

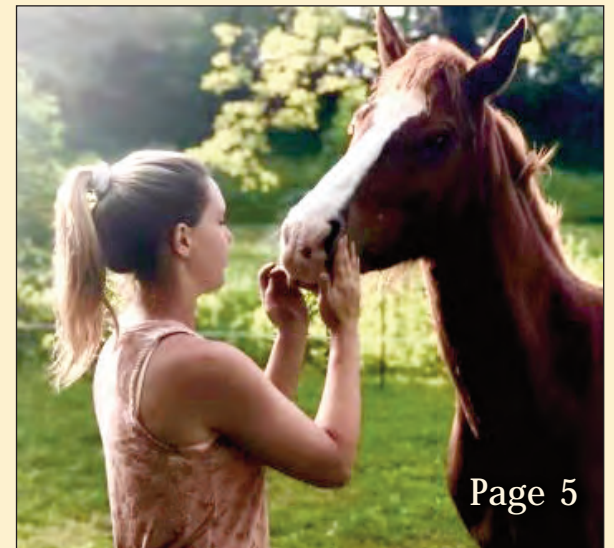


**Franklin native
 second in national
 photo contest**

The Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a national photo contest with a theme of "Rise and Shine Your Light on Your Revolutionary War Patriot." Vickie McCall Carpenter, who is a member of the Waightstill Avery Chapter of the DAR in Brevard and a photographer, began to think how she would capture the spirit of the contest theme in a photograph. She summoned her grandson Andrew, borrowed a tricorne hat, hung a flag representing the one flown in 1776, and shot the contest-winning picture. Carpenter is the daughter of Fay McCall and the late Charles McCall.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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New program launched to serve veterans



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Harrison's 'Seven Oaks' restored to former glory

Franklin Town Council names new manager

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

After months of interviews and applications, the Franklin Town Council unanimously voted to appoint Amanda (Amie) Owens as the next Town Manager. Owens will be filling the vacancy left by Summer Woodard, who resigned to take a new position with the Town of Reidsville.

Mostly recently, Owens served as the Assistant Town Manager for Altavista, Va., a position she earned in 2020. Prior to that, Owens served in several capacities in Haywood County working for the Town of Waynesville.

Owens began her tenure in local government in 2012 as an Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk for Haywood County. In 2014 she was hired by the Town of Waynesville to serve as the Town Clerk. Owens then briefly served as the Administrative Services Director for Waynesville before being hired as the Assistant Town manager in 2016, where she worked until moving to Virginia.



Amanda Owens

During her time in Altavista, Owens managed the day-to-day operation of the manager's office, served as human relations and IT director and public information officer.

A Pisgah High School graduate, Owens attended Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and then Montreat College before spending 17 years in the healthcare industry. Owens graduated from Montreat College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and then went on to graduate from Western Carolina University with her Master's Degree in Public Affairs. She is a certified professional by the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and a member of the International City/County Management Association.

Franklin Mayor Bob Scott stated that he is working to set up a meeting with local media outlets to formally meet Owens for an interview. Owens is scheduled to begin work for the Town of Franklin next week.

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University professor makes annual fall color prediction

Beverly Collins, Western Carolina University's fall color forecaster, announced her bold predictions this week that leaf looking season this year will be pleasant and reasonably colorful in the region.

A WCU biology professor, Collins combines her knowledge of forest ecology with weather observations to evaluate the potential of the upcoming season, known to draw thousands of visitors and residents alike into higher elevations to see the surrounding natural beauty.

"Our warm, wet weather this summer and fall, along with tropical storms moving through the area, could put a little damper on fall color this year," said Collins. "Although the National Weather Service predicts near normal temperatures and a wetter than average September, the 90-day period through November is predicted to be warmer than average.

"All the above may combine to bring on color a little earlier in some species and a little later in others, with spottier bright reds and yellows, and a less pronounced peak in late October at WCU's elevation. On the bright side, the mid- and late fall colors may last longer, into November around campus, and later in October at higher elevations," she said. "Thus, our color season may run from late September well into November from high to low elevations and north to south in Western North Carolina."



Officials gather for Chick-Fil-A ground-breaking

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Wednesday morning for the new Chick-fil-A in Franklin. The projected date to open is set for Feb. 22. The new 5,000 square-foot facility will be located at the corner of Dowdle Mountain and Siler Road just off U.S. 441/23 by-pass. The building itself will seat 98 patrons inside and 28 outdoors on the patio and will be equipped with a canopy-covered drive thru. Pictured in the front row (L-R) are Ervin Dale, Lisa Dale, Franklin franchise owner Caleb Peters, daughter Andi and wife Tori, Reece Daniel and Jack Horton; along with chamber officials and community members. Photo by Vickie Carpenter



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9/11 Remembrance set Saturday

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

At 8:46 am, on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, five hijackers took control of American Airlines Flight 11 and flew it into the heart of New York City and the northern facade of the World Trade Center's North Tower (1 WTC).

At 9:03 am, five other hijackers flew United Airlines Flight 175 into the southern facade of the South Tower (2 WTC).

At 9:37 am, another five hijackers flew American Airlines flight 77 into the western facade of the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia.

At 10:03 am, four hijackers crashed United Airlines Flight 93 into a field in Stonycreek Township near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

I was in the eighth grade. I was sitting in Mrs. Robinson's eight grade class watching Channel One news. A hysterical teacher threw the classroom door open and screamed Shannon Murphy's name. Her grandfather had built his career working in the towers.

We were told it was a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. At the time, I had never even heard the word terrorist. I had no concept of what it was. Parents grabbed their children from school, my mother included. While my mother was in tears clinging to me and my sisters, all I could do was complain about missing that day's volleyball game. She took us to church where we prayed and hugged our neighbors. I had no idea why.

Now 20 years later, I remember the events of that day like it was yesterday even though I was only 13 years old. We all do. I remember watching as the second plane crashed into the towers. I may not have understood the magnitude of that day then, but I remember.

The Macon County community will be recognizing the 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks throughout the weekend. On Saturday morning, a program will be held ahead of the "Never Forget" 5K Walk/Run at the Franklin High School Football Field beginning at 9:55 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11.

Macon County Commissioner and veteran Gary Shields will provide the welcome, followed by comments from Franklin Mayor Bob Scott and Macon County Board of Commissioner Vice-Chairman Ronnie Beale. The Posting of the Colors will be completed by Vietnam Veterans Ronnie Norton and Rick Norton.

The 9/11 program will feature music and a special presentation to remember those who

lost their lives during the terrorists attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The Franklin Police Department will continue the day's events with a Public Safety Day at Franklin High School following the 9/11 remembrance ceremony until 1 p.m.

While remembering the 9/11 attacks 20 years later, remember the numbers associated in the day that forever changed the trajectory of our lives.

Total number killed in attacks in New York: 2,753

Number of firefighters and paramedics killed: 343

Number of NYPD officers: 23

Number of Port Authority police officers: 37

Number of U.S. troops killed in Operation Enduring Freedom: 2,343

Bodies found "intact": 291

Remains found: 21,906

Number of families who received no remains: 1,717

Total units of donated blood actually used: 258

Number of people who lost a spouse or partner in the attacks: 1,609

Estimated number of children who lost a parent: 3,051

Number of FDNY vehicles destroyed: 98

Tons of debris removed from site: 1.8 million

Days fires continued to burn after the attack: 99

Estimated number of New Yorkers suffering from post-traumatic-stress disorder as a result of 9/11: 422,000

On Sept. 11, 2001, all of our lives were forever changed. May we never forget those who lost their lives that day and in the days since defending this country. May we never stop telling the stories of the brave men and women who ran into the crumbling building in hopes of saving lives, even if it meant losing their own. May we never forget the fear our friends and family, like Shannon, felt not knowing the fate of their loved ones who were in the city that day. And may we always, always thank God for the breaths that were spared and for the sense of unity that was gained when so many other things were lost. May we never forget.



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Rotary holds annual fundraiser for scholarships, service projects

From 500 tickets to four final tickets, The Rotary Club of Franklin held the 31st Annual Roy Rickman Scholarship fundraiser virtually on Thursday, Aug. 26. The final four ticket holders, Nick Potts, Charles Swift, Maddox Vaughan and Suzanne Watson decided to split the \$16,000 prize offered this year, each receiving \$4,000.

