teams. By constantly reexamining each of these groups' needs and priorities, care is bound to stay exceptional. It's also important for me to be accessible to hospital staff and the community. I wear my badge everywhere I go during my workday, so never feel hesitant about approaching me to talk about your hospital.

Finally, I'd like to give a shout-out of appreciation to our Environmental Services staff members, who are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness and order for our hospital. They're essential to every patient's experience, because the environment in which you're cared for is a big determinant in your recovery.

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# Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests September 9 - 19. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

September 13

Christina Melissa Ann Phillips, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

September 15

Raymond Biddle, was charged with second degree trespass and communicating threats. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

September 16

Jessica Jevonne Stiwinter, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Kari Huskey Conrad, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

September 17

Jessie Shyanne Stiwinter, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Jose Alberto Vasquez, was charged with driving under the influence. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

September 9

Dustin Bo Rodmaker, 39, was issued an order for arrest. A \$10,000 bond was set.

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

September 14

Ernie Lee Watkins, 51, was charged with sexual battery. A \$2,400 bond was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

September 13

Devin Tyler Reid, 28, of Robin Hood Rd., Walhalla, S.C., was charged with cyberstalking, misdemeanor stalking and violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

John Roy Russell, 45, of Three Cabin Rd., Bryson City, was charged with drug equipment violation and possession

of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

September 14

Jonah Terrance Keefer, 28, of Clay Haven Heights. was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

September 15

Krista Brooks Oxendine, 49, of Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for felony probation violation. No bond was set.

Georgenna Taylor Arch, 56, of Creeppoint Dr., Hickory, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A \$3,000 bond was set.

Anthony Dirk Welch, 51, of Hillside Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance on jail premises, intoxicated and disruptive, resisting a public officer and assault on a female. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Felisha Faye Coggins, 33, of Toby Bryson Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with accessory after the fact. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Christian Ryan Sammons, 28, of Big Ridge Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

Michael Brennan Kinsey, 26, of Wild Ridge, Cashiers, was charged with communicating threats and injury to personal property. No bond was set.

Eric Jerome Kinsey, 47, of Wild Ridge, Cashiers, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

September 16

Austin Henry Posey, 26, of Lyle Knob Rd., Franklin, was charged with assault on a female. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Katrina Lynn Cook, 34, of Dawn View, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for first degree trespassing enter/remain. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

September 17

Heather Nicole Steele, 28, of Lands End, was issued an order for arrest for child support purge. A \$1,722 bond was set.

Destiny Marie Taylor, 23, of Battle Creek, Bryson City, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle and break and enter a motor vehicle.

Furman Anthony Smith, 47, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of goods/property and larceny. No bond was set.

Joshua Ethan Craig, 22, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was issued an order for arrest for communicating threats and assault on a female. No bond was set.

September 18

David Wayne Carver, 42, of Pearl Dr., Highlands, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

September 19

Nikki Rae Ashley, 31, of John St., China Grove, was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of schedule IV controlled substance. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

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## Mitchell Cemetery (Chesquaw Valley) Decoration this Saturday

In cooperation with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the North Shore Cemetery Association will be hosting the Mitchell Cemetery Decoration on Saturday, Sept. 25, with the boat shuttle leaving at 10 a.m. from the Cable Cove Boating Access Area off of NC 28 near Fontana Village. This decoration marks the last lake trip of the season. Participants are asked to wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for hiking and outdoor activities. Remember to bring foul weather gear as decorations are held rain or shine. Large umbrellas work better than non-breathable rainwear. The hike to the cemetery is a rather steep 0.6-mile and generally takes an hour. No mobility assistance will be available for this decoration. Bring your own lunch, snacks, and drinks. No picnic tables are available for use for this decoration. Pets are not allowed in accordance with Park rules and regulations. Service animals must have papers and be vested.

Decorations consist of 'decorating' the graves followed by group singing and a short devotion.

Visit Facebook/northshorecemeteries or NorthShoreCemeteryDecorations for additional information, changes, and cancellations and to message for mobility assistance.

## Optimum donates \$8,000 in iPads to MCS

Altice USA, parent company of Optimum presented Macon County Public School District with nearly \$8,000 worth of iPads to increase access to virtual classroom opportunities, connectivity, and on-line curriculum for students.

This donation is part of Altice USA's \$1 Million giving to 30-plus school districts as part of its COVID-19 response initiatives to support local communities as they recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Bob Lillie, regional vice president at Altice noted, "Optimum is proud to support the communities we serve and their school districts, who play a critical role in helping to develop the innovators and technologists of tomorrow."

"We are very grateful for the additional devices. Our students and families appreciate the assistance in staying connected with their classrooms during the pandemic," said



Pictured from left are Brad Ayers, Sr. director Government Affairs Altice; Dr. Christopher Baldwin Superintendent MCS; Tim Burrell Director of Technology MCS; and Bob Lille Regional Vice President Altice.

Macon County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Christopher Baldwin. "Technology plays a vital role in today's world and is an important part of our students' success. The additional iPads provided by Optimum will help our students become more successful in school and better prepared for the future," said Baldwin.



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# Melissa Ohden to speak at 20-year Celebration of SMPCC October 2

The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center (SMPCC) will hold its 20-year Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin. Guest speaker Melissa Ohden, a saline abortion survivor, will tell her remarkable, inspirational story. There is no cost to attend, but guests are asked to pre-register at [smokypartners.com](http://smokypartners.com) or by calling 828-349-3200.



Melissa Ohden

Survivors Network, the only healing and advocacy organization for abortion survivors worldwide, and The Education and Policy Center, which impacts policy issues related to abortion and abortion survivors. Melissa and her team have connected with 384 survivors as of April 2021.