This fundraiser is a reverse ticket draw: the first person's ticket drawn receives \$100, which is price of the ticket, as a consolation prize. Then the reverse drawing continues.

This year's president, Kyle Ledford, and president-elect Paul Gamer (pictured) presided over the "pre-draw" when 450 tickets were drawn. Four other Rotarians as well as an independent CPA observed the process. The final 50 tickets were drawn during a virtual live program on FranklinRotary.com

While most of the Rotarians remembered to save a ticket for themselves, none of the Rotarians were in the final four. But the real winners are the five scholarships (one is reoccurring for four years) that were awarded this year as well as the numerous humanitarian projects of the club.

Backlot Cinema provided technical expertise.



Hickory Knoll church wins online contest

Bill Hutson with H & H Soft Wash stopped by Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church this week to pressure wash the church. Hickory Knoll won a contest on social media sponsored by H & H Soft Wash for the free cleaning. Photo by Betsey Gooder



The Blue Ridge Mountains Pickleball Club had its third annual charity round robin Aug. 24-26 with proceeds going to the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Two tournaments were played, one for intermediate players and another for advanced. Participants ranged in age from the mid-30s to the mid-80s. In the intermediate tourney, which included six doubles teams, the winners were Monica Barbour and Lori Morgan, and the runners-up were Barry Seiple/Shirlene Brooks (who alternated) and David Delaney. In the advanced doubles tourney, which included 16 teams, the winners were George McClure and Rob Thomson; in second place were Katrina Knight and Candy Pegram; in third place Butch Norris and Tony Leonard. The tournament raised \$800 for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Artists invited to submit works to exhibit at Macon County fair

On Monday, Sept. 20, the Uptown Art Gallery of Franklin will be receiving art from Macon County residents for an art show to be held at the Macon County Fair. The fair, established in 1953, is the only agricultural-only fair in the state, and will be held from Sept. 23 to 26. This annual event will involve some 200 works of art in 17 different categories (including oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, pencil, charcoal and photography) expected this year. All county residents are eligible for this free show. Artists should bring their art work to the Agriculture Center, 1436 Georgia Rd, Franklin, ready for hanging on Monday Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Only art work ready for hanging with a wire (not sawtooth hanger or tab) can be accepted. Artists' work will hung for viewing at the fair though Sunday, with awards given for each category of art show on Wednesday. Residents may bring in one piece of work for each category. and will pick up up their work on Sunday, Sept. 26.

The Uptown Gallery in downtown Franklin, 30 E Main Street, hosts this annual event to celebrate local artists. Uptown Gallery is open M-F from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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New programs launched to serve veterans

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Veterans now have more opportunities for support and healing. Special Liberty Project (SLP) was established five years ago to provide outdoor adventures to healing veterans and Gold Star Families, and last year founders Cory and Jessica Merritt purchased a property in Franklin to make available a wide variety of activities, ranging from hunting and fishing to hiking and camping.

But this summer, the couple decided to focus not just on offering services nationwide, but to concentrate on the local community. Cory Merritt started Veterans Exploring Together (VET) to give area veterans an opportunity to process loss while talking and hiking together in nature.

“Once a month, he takes water and snacks and meets veterans at a trailhead,” said Jessica. “They hike in the morning and then afterwards share lunch together. Doing this provides an opportunity for veterans to get together and discuss things going on in the world and interact with other people who ‘get it.’ Plus, they are out getting exercise and fresh air, which is good for mental and physical health.”

VET takes place the third Sunday of each month.

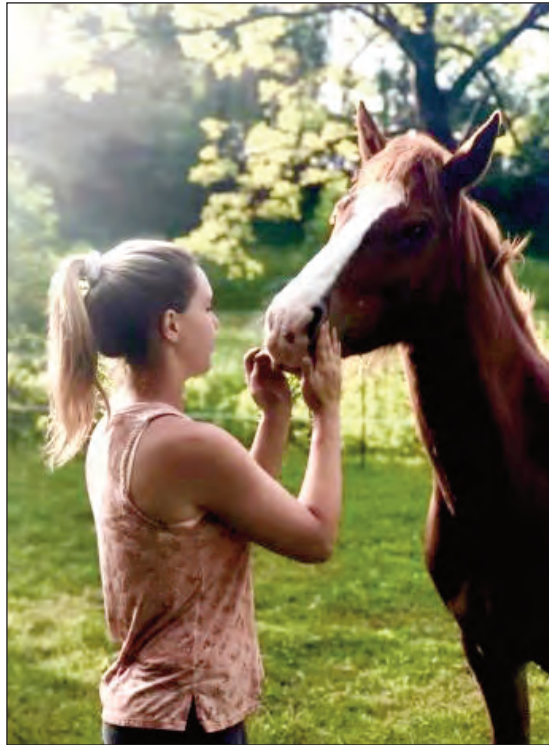
“Each location is different each month,” added Jessica. “We can provide transportation or carpooling, if anyone needs it. And it’s just for veterans, not their families. It’s important for them to have that time for themselves ... to be around other veterans, so they can be themselves and be transparent. They need to be able to talk about all the crazy current events and how they are feeling. And to know they’re not alone. These hikes provide major peer support.”

Jessica knows how important veterans supporting veterans can be. Her husband deployed multiple times during his long career in the Navy, from which he recently retired.

“The hikes are for all ages, as long as they can hike five miles or less. If they can’t do the hike, Cory is willing to get together with them before or after if a veteran needs that. Cory is trying to keep the group somewhat small and intimate, a maximum of 10, so people are comfortable sharing. But if many veterans want to participate, he said he may be able to do more than one hike a month.”

Jessica recently wrote a grant request to a local organization for funds to help pay for veterans’ lunches, first-aid kits, hiking sticks, and other needs.

In addition, another local offering through SLP addresses



Courtney Beaver, who specializes in natural horsemanship with In the Irons Equestrian, will be participating in periodic Special Liberty Project sessions involving meditation, art, time with horses, etc. for local military spouses.

the difficulties and uncertainties of military families transitioning from military life to civilian life.

“I know about that in a very personal way,” said Jessica. “I’m trying to learn how to navigate and support my husband and the children after we have spent so many years in the military.”

At their Onion Mountain-area property, the Merritts have relied on the outdoors and their equestrian activities as “grounding” to their new civilian lives. Jessica realized that the same pursuits could help spouses adjust better to their new lifestyles.

“Being outdoors and around horses is therapeutic,” she said. She decided to begin working with a local counselor who specializes in meditation and mindfulness, as well as Courtney Beaver, who specializes in natural horsemanship with In the Irons Equestrian, to provide periodic sessions involving meditation, art, time with horses, and more for local military spouses.

Held at SLP’s Nurture/Nature Retreat Center in Franklin, upcoming sessions are Sept. 19, Oct. 17, and Nov. 21. The sessions will break during winter months and then resume in spring 2022.

Any veteran’s spouse can register through www.speciallibertyproject.org, under the “Events” tab, or by emailing Jessica Merritt directly at jessica@speciallibertyproject.org.

For the VET hikes, veterans can also contact Jessica. Proof of veteran status is required. Jessica explained, “Being a nonprofit, we have to be responsible with our funds. Our activities are offered at no charge to the families we serve, thanks to our sponsors and donors. And we are always looking for local sponsors to help support these families.”



Co-founder of Special Liberty Project, Cory Merritt (far left), who also started the local effort - Veterans Exploring Together (VET) - hikes with (from left) Tony Cook, Kyle Halford, and Dustin Holden.

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Unique prisms-themed macro photography on display at the library

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Kelly Lay's artistic exhibit currently running at the Macon County Library in Franklin's Library Living Room from Sept. 1 through October 2021 is titled "Message in Prisms."

Since her rented Mill Creek home burned down in February, Lay does not have a studio in which to work. In fact, she does not presently have a home. She was able to carry from the burning dwelling her laptop and her cat, "Kato Rudyard Kipling," whom she credits with waking her during the fire. But the laptop housed her artistic images, and saving them led to the current library exhibition.

The definition of prism is either tangible or figurative: "1) a glass or other transparent object in prism form, especially one that is triangular with refracting surfaces at an acute angle with each other and that separates white light into a spectrum of colors; 2) the clarification or distortion afforded by a particular viewpoint."

Lay's art exhibit title reflects both meanings. She shared that Masaru Emoto's "The Message from Water," which is about how

frozen water crystals reflecting beauty, inspired her.

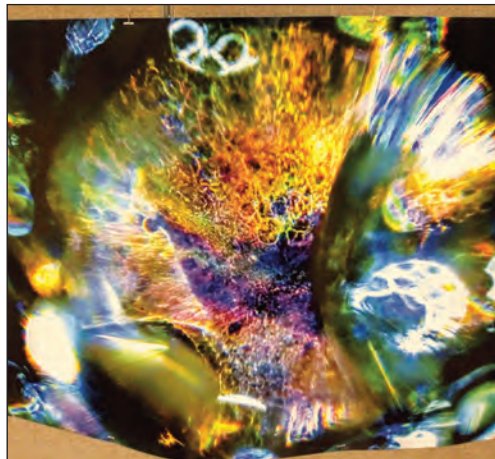
"I'm an avid reader and that book had a profound effect on me. I took the photographs – macro photography of prisms – in full spectrum light. And when I saw these shapes and colors, I knew I had to show people."

Noted Kristina Moe, Macon County Public Library, "I am always interested in new and returning people who have art and crafts to share with the public, so when Kelly called me this spring hoping to show her work, we talked and emailed a bit so I could figure out the best space for her photographs in the library. I think people will enjoy seeing something new when

they walk into the library – [her work is] very eye-catching!"

"Message in Prisms" can be viewed any time the library is open, Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 10 - 5 p.m.

Lay has known loss, having lost all her personal belongings in a rental home where there was no property insurance, but the first-time display of her 28 photographic art images "and sharing the beauty" gives her hope



Creative photographer Kelly Lay's "Message in Prisms" images are on display at the Macon County Public Library through October.

for her future. She is thankful to Jeff Norman of Franklin Picture Framing, who created her portfolio, as well as Cory James Gallery in Highlands, who will also display Lay's work.

Moe expressed, about Lay's images, "I'm not an artist myself, but besides the creativity of a person's art, I appreciate the creative ways people I've worked with, including Kelly, find resources to put their work out in the world, and I'm so glad the library can be a place where that happens. Everyone is welcome and hopefully comfortable coming into the library, so we can give artists opportunities for more people to see what they've created."

Lay, who is an avid hiker/camper said she has decided to settle in Franklin after visiting



the area for 40 years. She added that she hopes the exhibit "leads to a beautiful phase of my life ... and helps me to meet beautiful people."

A life-time, non-GMO farmer and natural herbalist, Lay anticipates learning of a small, affordable studio apartment where she can "cook, garden, and do art photography all day."

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Residents and visitors alike showed up in a big way for the annual Hometown Market Day. Vendors with arts and crafts and more, antique cars, and a DJ providing music to shop by rounded out the successful day sponsored by the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association.

Photos by Betsey Gooder



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Clothing store opens on Sloan Road

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome 828 Magnolias to the Franklin business community. 828 Magnolias is owned by Tiffany Brown and located at 199 Sloan Road. The boutique is open Tuesday through Friday from noon until 6 pm and Saturday noon until 4 pm, closed Sunday and Monday.

828 Magnolias carries men's clothing, women's sizes small to 3X, shoes, accessories, children's clothes in a wide variety of

sizes from infants to 10/12 boys and girls. Brands offered include Flying Monkey jeans, ZIMEGO for men, Urban Daizy, Pol and many more.

"We opened our store with the hopes of giving our town more options for clothing and are beyond blessed at the support we've received so far," said Brown.

Drop by, say hi to Tiffany and browse for something special. You can also visit her on facebook at 828Magnolias.



New clothing store, 828 Magnolia is now open at 199 Sloan Road.

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is accepting applications for a new home in Macon County. Applications are available at both ReStores and affiliate office at 1843 Old Murphy Road, Franklin, NC.

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EWCH partnering with Prestige Transport

Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital (EWCH) has partnered with Prestige Transport to provide patient transfers to and from facilities in outlying counties. This partnership will relieve the strain on local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), allowing them to stay within their communities in the event there is an emergency situation to which they must respond.

Prestige Transport is available to provide transfers for EWCH patients who require care at an outlying facility. This service is also offered to patients who are discharged from outlying facilities who need transportation back to the western North Carolina area.

“Our new partnership with Prestige Transport will allow local EMS teams to stay within their respective counties, providing essential emergency response services to local residents,” said EWCH Senior Manager of Facilities and Support Services Wesley Phillips, CHFM. “This is a win for EWCH, local EMS and the western North Carolina community.”



Pictured (L-R) are Sam Myers, Prestige Transport; Wesley Phillips, Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital; and Brooke Smith, Prestige Transport.

Prestige Transport employs 22 local individuals whose qualifications include basic emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced EMT, paramedic and critical care paramedic. The Prestige team will also participate in skill practices within specific locations at EWCH so they can assist the hospital staff in times of need.

Governor expands access to monoclonal antibodies for treatment of Covid

Governor Roy Cooper signed an Executive Order to make it easier for North Carolinians to access treatment for COVID-19. The Executive Order authorizes and directs State Health Director, Dr. Betsey Tilson, to issue a statewide standing order to expand access to monoclonal antibody treatment, which if taken early can decrease the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. The Order will be in effect through Nov. 30, 2021.

While vaccines provide the best protection from COVID-19, treatment options such as monoclonal antibodies are available if you have had symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days or less or have been exposed to COVID-19. If taken early, they can reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Ask your doctor about Monoclonal Antibodies or call the Combat COVID Monoclonal Antibodies Call Center at 1-877-332-6585 (English) or 1-877-366-0310 (Spanish).

Monoclonal antibodies are proteins made in a laboratory to fight infections, in this case, the virus that causes COVID-19, and are given to patients directly with an IV infusion or a shot. Some early evidence suggests this treatment can reduce the amount of the virus, or viral load, that causes COVID-19 in a person's body. Having a lower viral load may reduce the severity of symptoms and decrease the likelihood of hospitalization.

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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House held a no-vote session Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.

On Tuesday, the House reconvened at 3 p.m. to consider numerous bills, including:

– SB379, Issuance of Unregisterable Certificate of Title, would require the Division of Motor Vehicles to create and issue an unregistrable certificate of title for certain eligible motor vehicles, and would create an application process for insurance companies and contractors to apply for an unregistrable certificate of title under certain circumstances. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 103-1.

– SB462, Certificate of Need/Threshold Amds. and Certificate Expirations, would increase the dollar threshold that diagnostic center equipment, major medical equipment, and capital expenditures for new institutional health services must exceed before they are subject to certificate of need review. It would also require projects subject to a certificate of need to initiate construction within a specified timeframe. I voted yes and the bill passed, 100-3.

– SB228, Allow Employers to Offer Exclusive Provider Benefit Plans, would allow insurers to offer exclusive provider benefit health plans and establish continuity of care provisions; and require insurers to issue payments directly to health care providers if there is a reimbursement contract. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 97-6.

The House reconvened for a voting session on Wednesday and we considered the following legislation:

– HR973, Urge President and Congress on Afghanistan, is a House Resolution urging Congress and the President to take additional action regarding the evacuation of American citizens, troops, ally troops, and Afghan citizens from Afghanistan. The bill passed, 103-0.

– SB211, Amend Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment Mechanisms, authorizes the State's Utilities Commission to approve a "Water and Sewer Investment Plan" for water or sewer utilities. The bill passed unanimously, 103-0.

Thereafter, many of my colleagues and I met with officials from the Department of Agriculture and Members of the Disaster Relief Committee to discuss assistance efforts for areas devastated by the flooding in Western North Carolina.

On Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, the North Carolina House held a no-vote session. The House reconvened on Tuesday for an afternoon voting session that consisted of votes on several bills, including:

– HB805, Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder, originally passed the House back in May. The final version of the bill includes the following:

Continued on page 13

Letters to the Editor

Get vaccinated or face mask mandates

I am going to be blunt. As your mayor, there is a possibility we will return to a mask mandate. At the moment I am asking for voluntary compliance of masking up.