Ohden is a frequent contributor to pro-life and conservative news outlets and a regular

“We are excited to host this new event at Franklin’s beautiful performing arts center in place of the fundraising banquets we’ve had in past years. I think people will leave that night with a real understanding and appreciation for the work we do for our clients and why it’s so important. We urge people come hear our powerful speaker and join us for a memorable evening,” said Jenny Golding, executive director of SMPCC.

Melissa Ohden was born in Iowa in 1977 to a 19-year-old mother. Her story was supposed to end then, as her mother had undergone a saline abortion. Instead, she miraculously survived and was born weighing less than three pounds. Her tiny body was placed among medical waste; however, a nurse who heard her crying saved her life.

Today, Ohden is a master’s level prepared social worker and author of “You Carried Me: A Daughter’s Memoir.” Her second book, which focuses on sharing the stories of other abortion survivors breaking their silence, will be published this year. She is the founder and director of The Abortion

guest on radio and television programs around the world, including Fox News, Focus on the Family, the Eric Metaxas Show, and more. Although Ohden’s heart is for providing help and hope to all affected by abortion, she also strives to humanize the unborn through activism. She has testified before congressional committees numerous times. Fulfilling the purpose she believes God set out for her when He saved her from the certain death of the abortion attempt, Ohden is truly a voice for the voiceless.

The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center has professionally staffed clinics in Franklin and Cullowhee, and now has a mobile medical unit to take their services to more people in Western North Carolina. They provide pregnancy testing, limited OB ultrasounds, Earn While You Learn classes, and more. All services are free to clients, thanks to the support of those who share their mission. To learn more and to register for the Oct. 2 celebration, visit [smokypartners.com](http://smokypartners.com) or call 828-349-3200.

# Annual Hunter’s Mountain Ride Oct. 2

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

Five years after Tony and Monica Curtis lost their son Hunter, the Franklin couple continue to honor his memory by hosting the annual “Hunter’s Mountain Ride & Poker Run.” The Saturday, Oct. 2, event, which benefits Men’s Teen Challenge of the Smokies has been a bright spot for the community, who come together each year to honor Hunter.

David Linn, organizer for the annual event, said, “Just like in year’s past, we will be starting Hunter’s Mountain Ride at the Macon County Fairgrounds and cruising the beautiful back roads of Macon County and finishing at the campus of Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center, 336 Living Hope Way [off Highlands Road],” said Linn. “We invite everyone to come out and help raise money for Teen Challenge, and learn about the campus, hear information about the program, and hear various testimonies of people enrolled in the program.”

Everyone is invited to participate with their cars or their motorcycles. The event garners around 50 vehicles making the ride to honor Hunter. Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center’s mission is to provide men with an effective and comprehensive Christian, faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society. By applying Biblical principles, Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become “mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.”



Tony Curtis speaks at the 2018 Mountain Ride honoring his son, Hunter.

“We always invite everyone and anyone to join us because we all know someone who has been challenged by drugs or alcohol, lost hope because of drugs, or lost their life because of drugs,” said Linn. “The community support from this event is a way to support and encourage not only those suffering from addiction but also their families. So polish up that vehicle(s) and join us as we cruise the back roads of Macon County on a nice fall day.”

In addition to the Mountain Ride, a silent auction will also be held. Linn noted that items will be posted on the Hunter’s Mountain Ride Facebook event page and bidding is Saturday, Oct. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be a 50/50 cash drawing and more to raise funds for Teen Challenge.

Anyone not participating in the Ride, but who wants to donate to Adult & Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center, can give online at [www.mtcots.com](http://www.mtcots.com). Event registration is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Macon County Fair Grounds with the ride starting around 10 a.m. For more information, contact Linn at 828.421.7637.

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Thomas Eugene Ritter

Thomas Eugene Ritter, 60, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer on Sept. 18, 2021.

He was born in La Crosse, Wisc., to the late Eugene and Margaret Ritter. He received his high school education at Aquinas High School in La Crosse. He then went on to The University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee for both his undergraduate and masters education in architecture where he met the love of his life, Nancy. The pair were married at Plymouth Congregational Church in Miami in 1987. The couple moved to Franklin, N.C., in 2001, after adopting their daughters Ashley and Emily. He established the Ritter Architecture business which has proudly served Macon County (and many other counties and states) since. In 2004, they adopted the newest member of their family, Christian. He loved his community. He proudly served and donated his time, money, and sweat to many causes within the Macon County community and was passionate about seeing his beloved mountain community prosper. His contributions, wit, and charisma will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; their three children, Ashley (Travis), Emily, and Christian; brother, Steve (Sue), sister, Joanne, and brother, Patrick (Jennifer); and wonderful family, friends, and his inspiring dedication to community.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at Woodlawn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to KIDS Place of Macon County, P.O. Box 693 Franklin, NC 28744; (828) 524-3199.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneral-home.com](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Alma Jane Owens

Alma Jane Owens, 73, of Clayton, Ga., passed away Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021. She was born Feb. 23, 1948, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Alney Owens and Ruth Chastain Owens.

She started working for the company Itron when she was 16 years old and was still employed with the company with perfect attendance. She served for the Women's Club at the Satolah Fire Dept. She was loved by many.

She is survived by her brother, Ellis Owens (Justyne) of Arlington, Va.; two nieces, Kelli Mullins (John) of New Berry, S.C., and Elizabeth Owens of Arlington; two nephews, Thomas Owens (Charlotte Marcus) of Clayton, and Clint Owens (Lea) of Clayton; and many great nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Julius Owens.