Here is why.

Our medical folks are overwhelmed and over worked!

Our medical facilities are over flowing as are our emergency services. Let's take a hypothetical example. You have a heart attack! You may find it hard to find help... at any hospital. It used to be you would be first in line in an emergency. It is happening nationwide. COVID patients are flooding emergency departments. You break your arm. Be ready for a long wait! COVID patients are ahead of you. In sheer numbers.

Locally we have had 46 deaths out of 4,083 COVID cases. But that does not tell the entire story of the economic and personal losses.

COVID is preventable. Especially the most severe cases. It is as simple as getting vaccinated. As near as I can tell, around half of Macon County's folks are vaccinated. I know there are 941 doses available at the Health Department. You can get the vaccine at drug stores and even grocery stores. There is no excuse not to get vaccinated. The vaccine is now FDA approved. Stay away from livestock de-wormers. The FDA has not approved it for human use.

I am authorized to determine if this is an emergency and put restrictions, including masking, back into practice. As other areas, including Highlands, have done and are doing.

I do not want to take this step but unless we see a drop in cases, I will. I am prepared to do so for public safety... not for politics.

The proclamation will be according to CDC guidelines that masks shall be required to be worn by all persons while inside any nonresidential building inside Town limits.

In the indoor portions of restaurants and other establishments intended for the consumption of food or beverages, masks may be removed while eating or drinking. In hotels, motels, and other lodging facilities, masks shall be worn at all times in common areas such as, without limitation, entrances, hallways, communal kitchen or dining facilities (except when actively eating or drinking), and shared restroom facilities. Masks may be removed during occupation of individual suites, rooms, etc.

The proclamation will also encourage social distancing.

The mask exemptions are:

A. Children under two years of age.

B. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes wearing a mask, including those for whom a mask could obstruct breathing, who are unconscious or incapacitated, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance.

C. Persons for whom seeing the mouth is essential for communication due to hearing impairment, or those communicating with a person who is hearing impaired.

D. Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk as they work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators, or workplace safety guidelines.

E. Facility if used as an emergency facility to assist with the COVID-19 response.

If we see an increase in vaccinations and a decline in active numbers, I will not issue the proclamation. If not, I have no choice out of a concern for safety, but to impose a mandate.

Mayor Bob Scott – Town of Franklin

Biden urged to address voter suppression

In November 2020, millions of voters like me went to the polls and cast a ballot for Joe Biden.

Now, with a relentless GOP attack on our voting rights underway, I'm asking President Biden to return the favor. It's time for Biden to go further than talking about supporting voting rights legislation. We need him to come out and fully support ending the filibuster so the Senate can finally pass voting rights legislation like the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

With the filibuster intact, these bills stand little chance of passing. We need the president to use his power of office to pressure the Senate to end the filibuster and clear a path for voting rights reform.

We can't out-organize voter suppression. History will remember how President Biden handles these attacks on our right to vote. I'm urging him to do the right thing.

Elizabeth Swift – Franklin, N.C.

Simple math reveals reason to get vaccinated

I am vaccinated and have tried many different tactics to have open discussions about vaccination with my peers.

And here is the only line that has helped:

The average person who is hospitalized and survives Covid-19 is faced with \$50,000 in hospital bills. (The average uninsured person faces over \$70,000 while the average fully insured person faces \$35,000.)

I don't know about you, but I don't have the money to afford the out of pocket expenses. That said, if you are incredibly wealthy and can easily finance the expense of Covid hospitalization, by all means, stay unvaccinated.

But if you are like me (and most Americans) and cannot afford such huge expenses, perhaps you should get vaccinated.

Simple math. At worst, you are going to die. At best, you will face bankruptcy. So what is the argument really?

P.S. The most recent studies show that children who have recovered from Covid-19 struggle with fatigue, shortness of breath, migraines, and loss of smell or taste. I love the children in my life and feel strongly that my role is to shield them from any harm whatsoever. And that is the most important reason I am vaccinated: I am, at the very least, their protector.

Laura Stiller – Franklin, N.C.

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The meaning of friendship

Throughout our lives the many friends we encounter may have little effect on our lives. But yet again, only a few friends can have such a profound effect that it deeply enriches our lives. The casual friend is the one who you may run into while at work or shopping. You may talk about the weather or exchange the latest news, but it never runs any deeper than that. So we call them friends but it's a casual friendship to say the least. But it's in the truest of friends we all would love to have, but seldom fine. The act of friendship or seeking this out is part of our human connection or bonding we all desire. From nation building, down to family, or a personal bonding of a true relationship with those we share life with. It is here we find life's truest meaning and richness. Life's hurtful pains as well as the joys when shared with close friends bring out the best of who we are or should be. The definition of a true friend is, someone who stands up for you when others tare you down, emotionally or physically they do everything they can to protect you. Even standing with you when you yourself have failed in some way. If they can help you, they'll do so without reservation or reward. True friendship is in a realm all of its own, it defines itself even beyond marriage, or even brotherhood. As in the Biblical story of David and King Saul who was out to kill David, yet Saul's own son Jonathan was David's closest and loyal friend. We all understand or have experienced just how a friend relationship can work, even the Bible has many variations of what it can be. Greater love has no one that this: to lay down one's life for one's friend. (John 15:13) Then the opposite of Job losing everything, even his health, then his friends ridiculing, finding fault and blaming him, a true friend would have done the opposite, and given comfort.

Within our modern lives finding fault in others seems to be a way of doing modern living. I've witnessed those that are in professions of restoring lives, and relationships yet they lack forgiveness even when one has asked forgiveness from their Creator, which is the opposite of what they are to represent. If we are to move forward in any healing, whether as a nation or community and especially us as individuals. We must look within what and who we are and where we place value and love beyond our own selves. We're in need to be better than what we are, instead of what we have always been.

I agree with the statement of comedian, singer, Mark Lowry, "Love the sinner, hate the sin? How about, love the sinner, hate your own sin! I don't have time to hate your sin. There are too many of you! Hate my sin is a full time job. How about you hate your sin, I'll hate my sin and let's just love each other!"

At some point you'll find that forgiving is part of friendship which encompasses the true meaning of love. We and our world are in much need of this. We are in need of befriending those who are in need of a friend, which in reality is all of us. Christ came for this very thing: To befriend and have the truest love in a relationship with each of us, we just need to extend our love in building a friendship towards Him. Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

It's time to push back and resist

Kudos to the Macon News for the great opinion articles last week! Each one hit it out of the park with truth, scientific facts, and common-sense Americanism! We need more people in this area to reclaim freedom principles and become educated about the dangers of good intentions and the dangers of apathy towards a hostile gov't hellbent on exploiting an unlearned public. When we have local atheist magistrates with a humanistic world view devoid of freedom using their platform for fearmongering, it is time to push back. When other so-called leaders outlandishly com-

pare 99.8% survival rate viruses with the bubonic plague and smallpox while totally taking Martin Luther out of context, it is time to say NO to the collectivist lies that lead to more loss of freedom. When we have local health care providers publishing letters skewed with unscientific data and recommending a medically unorthodox blanket one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare instead of treatment as individual patients, we have to oppose such groupthink so that citizens are not discriminated against in these chaotic days. Even though I have been vaccinated many times in the past, it is obvious to understand that not all FDA approved Big Pharma chemicals (example thalidomide) are safe and many have been recalled on numerous occasions. If there were true freedom, sick people could use hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin which is proving to save many lives in India and other parts of the world where it is easy to get. Science proves those common drugs are inexpensive and do not harm a person in the correct dose. It is also telling how many PhDs and countless medical experts are refusing the so-called vaccine today, and their reasons are being censored by mainstream.

When we have a few bad apples on the local school board who ignore reality and hold teachers and students hostage by inaccurate numbers and bias charts of inaccurate tests (that are inconsistent at best) while ignoring an individual's right to breathe, we must withstand them. These people should stop focusing on case count and stop scaring the public into submission! Once this particular variant moves on, there will be another one and another one for never ending nonsense. Coronaviruses have been around for a very long time and the population always built natural immunity in the past before they were told to panic this time. Finally, when residents in our community are openly supporting Communism while sanctimoniously calling these universally failed ideas other names, it is time to become better educated.