A celebration of life service will be held Thursday, Sept. 23, at 2 p.m., at the Macedonia Baptist Church. The family will receive friends following the service.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Cremation is serving the Owens family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com).



Thomas Eugene Ritter



Alma Jane Owens

### Maureen Kearns Williams

Maureen Kearns Williams, 87, passed away Aug. 22, 2021 in Franklin, N.C., surrounded by family members. She was born on June 24, 1934, in New York to Thomas and Mildred Kearns.

She was an independent woman who lived in her own apartment by the age 14 while going to Catholic girls school. She has been both impoverished and affluent multiple times in her life.

Known at one time as the Lord's Battleaxe, she led in a world not quite accustomed to women's leadership. She led in business running multiple businesses over the years including as a real estate broker of her own real estate firm to running condo/hotels in Cape Canaveral and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She also led and served in her church and community serving as Scout Committee Chairman, Relief Society President, Senior Missionary, and Institute Teacher to name a few.

She loved to travel visiting many states and countries in Central America, Europe, Middle East, Caribbean, and around the Mediterranean Sea. Additionally she visited Russia, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, and Canada. She obtained travel agent's and pilot's licenses to help facilitate her travels. Whether by RV, plane, or car, she traveled as much as time and circumstances allowed.

Maureen had a way about her. People were often taking time to help her when she was both young and old. She opened her heart to people so they felt as if they belonged. "That space was warm and welcoming and felt like home, but it was not confining. You didn't have to fit in a predefined box. This doesn't mean she'd always agree with you. Sometimes our opinions differed and our relationship felt stronger for it. Nothing that could not be remedied with chocolate, which she always kept near." (Trish Mashburn).

She was a mentor and inspiration to many for her boundless energy and determination. "I first met her as a childhood teacher of mine and now when I teach I'm always wondering how I can impact others like she first impacted me. She was so much fun throughout all stages of her life and it was contagious. I still have postcards she would send from different travels just to say hello. She always went above and beyond." (Rachel Winegar).

"My Oma, Maureen was the grandest of grandmothers, one of my closest confidantes and dearest friends. I idolized her in life. Forgive me for doing so even more so after her death.

"How could something, someone be so fierce and so gentle? So strong and so tender? Regardless of who she was to you, she was a force to be reckoned with." (Trish Mashburn). "She always lived her life on her own terms and I loved that about her." (Jennie Ashby).

She is survived by Debbie Hamilton, "KC" Williams, Douglas Williams, and Paul Thatcher; 15 grandchildren and a small army of great grandchildren. Her daughter Sharon and son Zackary "Scott" preceded her.

A funeral service was held Sept. 11, in Rockledge, Fla., followed by an internment at Florida Memorial Gardens in Rockledge.

A memorial service will be held Sept. 26, at 6:30 p.m., at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 33 Pine Ridge Dr, Franklin, NC 28734.



Maureen Williams

Freda Gail Stone, 63, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Clarence Stone and Doris Earlene Dillard. She was a homemaker; she loved cars, writing in her diary and taking pictures and videos of every big and every little moment in her daily life. She was a collector of many things. The most important thing to her was spending time with her family.

She is survived by 11 children, Rebekah Smith of Cherokee, N.C., Wesley Young of Washington, Jessica Burrell of Cherokee, Brian Burrell of Franklin, Michael Burrell of Franklin, Diamond Stone of Waynesville, N.C., Heather Stone of Franklin, Dannyale Williams of Franklin, Danny Williams of Franklin, Crystal Williams of Franklin, and Randy Giles of Franklin; four siblings, Jack Case, David Wayne Case, Sandra Reid, and Brenda Dietz; 16 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

No services are planned at this time.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneral-home.com](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

### Grace Marie Ledford Bradley

Grace Marie Ledford Bradley, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sept. 14, 2021. She was born in Macon County June 19, 1931, to the late Charles T. Ledford and Hallie Marie Nichols Ledford. She had worked in the cafeteria for the Macon County School System and was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother; she loved outdoors and nature and her family was the love of her life.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Junior Bradley; a son, Charles Michael Bradley, who died in 1979, and two sisters, Lillian Myers and Lucille Ledford.

She is survived by two daughters, Conda Marie Bradley and Rhonda Lynn Cowart (Randall) both of Franklin; a sister, Helen Ledford of Franklin; three grandchildren, Jamie Bradley (Chris), Josh Cowart (Amanda) and Justin Cowart (Rachel); eight great-grandchildren, Sarah, Logan, Ellen, Ethan, Emma, Hallie, Addison and Aubreigh.

A funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 20, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, with Rev. Josh Brooks, Rev. Eddie Stillwell and Rev. Mozart Molier officiating. Burial was in the Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Josh Cowart, Justin Cowart, Chris Bradley, Logan Bradley, Randy Hughes, and Dillon Ford. Honorary pallbearers were Denny Ledford, Randall Cowart, and Ethan Whitworth.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Bradley family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com).



Freda Gail Stone



Grace Marie Bradley



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# Deaths & Funerals

## Brevon Alexander Kimsey

Brevon Alexander Kimsey, 21 of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021.

He was born in Macon County and was the son of William and Donna Kimsey. He was very creative and artistic. He loved spending time outdoors, camping and fishing. His loving smile and big heart will be missed.

He is survived by his loving family, William and Donna, Linda, Billy and Carlea, Beth, Ty, Angel, Nevaeh, Celia, Addison, his grandmother, Rosemary and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A Mass will be held Friday, Sept. 24, at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 11:30 a.m.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Brevon Kimsey

## Joyce 'Jodie' Hodgins McMahan

Joyce "Jodie" Hodgins McMahan, 72, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ed Charles and Arlee Tallent Hodgins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Clarence Hodgins and Bryson "Budge" Hodgins.