Everyone is sick and tired of COVID-related nonsense, but these problems today and many others can and should be solved by freedom. We must not buy into the false narrative being shoved down our throats and instead think for ourselves. You do what is best for you and stop trying to force and control my life because you disagree with me. I will do the same. The only thing the ruling elite are capable of is getting the masses ginned up against each other in division while the fox robs the henhouse. Only when there is true freedom do the people prosper. Any attacks on freedom should be met with civil disobedience and harsh resistance when necessary. If you are healthy or have minor cold symptoms, please stop going to get tested with the proven faulty tests and becoming statistical fodder for a mainstream that intentionally twists the information to fit their agendas. In the meantime, try reading Dr. Christina Parks, Dr. Lee Merritt, Murray Rothbard, Lew Rockwell, Walter Williams, Tom Woods, and others who have defended real liberty because truth is being withheld from us. We must pursue freedom for peace because evil will thrive when good men do nothing.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

Inalienable rights now in the crosshairs

Our forefathers proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence that we have certain inalienable rights, those being the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Most of us are probably not aware that over the past 48 years over 63 million future citizens of America have been denied their inalienable right to life. Compare that to the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the holocaust of World War II. America's holocaust exceeds that by 10 times.

Let's look at the events under which that was allowed to occur. During the '60s and '70s the radical left of the Democrat party had accomplices in the liberal majority of the Supreme Court. They realized that the Court could be persuaded to advance their liberal agenda when they were able,

with the help of the ACLU, to have it ignore and nullify our Constitutional rights of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion by removing prayer from Schools.

A decade later, emboldened by their previous success, they convinced the Court to pass a law approving abortion with the passage of Roe v. Wade based on a "Right to Privacy" which is found nowhere in the Constitution.

In these two rulings the Court in the first case, struck down two of our most sacred rights and in the second case created a right that did not exist. As a result these two rulings America has lost its moral compass.

The "pro-choice" supporters of Roe v. Wade, in an effort to remove themselves from the stigma of unfettered abortions, now claim that it is a matter of women's health. It is difficult for me to believe that over the past 48 years, 63 million women have suffered life threatening complications that have required them to terminate their pregnancies. Roe v. Wade is not a matter of women's health, it's a matter of birth control. Of course the pro-choice contingent rarely considers the choices of adoption or contraception.

With the recent passage of the Texas "Heartbeat" bill the Socialist Democrat liberals are outraged that they have finally lost their liberal majority in the Supreme Court and while they have a majority in the House and Senate they want to be able to pack the court with more liberals in order to continue to force their liberal Socialist agenda on the American people.

Big tech, the main street media and the liberal Courts have been successful in squelching our freedoms of speech and religion and are now focused on our right to bear arms.

In order to accomplish their objective of turning America into their dream of a utopian Socialist/Communist nation under a tyrannical government, they must first repeal the 2nd Amendment which was adopted primarily to protect us against a tyrannical government.

At that point we will lose our liberty and of course there will be no pursuit of happiness under Communism. So much for our unalienable rights.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the vast majority of Americans understand that Communism is no utopia, in fact it is just the opposite and we will not submit to it.

For a detailed account of the Democrats efforts to destroy the America our Forefathers established, read "Dark Agenda, The War to Destroy Christian America" by David Horowitz. God Bless America.

Marshall Miller – Franklin, N.C.

Outbreak caused mostly by the unvaccinated

Masks do help when worn by everyone. Pfizer vaccine is now totally approved. Not just emergency approval. Not experimental. This is an outbreak of mostly the unvaccinated. Variants are caused by persons not getting vaccinated and thus the Covid-19 virus mutates. Mandates and the like would not be necessary if everyone would get vaccinated. False information leads to sickness and deaths. Children are getting sick and dying. God gave you a brain use it.

Randy Howington-Extine – Franklin, N.C.

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

'Seven Oaks' on Harrison Avenue restored to its former glory

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

When the impressive home on Harrison Avenue was constructed on a hill that once provided an extensive view of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a new century had just begun and the section of town less than a mile from Franklin's Main Street was considered rural.

The 3,659-square-foot "Harrison House," also known for many years as "Seven Oaks" due to the large oaks on the property, was quiet for a season but now is transformed and ready for a new chapter.

The last person to live full-time in the solidly-built, three-story home with full basement and wide columned porch was Mildred Olivia Harrison Shope, who resided in the home with her husband, Lake Vance Shope, until he died in 1994. After Mildred passed in 2007, her granddaughter, Amelia Wall Warner – five generations removed from the original owner of the home – decided to oversee the task of restoration as well as some updates to achieve modern conveniences.



Linda Shope Wall and Henry Wall sit in original rocking chairs to the home that were refurbished and now sit in front of the former kitchen's fireplace. The couple – married 50 years – can also sit in the porch swing where they "courted."

Back to the beginning

The original owner/builder of the home was John Odell Harrison. Franklin native Linda Shope Wall, who lived in the house from fifth grade until she married Henry Wall, wrote about her great-grandfather in the 1987 published "The Heritage of Macon County," that can be found at the Historical Museum of Macon County. John's father, Jeremiah Page, joined the Confederate forces during the Civil War and became a prisoner of war in Rockford, Ill. The family moved to Macon County and John attended school in the Mt. Zion Church in the Cartoogechaye community. When school was in session, the teacher – who boarded at the Wayah Valley Harri-

son house – took John there by horseback.

In 1883, John married Althea Olivia Nolan. They remained in the Wayah area until building their in-town home most likely in the late 1800s [exact year is uncertain] on a knoll within walking or horse-and-buggy distance from downtown Franklin. At that time, the road from "town" stopped at their home.

Wall wrote that her relatives "used hard northern red oak picked from perfect timber grown in the Harrison Cove on Wayah Creek" for their new home in Franklin. Plus, "The Heritage of Macon County" history shared that a former slave, "Steuart," was responsible for the home's interior finishing work as well as the chimneys.

John and Althea had four boys and four girls, and they became prominent members of Franklin. He was appointed postmaster under President Grover Cleveland, and he was elected to the Board of Aldermen and was chairman of the County Board of Commissioners. He also served as mayor of Franklin from 1940 until his death in 1945.

John Harrison was also the main wholesaler to Macon County, bringing in Northern goods to the area that could not be grown or made locally. Henry Wall explained that the goods would have to be brought on horseback or by wagon over Cowee Mountain, stocked in what was called The Camp – a long structure that is now being renovated on the Harrison property to become guest quarters.

"Atlanta had been burned in the Civil War," he said, "so for a while, goods had to come from the North instead of up from Atlanta. Local citizens could purchase items brought to The Camp. Delivery people would rest their horses in the four-horse barn [which is still on the property] and themselves at The Camp before heading back over Cowee Mountain and then north."

Because of the home's oak structure, floors, built-ins, man-

tels, doors, transoms, moldings, and more, nothing major needed to be overhauled or replaced during the restoration process.

Here and Now

In 2018, Warner gave the green light for work to begin on the house.

"The project has been meaningful because the house has been in the family so long and I was so close to my grand-



The one bathroom located upstairs contains the original claw-foot bathtub which was refurbished.



The front hall which houses the five-pedal upright piano is Amelia Wall Warner's favorite part of the house.

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mother [Mildred Olivia Harrison Shope] ... this is our family's home," said Warner, a pharmacist. "My mother grew up in the house for the most part. And my brother and I always loved the house and visited our grandparents often. It's the happiest place on earth for us, where we have wonderful memories of good food being served ... laughter ..."

Warner added, "After my grandmother passed away [at age 92], it was sad for us to see it slowly declining. So I talked to my parents [who live in Franklin] and my brother, Ben [Vance Wall, who resides in Dublin, Ohio] about restoring it and using it for my family and as a gathering place for all our family. We have lots of aunts, uncles, cousins that will gather there."

Warner currently lives and works in Raleigh with her husband, Mike Warner, an attorney, and their two daughters, who will turn 12 and 14 in October. She said that other than a South Carolina contractor that the family knew, much of the work on the house was completed by local professionals and craftspeople.



Most of the architectural elements were retained and restored including the grates on the fireplaces and the brass fixtures on the doors.