She was affectionately known as "Jodie" to many. She was the office administrator at Corbin McMahan Heating and Air. She loved to yard sale, can and make jams and jellies to share. She was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 30 years, Robert "Bob" McMahan; two sons, Tony Ashe (Amy) and Alan Ashe (Sheila); two stepsons, Gary McMahan (Rose) and Tim McMahan; and one stepdaughter, Kathy "Lanie" Dills (Ed) all of Franklin; seven siblings, Vada Murphy, Bryant Hodgins, Johnny Hodgins, Willie Hodgins, Jack Hodgins, and Romaneal Hodgins all of Franklin, and Mildred Tallent of Greenville, S.C.; a special "adopted" grandson, Shawn McCall of Franklin; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 23, at 2 p.m., at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. Rev. Guy Duvall and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Sanders, Darrell Mason, Ronnie Hensley, Shawn McCall, Terry Dalton, Bryant Hodgins.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Jim Hedden and other deacons at Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Joyce McMahan

## Lloyd 'Landie' Wilson

Lloyd "Landie" Wilson, 67, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late John Riley and Pauline Kimsey Wilson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Vernece Anna Wilson in 2020; and three brothers, Mack Wilson, John "Junior" Wilson, and Charles Wilson.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved being outdoors and being the best uncle to his nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

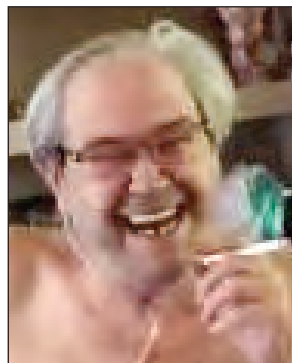
He is survived by his stepchildren, Lisa Ray of Franklin, Eddie Shearl of Indiana, and John Shearl of Franklin; three sisters, Vonnie Carpenter of Cumming, Ga., Bernice Bates, and Mary Lou Farmer, both of Franklin; two brothers, James Wilson, and Edward Wilson, also of Franklin; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews surviving.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations, can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Lloyd 'Landie' Wilson

## Ernie Pavlina

Ernie Pavlina, 74, went to the next universe Thanksgiving day. He was a Pisces born in 1947 in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Franklin 13 years ago. He was always ready to help neighbors. He served in the army during the Viet Nam war, did crossword puzzles and loved trivia.

He is survived by best friend, Julie Willims and two brothers and two sisters in Ohio.

He spent much time at his grandparents' home and learned good values and respect for the environment. He believed in the continuous cycle of life and death. His passion was feeding the birds and growing plants.



Ernie Pavlina

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The Macon County News & Shopping Guide. Free independent weekly. Commissioners' race highlights county's struggle to attract business, foster a qualified workforce. Election 2018.

## James Andrew Parker

James Andrew Parker, 86, passed away Friday, Sept. 17, 2021. He was born Oct. 22, 1934, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late John Frank Parker and Ethel Elizabeth Edmonds Parker. He worked as a carpenter in the construction business. He was a member of the Ed Teague & Georgia Mountain Boys Blue Grass Gospel for 18 years. He played on the square in Franklin numerous times. He was a former Baptist minister and was a member of the Taylors Chapel Baptist Church in Mountain City, Ga. He was also a U.S. Army veteran.



James Andrew Parker

Survivors include his wife, Katherine Rogers Parker; a grandson, Kendall Parker; and other family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margie Parker; three children, Edna Elizabeth Parker, Linda Ann Holcombe, and Thomas Andrew Parker; one grandson, Chris Holcombe; and two sisters, Mildred Pauline Rogers and Ethel Imogene Morris.

A funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 20, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert Dryman and Rev. Burt Crawford officiating. Burial followed in the Mt. Zion Cemetery with the Army National Guard proving military honors.

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

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# Kyle Larson wins wild elimination race at Bristol

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

BRISTOL, Tenn. – Kyle Larson celebrated victory in Saturday's Bass Pro Shops Night Race with a burnout on the frontstretch at Bristol Motor Speedway, as tempers flared between Kevin Harvick and Chase Elliott on pit road.

With an assist from Elliott, who took Harvick's line at the .533-mile concrete track and slowed his progress, Larson made the winning pass on Lap 397 of 400 and sealed his sixth NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season.

At the other end of the spectrum, Aric Almirola, Tyler Reddick, Kurt Busch and Michael McDowell were eliminated from the Playoffs in the cutoff race of the Round of 16. William Byron snagged the final transfer spot into the Round of 12 by finishing third behind Larson and Harvick.

That result gave Byron a two-point edge over Almirola and Reddick, the first two drivers out of the Playoff.

On Lap 465 of 500, as Harvick was attempting to pass Elliott for the lead, the driver of the No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford pinched Elliott's Chevrolet toward the outside wall, with contact between the cars cutting a tire on Elliott's machine.

Elliott brought his car to pit road on Lap 466, lost three laps in the process and returned to the track behind Harvick. On new tires, Elliott quickly passed Harvick to get one lap back and took Harvick's line at the top of the track.

Larson gradually closed on Harvick and made the winning pass on Lap 397. Larson did an admirable job keeping his car under control as Harvick retaliated with contact to the rear of Larson's Camaro on the frontstretch.

"Yeah, that was an awesome race," said Larson, who won for the first time at Bristol and the 12th time in his career. "It was so cool to be able to race there for the win. Obviously, Harvick and Chase got together. Chase was upset. Kind of held him up. It got Harvick having to move around and use his tires up off the bottom.

"I started to get some dive-ins working off of (Turn) 2, got a big run, decided to pull the trigger, slide him, squeeze him a little bit. Then he had me jacked up down the frontstretch. It was wild."

While Larson celebrated, Harvick and Elliott traded their views of the finish in a heated exchange on pit road.

"It's just chicken (expletive)," Harvick said after the confrontation broke up. "I don't know what else to say. Throw a temper tantrum like you're two years old because you got passed for the lead and got a flat tire. We barely even rubbed. It's all Chase's way, or it's no way. If he doesn't get his way, he throws a fit."

Not surprisingly, Elliott had a different interpretation of the events in the closing stages of the race.

"It's something that he does all the time," said the reigning Cup Series champion, who finished 25th. "He runs into your left side constantly at other tracks, and sometimes it does cut down your left sides. Other times it doesn't.

"Whether he does it on purpose, it doesn't matter. At some point, you've got to draw the line. I don't care who he is and how long he's been doing it. I'm going to stand up for myself and my team, and we'll go on down the road."

Of the 12 drivers who advanced to the second round of the Playoff, four represent Hendrick Motorsports (Elliott, Larson, Byron and Alex Bowman); four represent Joe Gibbs Racing (Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr. and Christopher Bell); and three represent Team Penske (Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney).

Harvick is the lone driver from Stewart-Haas Racing to



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 Valvoline Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sept. 18, 2021, in Bristol, Tenn. At left, Kyle Larson and Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Subway Delivery Ford, race in Bristol, Tenn. Photos by Jared C Tilton & Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images

45 laps; Brad Keselowski (P) 4 times for 10 laps; Martin Truex Jr. (P) 1 time for 5 laps.

AJ Allmendinger triumphs at Bristol, wins Xfinity regular-season crown in slugfest

BRISTOL, Tenn. – With cars bouncing off each other like pinballs through two laps of overtime, AJ Allmendinger took his No. 16 Kaulig Racing Chevrolet three-wide to the bottom, passed Justin Allgaier and Austin Cindric

on the final lap and won Friday night's Food City 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

The victory gave Allmendinger the NASCAR Xfinity Series Regular Season Championship by 10 points over Cindric, who held the race lead when the 10th and final caution flag flew on Lap 297 of 300 after Allgaier turned JR Motorsports teammate Sam Mayer in Turn 1.

In the overtime, things got crazy. Cindric and Allgaier picked the top lane, and Allmendinger chose the inside of the front row. On the white-flag lap, Allmendinger drove hard into Turns 3 and 4 and slid up into Cindric's No. 22 Team Penske Ford.

Allmendinger fell back to third, but contact between Allgaier's Camaro and Cindric's Mustang gave Allmendinger a chance to slip beneath both cars into the lead.

But the race wasn't over. On the final lap, Cindric charged off the final corner, slammed into Allmendinger, and both cars slid sideways across the finish line, with Allmendinger the winner by .082 seconds.

After taking the checkered flag, Allmendinger careened off the inside wall, slid across the track into traffic and took a huge hit from Kaulig Racing teammate Justin Haley.

But the 2021 NASCAR Xfinity Series Regular Season Championship was his.

"I expected to get run into," Allmendinger said. "It happened that previous corner. It's frustrating getting hit that hard coming to checker, but we're battling for the win. It's

advance to the Round of 12.

Both Kyle Busch and Bell survived cut tires near the end of the race to clinch spots in the next round. Blaney finished fourth and Bowman fifth on Saturday night. Keselowski, Truex, Erik Jones, Hamlin and Matt DiBenedetto completed the top 10.

Harvick and Elliott later continued their discussion behind closed doors in Elliott's No. 9 transporter.

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 87.409 mph.

Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 2 Mins, 56 Secs. Margin of Victory: 0.227 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 8 for 71 laps.

Lead Changes: 23 among 7 drivers.

Lap Leaders: M. Truex Jr. (P) 1-5; C. Elliott (P) 6-43; B. Keselowski (P) 44; C. Elliott (P) 45-83; K. Larson (P) 84-90; D. Hamlin (P) 91-121; K. Larson (P) 122; D. Hamlin (P) 123-129; B. Keselowski (P) 130; K. Larson (P) 131-137; B. Keselowski (P) 138-144; D. Hamlin (P) 145-171; R. Blaney (P) 172; K. Larson (P) 173-253; B. Keselowski (P) 254; K. Harvick (P) 255-264; R. Blaney (P) 265-307; K. Harvick (P) 308-336; K. Larson (P) 337-365; R. Blaney (P) 366; K. Larson (P) 367-412; C. Elliott (P) 413-464; K. Harvick (P) 465-496; K. Larson (P) 497-500.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Kyle Larson (P) 7 times for 175 laps; Chase Elliott (P) 3 times for 129 laps; Kevin Harvick (P) 3 times for 71 laps; Denny Hamlin (P) 3 times for 65 laps; Ryan Blaney (P) 3 times for



Bristol, baby. That's what it's all about.

"I haven't had a lot of chances to get a win at Bristol, so you know what? When you have a chance to do it, you've got to go do it. If I don't take that chance, I don't belong in a race car, because my team deserves the win."

Under the circumstances, Cindric exhibited remarkable restraint in his post-race interview.

"I thought we had a great battle all season long up to this point, so congratulations to Kaulig and AJ," said Cindric, who led 75 laps, third-most behind Allgaier's 92 and Daniel Hemric's 78. "Those guys didn't want us to win really bad, and I hate that it completely destroyed our Ford Mustang."