Work on and in the house included sanding and re-staining of doors, floors, moldings, and other wood surfaces. Some window frames were rebuilt, yet much of the original hand-blown glass panes were saved. The exterior brick lattice design base under the front porch was reconstructed using mostly original bricks, but also new bricks that matched.

Wiring and plumbing had to be replaced or updated. And central heat and air was added to keep the home a consistent temperature.

All the original, ornate brass door handles and coal fireplace grates were cleaned and polished.

The only major change was a new kitchen. Oak flooring for the new and modern kitchen was matched as closely as possible to the 100-year-old oak flooring.

"My grandmother always wanted a more accessible, eat-in kitchen," said Warner. "She would have loved this kitchen!"

"Back then, food was always prepared in the kitchen and served in the dining room," said Linda Wall. In fact, she and Henry spent many months refurbishing the original solid oak dining table.

Only one bathroom exists upstairs, along with the five bedrooms, and that bathroom's original clawfoot tub was refurbished. The former kitchen pantry downstairs became a powder room.

Family gatherings

"We received the certificate of occupancy



The Camp, which is located to the right of the main house was used to stock goods brought in by horseback or wagon across Cowee Mountain.

right before Memorial Day and had all family gather there," said Warner. As a memorial to her grandmother, a sign over the old kitchen fireplace mantel reads: "Nana's Kitchen."

"Throughout the house is mostly all the furniture that has always been there," she said. "We just had to have some of it restored. We found a lot of family artifacts. Some are hanging, some are tucked away in chests."

One treasure of Linda Wall's is a child's rocking chair that Ben Harrison [her grandfather] built for her; it has her name carved into the back of it. Linda and Henry can also enjoy the parlor where as teenagers they danced to music playing on an old record player; they can also sit in the restored porch swing where they courted.

Warner's favorite part of the home?

"I love the whole house, so it's difficult to say what it my favorite. But I do especially love the front hall. The five-pedal upright piano [Wing & Sons New York Cabinet Grand] is there and has been restored and my mother played it and my brother and I learned to play it. And I just love knowing that my great-grandfather [Ben Harrison] built so much of the furniture that is in the house. Everywhere you look are family heirlooms ... memories."

"We returned the house to the way it used to be in a lot of ways," said Warner. "When you walk through the house now, you will see things from the late 1800s but also up through the early 1900s, 1950s, ... this house shows the history of our family throughout these generations.

"I love Franklin, where I grew up. I'm proud of the town and its history. To restore something that's been here for a long time makes me so happy. So many towns are struggling and their historic places are being torn down, but to have this history preserved for several generations to come means a lot," she concluded.

While Harrison House's revival is completed, landscaping is underway and work on The Camp guest area continues. Eventually, an outdoor-style kitchen will be tucked next to a side porch so the families can enjoy meals outside.



The kitchen was the only major structural change to the house. New oak flooring was installed along with modern lights, cabinetry and appliances.

GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

- Clarify that active conduct is required for criminal prosecution of riot offenses;
- Increase some penalties for current offenses and create new offenses related to rioting;
- Authorize a specific civil action for injury to person or property stemming from rioting, looting or trespass during an emergency;
- Increase the penalty for certain assaults on emergency personnel;
- Create requirements for bail and pretrial release for defendants charged with rioting, and looting or trespass during an emergency.

I voted to concur with the Senate changes and the House passed the latest version of HB805, 63-41. The bill now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature.

– HB536, Law Enforcement Duty to Intervene, also passed the House in May, however the Senate made changes to the bill. The latest version of the bill does the following: Create a duty to intervene for law enforcement officers. • Require that the National Decertification Index (NDI) be searched as part of officer certification. • Require that officers report certain notifications related to testimony. The House voted unanimously to concur with the Senate changes. The bill now heads to the Governor.

– HB608, Dignity for Women Who Are Incarcerated, establishes certain requirements for the housing and treatment of incarcerated females, such as limiting the use of personal restraints and limiting body cavity searches. The House voted unanimously to concur with the Senate version of the bill.

After attending a Thursday morning Life Science/Agriculture Caucus with a few of my colleagues, the House concluded its business for the week with a voting session that consisted of votes on numerous bills, including:

– HB324, Ensuring Dignity and Nondiscrimination/Schools, would prevent discriminatory concepts from being taught as factual, prohibiting public school units from promoting certain concepts that are contrary to the equality and rights of all persons. The bill initially passed the House in May. I voted in favor of the final version of the bill, and the bill passed, 60-41.

– SB99, Clarify Law on Theft of Catalytic Converters, would make theft of a catalytic converter from a motor vehicle a Class I felony, and modify the laws related to the purchase of catalytic converters. The bill passed unanimously.

– SB389, DEQ/DNCR Omnibus, would make various changes to the natural, environmental, and cultural resources laws of the State, as recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The bill passed unanimously.

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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests August 27 - September 4. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

August 30

Robert Williamson, was charged with second degree trespass. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

David Pressley, was charged with second degree trespass. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

Clennie Sowen Carter, was charged with domestic physical. Emileigh Sands made the arrest.

August 31

Jaric Thomas Keener, was charged with assault on a female. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

September 1

Robert Rung, was issued a warrant. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Dustin Lynn Busby, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation, assault on a female, communicating threats. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

August 27

Roger Dakota Justice, 18, was charged with simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. A \$2,000 bond was set.

August 28

Jonathan Mark Zimmerman, 36, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen firearm, carrying a concealed gun. A \$6,000 bond was set.

August 30

Diana Pauline Queen, 48, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny.

Robert Drew Houston, 43, was charged with trespassing. A \$500 bond was set.

September 1

Derek Gene Camp, 31, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin, possession of a firearm by a felon, maintain a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, drug equipment violation, possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$100,000 bond was set.

September 2

Robert Samuel Snyderburn, 38, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

August 29

Matthew Paul Leonard, 41, of Cornflower Lane, was charged with child support purge. A bond of \$8,521 was set.

Jacob Hunter Rattler, 29, of Elsie Rattler Rd., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

August 30

Xavier Dontae-Jamaal Walker, 33, of Eldorado Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation, assault with a deadly weapon. No bond was set.

Jami Jeanette Bailey, 29, of Painters Cap Rd., Union Mills, was charged with failure to appear for break and enter a motor vehicle, misdemeanor larceny, possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$22,000 was set.

Mackinnon Loughery, 21, of Market St., Cullowhee, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

Shannon Brent Powers, 40, of Skyview Rd., Whittier, was charged with injury to real property, attempted larceny. No bond was set.

August 31

Sarah Mae Jackson, 37, of Hallmark Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz less than 1 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia. No bond was set.

Douglas Christopher Jones, 42, of Dog Leg Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for arson habitual felon. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Jacob Hunter Rattler, 29, was charged with probation violation. No bond was set.

September 1

Jessica Ann Normand, 41, of Oak Hill Rd., was charged with assault on another while child less than 12 years of age present, simple assault. No bond was set.

Jason Dean Millsaps, 37, of Roundhill Rd., Bryson City, was issued a warrant for arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/de-

liver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule IV controlled substance, maintain a vehicle/dwelling place for a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, trafficking methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

Joshua Robert Orlikowski, 38, of Hidden River Dr., Swanaona, was charged with domestic protective violation, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, assault inflicting serious injury, assault on a female, harrissing phone calls, probation violation, communicating threats harassing phone calls. A secured bond of \$10,500 was set.

Mark Steven Osborne, 57, of Allens Branch Rd., was charged with uttering a forged instrument. An unsecured bond of \$50 was set.

September 2

Rashonda Lashae Bradley, 33, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Stephen Ray Bengivenga, 20, of Manor Trace, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer, assault on a female, communicating threats. A secured bond of \$2,500 was set.

Eric Michael Bengivenga, 20, was charged with failure to appear for resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Logan Kincaid Robinson, 19, of Hazel St., Waynesville, was charged with possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, carrying a concealed weapon. No bond was set.

September 3

Ashley Elizabeth Schaal, 21, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Adrian Anders Villagomez, 23, of Harp Dr., Cashiers, was charged with second degree trespass, intoxicated and disruptive. No bond was set.

Romero Chavez Reymundo, 32, of Old Settlement Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with damage to property, second degree trespass, intoxicated and disruptive. No bond was set.

September 4

Jeffery Lee DeClue, 67, of Old Soco Rd., Whittier, was charged with disorderly conduct, intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Chaz James Brian Hodgins, 30, of Laurel Branch, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Michael Alexander Green, 41, of Peppermill Lane, was issued an order for arrest for misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$51,000 was set.

Michael Alexander Green, 41, of Peppermill Lane, was issued a warrant for arrest for breaking or entering, injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$51,000 was set.

Lisa Renee Schrader, 60, of Speedwell Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

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Scaly Mountain equestrian crowned Miss Rodeo North Carolina

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Scaly Mountain native Amber Welch was recently crowned Miss Rodeo North Carolina. Although the title is new for Welch, the rodeo road is not. The 24-year-old has lived and breathed the equine culture most of her life and the sport of rodeo for five years.

"I grew up wagon training with the Western North Carolina wagon train, which involves horseback riding long periods – from five miles to 20 miles a day – or driving wagons. I can drive a single horse or teams of horses. I learned to do that before I ever sat in a saddle. That's where my passion was at an early age. My grandfather (Tom Houck) and dad (Robert Welch) did it with me."

A few years ago, Welch got the itch to compete in equestrian rodeo sports, such as timed events involving racing a horse around a clover-leaf configuration of large metal barrels or a straight lineup of poles, as well as sorting cows and roping. "My horse is a bay quarter horse mare, 'Babe.' I started training with her in these events, and she is considered 'all-around' in terms of her abilities."

After becoming ensconced in the rodeo scene, Welch – who also works and attends college full time – decided to further that experience by applying to the Miss Rodeo competition.



Scaly Mountain native Amber Welch was recently crowned Miss Rodeo North Carolina, and she credits her grandfather, Tom Houck, with involving her in equestrian activities since she was a young girl.

"I spent this past summer in Wyoming working on a ranch that specialized in children with learning disabilities," she said. "And I just came home from that and decided to do it. I didn't really tell anyone because I didn't know how it would turn out."

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's (PRCA) Miss Rodeo competition involves a written portion, knowledge of PRCA regulations, a question and answer segment, a speech presentation, participation in specific horsemanship events, and more, according to Welch. She competed against other "cowgirls" on the state level and won.

"I'll be honest, I still don't think it has registered with me," she said. "But I'm super proud to represent Macon County as a whole ... to put the area on the map for something so positive. I really would also like for kids to know that whatever they put their minds to, they can achieve. And that equestrian and rodeo sports are worth participating in."

One of the responsibilities of Welch's new title is representing North Carolina and the PRCA throughout the United States by making appearances and speaking at rodeos, schools, and various equestrian and livestock-oriented events and fairs.

"I will be competing in December 2022 in Las Vegas on the national level for Miss Rodeo America," said Welch. "It will involve equine in

some way and much more. I'm not completely sure what else is specifically required. But I will find out soon."

She said the response from friends, family, and the community has been thrilling.

"I'm a small town girl, but this is exciting – just to be able to represent my area."



Amber Welch grew up involved in equestrian activities, including wagon train events her grandfather and father exposed her to.

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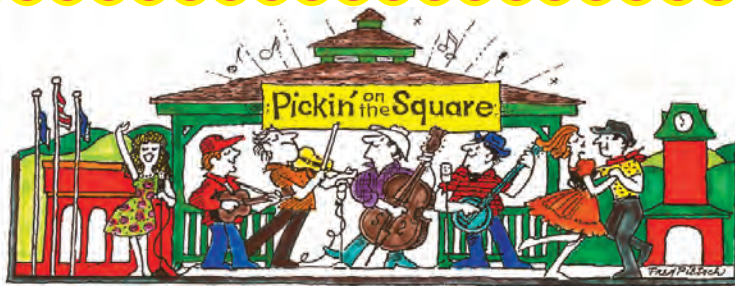


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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Smoky Mountain Center entertains with family-friendly line-up

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts has a full lineup for this weekend and the next.

Back by popular demand the Overlook Theatre Company will present a magical fairytale weekend with "On a Dream & A Wish: A Royal Celebration" set for Friday, Sept. 10 and Saturday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.

The celebration showcases the coronation of Queen Cinderella. All the heroes and princesses of the land are joining together to celebrate with stories, songs and gifts. But beware, a few jealous villains are upset about not being invited and might try to crash the party.

Show goers are invited to come dressed as their favorite hero or princess and join in the opening parade, festivities and a dance party finale. This event will take place outdoors. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit near the elevated stage. Concessions will be available for purchase. In the event of rain, this event will be moved indoors. Watch the theatre website for updates. Tickets are \$12 (general admission).

For tickets or more information call 828.524-1598 or visit SmokyMountainArts.com.

Side-splitting laughter with Jeff Allen Sept. 16

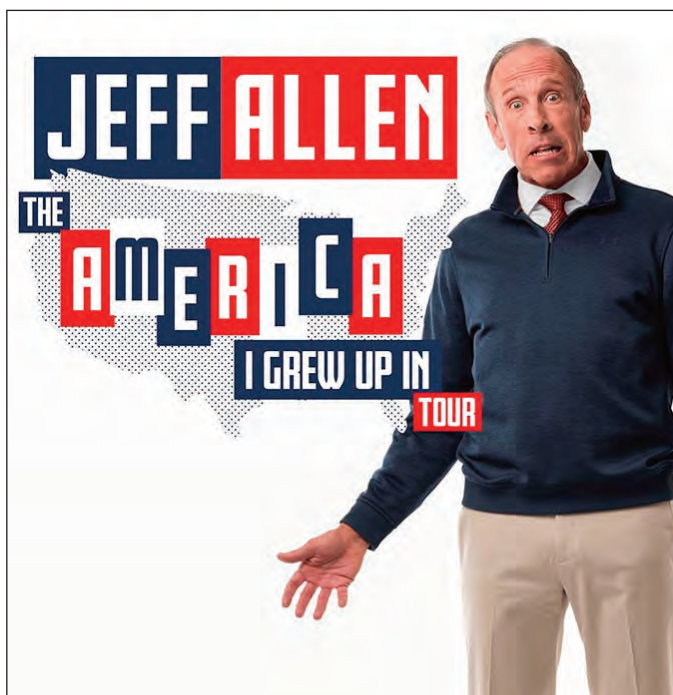
Jeff Allen is a Christian comedian who has been performing for more than four decades. His work has been featured on every cable comedy show in the United States, in multiple movies, and in print. His gut-wrenching and hilarious one-man show, "The America I Grew Up In," offers a unique glimpse into his crazy world and offers a breath of fresh air in these challenging times. The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts is excited to welcome the comedy stylings of Jeff Allen to its stage on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$20 each with priority seating options available.

Having grown up in Illinois, Allen began his career in the comedy clubs of Chicago. He felt unsatisfied and turned to drugs and alcohol, but in 1987, he broke away from his vices and became sober. Ten years later, he became a born-again Christian. It was then that his comedy show took a different, more positive turn and churches became a significant venue for his act. He continues to entertain



at churches and corporate events, and also performs in some of the world's most prestigious comedy venues. He also finds great reward performing around the world in front of deployed U.S. military troops.

Allen has been described as a brilliant comedian, a class act, and a true gentleman. He is praised for his perfectly timed humor and ability to fully engage his audience as they are rolling in the aisles during his show. His subtle comic observations and in-your-face funny take on life's relatable issues are always a crowd pleaser. He is widely known for his one-hour special, "Happy Wife, Happy Life," which has aired on the Odyssey Channel and Family Net, as well as for his



inclusion in Comedy Central's Premium Blend and VH1's Standup Spotlight. Allen also starred in the critically acclaimed film, "Apostles of Comedy," and the syndicated comedy series, "Bananas."

He is a fan favorite at the Grand Ole Opry, the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, and the Montreal Just for Laughs International Comedy Festival.

Allen has an outstanding ability to connect with his audiences, and his material is timeless. A husband and father of two, Allen's rapid-fire humor often centers on marriage, family, and life with teenagers. He is a hit with all ages as he knocks it out of the park every time without one nasty word. His comedy videos have been viewed more than 100 million times on social media and other platforms, which has introduced him to tens of millions of new fans worldwide. His show is one not to be missed.