"That's all I've got, man... It looks like the 7 (Allgaier) just got loose there (in spinning Mayer), and AJ obviously just drove straight through us. You'll have that in green-white-checked racing."

The victory was Allmendinger's first at Bristol, his fourth of the season and the ninth of his career. The final lap of overtime was the only lap he led, as the race went six laps past its scheduled distance of 300 circuits.

The regular-season cutoff race also set the final positions for the Round of 12 in the Xfinity Series Playoff. With no new winner, Brandon Jones, Riley Herbst and Jeremy Clements clinched the final three spots on points, as expected, as the series heads for the Playoff opener Sept. 25 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Herbst finished third behind the wrecking cars of Allmendinger and Cindric. Allgaier fell to fourth on the final lap, with Jones and Haley running fifth and sixth. Harrison Burton, Myatt Snider, Mayer and Hemric completed the top 10.

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 75.026 mph.

Time of Race: 2 Hrs, 10 Mins, 26 Secs. Margin of Victory: 0.082 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 10 for 72 laps.

Lead Changes: 11 among 7 drivers.

Lap Leaders: N. Gragson 1-4; D. Hemric 5-35; J. Allgaier 36-108; D. Hemric 109-135; J. Allgaier 136-153; D. Hemric 154-173; J. Burton 174-180; S. Mayer # 181-229; A. Cindric 230-241; J. Allgaier 242; A. Cindric 243-305; A. Allmendinger 306.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Justin Allgaier 3 times for 92 laps; Daniel Hemric 3 times for 78 laps; Austin Cindric 2 times for 75 laps; Sam Mayer # 1 time for 49 laps; Jeb Burton 1 time for 7 laps; Noah Gragson 1 time for 4 laps; AJ Allmendinger 1 time for 1 lap.

**Chandler Smith advances in NASCAR Truck Playoff with thrilling victory at Bristol**

In a stunning upset on Thursday night at Bristol Motor Speedway, rookie Chandler Smith stole a victory from reign-



AJ Allmendinger, driver of the #16 Barger Precast Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Food City 300 at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sept. 17, 2021 in Bristol, Tenn. Photo by Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images



At left, AJ Allmendinger spins across the finish line after an incident with Austin Cindric, driver of the #22 Menards/Richmond Ford. Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images

third.

The victory was Smith's first in the series, and it came at the most opportune time. As he approached the final restart, the 19-year-old driver knew his only remaining path to the Round of 8 was a victory.

"I'm speechless right now," Smith said after climbing from his truck. "I've really been tested this last year or two and tested my faith. I have to thank everyone behind me... This is just incredible. It finally paid off. I'm just so happy right now."

Creed led 189 laps and appeared headed for a sweep of all three races in the Round of 10, until he and Smith made side-to-side contact after the final restart.

"I was kind of at their mercy," said Creed, who already had clinched a spot in the Round of 8 with wins at World Wide Technology Raceway and at Darlington. "I knew I was going to get hit—I just didn't know where."

"They did what they had to do to win... I don't know if they're going to get away with that in the next round."

Smith was not apologetic for the way he raced Creed after the final restart.

See NASCAR Page 28

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# NASCAR

Continued  
from page 27

"I think any other driver that was in my situation would have done the exact same thing," he asserted. "If you wouldn't have done that, I think you're in the sport for the wrong reasons."

Austin Hill was eliminated from the Playoff after crashing out on Lap 189 and causing the 11th caution of the action-filled race. Gilliland fell from seventh to 10th after the final restart and missed advancing to the Round of 8 by two points.

"I really don't know what happened," Gilliland said. "They both slipped by me—the 21 (Zane Smith) and the 99 (Ben Rhodes). I'm just heartbroken. To miss by two points there—it really, really stings. Just heartbroken."



Zane Smith and Rhodes were the last two drivers to advance to the Round of 8, both finishing two points ahead of Gilliland. They join Creed, Nemechek, Chandler Smith, Matt Crafton, Stewart Friesen and Sunoco rookie Carson Hocevar as the series heads for Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sept. 24.

Friesen ran fourth on Thursday, followed by non-Playoff



Chandler Smith, driver of the #18 Safelite AutoGlass Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series UNOH 200 presented by Ohio Logistics at Bristol Motor Speedway on Sept. 16, 2021 in Bristol, Tenn.

Photo by Brian Lawdermilk/Getty Images

driver Johnny Sauter, Hocevar, Crafton, Zane Smith and Rhodes.

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 59.479 mph.

Time of Race: 1 Hrs, 47 Mins, 32 Secs. Margin of Victory: 0.422 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 11 for 85 laps.

Lead Changes: 3 among 3 drivers.

Lap Leaders: S. Creed (P) 1-115; C. Hocevar # (P) 116-121; S. Creed (P) 122-195; C. Smith # (P) 196-200.

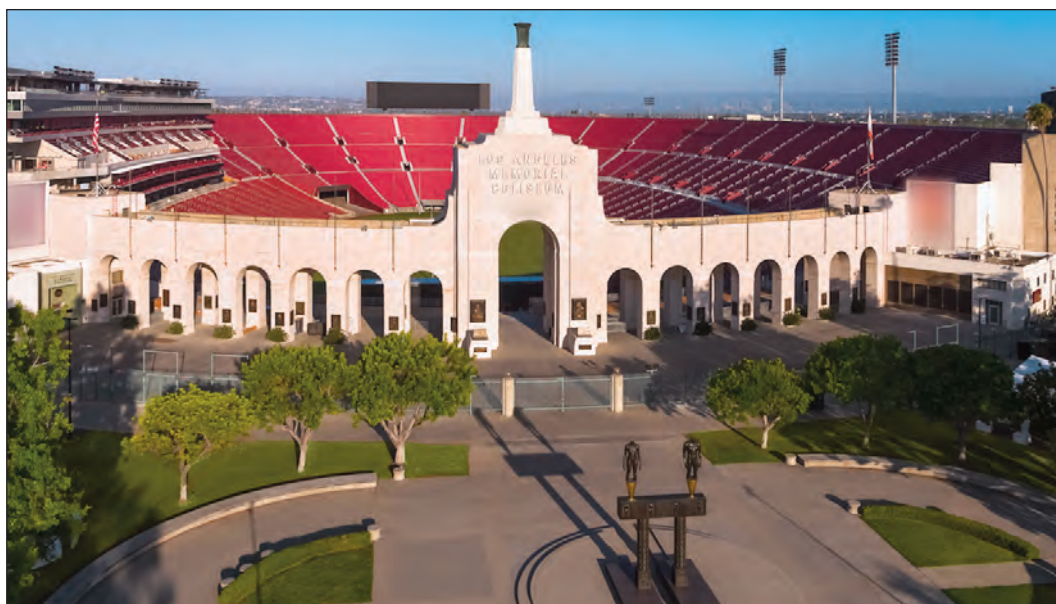
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Sheldon Creed (P) 2 times for 189 laps; Carson Hocevar # (P) 1 time for 6 laps; Chandler Smith # (P) 1 time for 5 laps.

## NASCAR taking 2022 Clash to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, one of the most storied venues in all of sports and entertainment, will add a new event to its long and decorated list: The Clash at the Coliseum.

This season-opening exhibition will take place on Feb. 6, 2022 and become the first NASCAR race held inside the iconic Los Angeles stadium since it opened in 1923. The Clash at the Coliseum will be a signature event as a part of the venue's centennial celebration and mark the first time NASCAR's prelude to the DAYTONA 500 will take place somewhere other than Daytona International Speedway, an icon in its own right that will host the regular-season opener two weeks later.

"Los Angeles is synonymous with major sports and entertainment events, so we seized an innovative opportunity to showcase NASCAR at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum," said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR senior vice president of strategy and innovation. "We're thrilled to have the



opportunity to take center stage in this market as we get our 2022 season underway."

The traditional Coliseum playing surface will be converted into a quarter-mile, asphalt

short track creating a brand-new action-packed event to kick off the season. Drivers will compete for the first time in the new Next Gen cars.

The Clash at the Coliseum will be the first of two visits to Southern California, as NASCAR's premier series will also visit Auto Club Speedway in 2022.

Tickets for the Feb. 6 NASCAR Clash at the Coliseum will go on-sale beginning Thursday, Sept. 16th at 1 p.m. ET. Tickets start at \$65 for adults and kids 12 & under starting as low as \$10. The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum offers a variety of seating options from lower to upper bowl, midfield start/finish line seats to premium club seats with access to the exclusive Lou Galen Club Lounge. Premium Club seats will go on-sale starting Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. ET following a special pre-sale to current Club Members. Tickets can be purchased by visiting Ticketmaster.com. For more information visit [nascar.com/lacoliseum](http://nascar.com/lacoliseum).

The remainder of the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series schedule, as well as schedules for the NASCAR Xfinity and Camping World Truck Series, will be announced later.



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1990s

### ACROSS

1. Ridden or pushed around yard
6. Chlorofluorocarbon
9. Spiral-horned antelope
13. Make a canyon, e.g.
14. Much of this about nothing?
15. Forest destroyers
16. Basic belief
17. Popular pickup
18. Lake scum
19. \*Popular email service eventually bought by Microsoft
21. \*CD "maker"
23. FEMA's assistance
24. Musician's time to shine
25. Stephen King's Christine, e.g.
28. Plural of locus
30. Mongolian monetary unit
35. Wraths
37. Jar covers
39. Like yellow polka dot bikini?
40. Desert in China and Mongolia
41. Knight's mount
43. Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
44. Change the Constitution, e.g.
46. Ready and eager
47. Table mineral
48. \*Jennifer Aniston-inspired haircut, with "the"
50. Bank on
52. Modern prefix
53. Beacon light
55. Oolong, e.g.
57. \* \_\_\_\_ Sese Seko, overthrown Zairian dictator
60. \*African National Congress leader released from prison
64. Like a candle?
65. \*1997's "Fly" by Sugar

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48						49		50			51		52	
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	57	58	59						60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

67. Lowest point
  68. Smart \_\_\_\_
  69. Marching insect
  70. Opposite of digest
  71. \*Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan's domain
  72. Employer Assisted Housing, acr.
  73. Fender bender consequences
- DOWN**
1. Crystalline hydrochloride, colloquially
  2. Nabisco top best-seller
  3. Refuses to
  4. Bodily swelling
  5. Not wholesale
  6. Lewis of sprinting and long jumping fame
  7. Vaccine-approving agency, acr.
  8. Burger, fries and soda

9. Brick-drying oven
  10. It's hard to resist
  11. Precedes Abby
  12. Consume, as in drugs
  15. Slang for radical or cool, 3 words
  20. America's singer choices
  22. Last, abbr.
  24. Weapon in a holster
  25. Fidel Castro's smoke
  26. Pleasant odor
  27. Renaissance instrument resembling a violin
  29. \*TV hit "Sex and the \_\_\_\_"
  31. "Bee \_\_\_\_"
  32. What many TV hits have done
  33. Fireplace
  34. \* \_\_\_\_ Protocol, climate change-related international
- treaty
  36. Hyperbolic sine
  38. Withered
  42. COVID-19 variant
  45. Expose the falseness
  49. " \_\_\_\_ the Games Begin!"
  51. Pined
  54. Sign of a saint, pl.
  56. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
  57. Algeria's neighbor
  58. Plow-pulling duo
  59. \*"Where It's At" singer
  60. Urban story
  61. Adam and Eve's garden
  62. \*Oscar winner "Schindler's \_\_\_\_"
  63. A in BA
  64. \*Gulf \_\_\_\_ or Bosnian \_\_\_\_
  66. American Nurses Association

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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1				8	7			2
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# The Classifieds

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**RV/CAMPER LOT** Short distance to town. \$325/month. 6-month minimum. Includes water, sewer, and trash. Text your email address to (828)346-1200 for all the details.

## Misc. For Sale

**6'X10' UTILITY TRAILER** U-Haul Frame \$500. (828)349-9095.

**WOOD LATHE** Nova 3000 Swivel Head, 8 Speed, 2 Sets Chisels, Books, Many Extras, Like New, \$1,600. (828)349-9095.

**FARMERS MARKET** Spring Season 8-12, every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Artisan Breads, Pastries, Preserves, Handcrafted Soaps, Eggs, Large Assortment of Cookies. Blueberry & Blackberry Bushes, Peonies. 200 Block East Palmer.

**MILITARY SURPLUS W/C** Pants/Shirts, Jackets. Military Boots On Sale. Cold Weather Clothing, Field Gear, Sleep Bags, Packs, Bags. (828)349-3140.

## Wanted

**BUYING WILD GINSENG** Every Day 12pm-9pm, Best Price Paid. Large Amounts Welcome. Call Ricky Teem (828)371-1802 or (828)524-7748.

## Garage & Yard Sales

**HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE** Multi-family. Friday & Saturday 8-2. Baby items, kids clothing, toys & games, adult clothing of all sizes, household items. Something for everyone! Macon County Coon Club, 3056 Wide Horizon Drive.

**CRAFT FAIR** Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd., Saturday, Sept. 25, 9am-2pm. Jewelry, Wreaths, Bird Feeders and Much More!

## Auctions

**SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTION CO.** online bidding, SmokeyMountainAuctionCo.hi bid.com preview in person, 175 Jim Mann Rd. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat NCAL 10389 (828)634-4271.

## Community Fundraisers

**REACH FOR BARGAINS** in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

**CRAFT FAIR** Carson Community Center, 3001 Old Murphy Rd., Saturday, Sept. 25, 9am-2pm. Jewelry, Wreaths, Bird Feeders and Much More!

**SMOKY MTN PREGNANCY** Care Center, 20th Anniversary Fundraiser, Saturday, Oct. 2, 6 p.m. Pre-register at smokypartners.com or call (828)349-3200.

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

## Animals

**VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS** Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.

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Number of Insertions: \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bold (add \$1): [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

(Numbers, abbreviations and initials count as words)

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# The Classifieds

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**HYDROSEEDING & SOD LAWNS** Now Is The Time! Ron's Hydroseeding. (828)524-3976.

**PROFESSIONAL KNIFE** and scissor sharpening Mon-Sat. Kitchen Sink Inc. 72 E. Main Street, Franklin (828)524-2956.

**CLEANING PACKING ORGANIZING** & Other Household Services. Great References. Mountain Area Property Services (828)550-4585.

**GRADING, FINISH GRADING** Hydroseed, Driveways, Roads, Hauling, Land Clearing, Chipper. Install Septic Systems, Retaining Walls, Rock Work, Boulders, Patio, Perez. (828)524-8650, (828)347-6793 Excellent References.

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**PIANO INSTRUCTION** (in Macon County) Bill Grimmert, bill@grmt.net (404)641-1801. Master of Music Degree in Piano Pedagogy, Member Music Teachers National Association.

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**SQUID'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR** & Service, 867 Highlands Rd., by Franklin Flea Market. (828)342-5135.

**GIBSON'S PAINTING** & Home Repairs, 30 Years Experience, Insured, Satisfaction Guaranteed, Interior and Exterior Painting, Pressure Washing. Free Estimates, Beat Any Price. (828)200-7549.

## Help Wanted

**GENERAL HANDYMAN NEEDED** Experienced with Wood, Gutters, light Electrical and Plumbing, Miscellaneous Cleanup. Sarah (770)757-7500.

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**FREEMAN GAS** has multiple job openings for Installers for propane lines, tanks and appliances in the Brevard, Cashiers, Franklin, Highlands and Sylva, NC areas. Must have a Class B CDL with X endorsement a good driving record and be able to pass DOT physical and drug test. Excellent benefits, 401k, insurance, sick pay, vacation pay, uniforms and employee discounts on propane. Please call Mike (828)553-3659 or Tammy (828)450-5756.

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA** Highlands NC. Retail Sales Associate, Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Kitchen Asst./Utilities, Reservations, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer, P/T Marketing Asst, Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

**LANDSCAPE TEAM MEMBER** work outdoors in the fresh mountain air for an established small business. Landscaping experience preferred, but willing to train. Driver's license required. Cornerstone Landscaping (828)342-2706.

**THRIFT STORE STOCKER** Part-time, Must be Able to Lift 60lbs. Apply in Person for Details at AARC Thrift Store, 1507 Old Murphy Rd. Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-2pm.

**HANDYMAN'S HELPER** Needed. Must be reliable and have valid driver's license. Please email your contact information to wahlerchris@yahoo.com or call Chris Wahler @ (828)342-4995.

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

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