To purchase tickets, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.

Country music artist Craig Morgan in concert Sept. 17

Craig Morgan is a country music recording artist who is easily described by the title of his latest album, "God, Family, Country." He is a man of faith, a father and husband, and an Army veteran. He's been singing country music for 20 years and is known for hits such as, "That's What I Love About Sunday," and "Redneck Yacht Club." The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts will welcome Craig Morgan to its stage on Friday, Sept. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$30 each with priority seating available.

Morgan served on active duty for the U. S. Army for nine years as a member of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. He remained in the reserves for another six years. When he returned home from service, Morgan worked various jobs to support his family before landing a job in Nashville singing demos for songwriters and publishing companies. That job eventually led to his first album. Morgan has released 10 albums over the years and has produced several charted hits, including "Almost Home," "Little Bit of Life," and "International Harvester." He has written with many artists such as Brad Paisley and has toured with country music greats such as Keith Urban. Morgan is a member of the Grand Ole Opry and has been described as a classic country singer with a strong, warm voice.

After taking a four-year break, Morgan has returned to the studio with an unquenchable spirit and joy for life, even though he and his family recently experienced great loss when his 19-year-old son passed away after a lake

accident. Morgan said that unimaginable tragedy led him to writing his most stunning song and personal ballad to date, "The Father, My Son, and the Holy Ghost." Morgan said, "It's a very tough song to sing, and sometimes I can't even look at people when I perform it, but it's amazing to know what God has done, and how He has used something so traumatic in my life for good."

Another surprise on Morgan's most recent album is, "Sippin' on the Simple Life." He was approached by a pair of active-duty Army Airborne Rangers for an impromptu writing session after a show in Washington, D.C., just before they deployed to Afghanistan. They came up to him and asked



to write a song with him and were very excited when they found out Morgan was going to include, "Sippin' on the Simple Life," on his album.

A frequent performer at military bases both in the U.S. and abroad, Morgan said, "Because I have been there, I can appreciate that and have the ability to communicate with them a little differently." He also has been active in raising money for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, an organization that helps provide scholarships to surviving children of fallen soldiers. Morgan was awarded a USO Merit Award for his tireless support of U.S. soldiers and their families. Morgan has also founded and supported a home for children in Tennessee known as Billy's Place. This home provides housing and services to children who have been displaced from their home.

To purchase tickets to see Craig Morgan in concert and experience his passion and talent in person, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.



Charles Stewart

Charles Stewart, 80, of Cullowhee, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Jackson County, he was the son of the late Lambert and Polly Williams Stewart. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Joe, Lambert, and Odell Stewart.

He was a Navy veteran and retired from the maintenance department at Brevard College. He was a member of the Pine Creek Baptist Church and enjoyed gardening, flowers, and working outside.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Zoney Ashe Stewart; two sons, Charles Thomas Stewart (Renge) of Japan, and Christopher Joe Stewart (Kimberly) of Brevard; two grandchildren, Claudia and Polly; one sister, Opal Crandall of Pine Creek; one brother, Gene Stewart of Brevard; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, at 12 p.m., at the Pine Creek Baptist Church. Rev. Aaron Langston and Rev. Johnny Norris will officiate.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

James Glenn Castle

James Glenn Castle, 67, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

He was born in Rabun County, Georgia, to Geneva Reynolds Castle Carpenter and the late R.L. Castle.

He enjoyed working in flowers and working his booth at Rabun Flea Market. He loved spending time with his friends, family, and his dogs, Lucy and Annabelle. He never met a stranger.

He is survived by his mother, Geneva Carpenter; siblings, Ronnie Castle (Phyllis) of Otto, Shirley Crone of Otto, and Renay Knapp (Robert) of Horse Shoe, N.C.; seven nieces and nephews, six great nieces and nephews, and one great-great niece and one great-great nephew.

A service was held Friday, Sept. 3, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Danny Cannon officiating.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Flowers are accepted and appreciated or memorials can be made to a charity of one's choice.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



James Glenn Castle

Kathryn Elizabeth Roten Cruse

Kathryn Elizabeth Roten Cruse, 88, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Elmer Edgar and Ira Edna Holbrook Roten. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband, Rev. Lloyd "Jack" Cruse on Dec. 2, 1994; her infant twin sons, Ronald and Donald Cruse; and sisters, Maxine McClure, Jane Ledford, Martha Schulties, and Mary Sue Murray; and great granddaughter, Macy Brooks.



Kathryn Cruse

She was a devoted mother, wife and grandmother. She loved sewing, coloring, word searches and flowers. She used to attend Prentiss Church of God, when she was able. She was known to help with her husband in many churches throughout Macon County.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Brooks (Joe) of Franklin; sons, Rick Cruse (Christine) and Michael Kendall Cruse both of Franklin; siblings, Tom Roten, Bill Roten, and Patsy Henderson of Franklin, and Linda Griffin of South Carolina; four grandchildren, Jacob Brooks (Misty), Elizabeth Padgett (Shawn), Jeremy Brooks (Kira), and Cody Brooks; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service was held Saturday, Sept. 4, at Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Cemetery with Rev. Michael Stephens officiating.

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.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Samuel (Dale) Tyler

Samuel (Dale) Tyler, 58, of Rabun Gap, Ga., finished his earthly journey on Friday, Sept. 3. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorene (Brown) Tyler, father, Marcell Tyler, his grandparents, and a number of other beloved family members.



Samuel (Dale) Tyler

He is survived by his daughters, Belle Tyler of Anderson, S.C., and Sarah Tyler of Wahalla, S.C.; and brother, Russell Tyler (Elaine Tyler) of Rabun Gap.

As all who knew him would agree, he was a very reserved and quiet man. As a result, his daughters and family are honoring his wishes to live on in the hearts and minds of those who knew him without the fanfare of a formal gathering. The family expresses their deepest gratitude for the calls, visits, and prayers that have been and continue to be sent their way.

Hunter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

Elizabeth T. Buchanan

Elizabeth T. Buchanan, 91, of Sylva, N.C., died peacefully Friday, Sept. 3, 2021. She was born April 3, 1930, in Franklin, N.C. She was the daughter of the late Jesse and Ethel Buchanan Thompson. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Frank Howard Buchanan; sisters, Dolly Thompson, and two infant sisters; brothers, Bill, George, Jess, Harry and Harold Thompson; sons-in-law, Wilbert M. Carr and Larry Pressley.



Elizabeth T. Buchanan

She worked for many years at Burlington Industries, Eastgate Pharmacy and Ruby City. She enjoyed working in her flowers and travelling the U.S. bowling with her bowling team. She enjoyed and loved her church family at Wesleyanna United Methodist Church. The most important thing to her on this earth was her family especially all her grands.

She is survived by a brother, Doug Thompson of Franklin; her daughter, Gloria Jean Carr of Sylva; a son, Nicky Howard Buchanan (Melanie) of Beaufort, S.C.; a special son, Jerry McCall (Janet) of Franklin; a grandson, Christopher Howard Pressley (Jen) of Sylva; granddaughters, Jennifer Lynn Pressley of Sylva, Lindsay Leopard (Brian) of Franklin, Cristen Carr of Florida, Cathy Carr (Jerry) of Fletcher, N.C.; great grandchildren, Graham, Katie (Harrison), Melody, Savannah (Hunter), Sarah, Grace, Emma, Sydney, Alex, and Charleigh; great great grandchildren, Emmett, Lilly, and Harlan; sistes-in-law, Bea and Norma Thompson; and several nieces and nephews with a special thank you to niece, Cecilia B Morgan.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers at VERO who loved and treated her with so much care as well as Four Seasons Hospice.

A celebration of life will be held in October with details at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wesleyanna Cemetery Fund in care of Jean Buchanan, 145 Garland Buchanan RD, Sylva, NC 28779; or Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen RD, Flat Rock, NC, 28731

An online registry is available at: www.appalachianfuneralservices.com.

Appalachian Funeral Services of Sylva is serving the family.

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Denny Hamlin holds off Kyle Larson at Darlington for NASCAR Cup Playoff

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

DARLINGTON, S.C. – Holding off regular-season champion Kyle Larson throughout a thrilling final green-flag run in Sunday's Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway, Denny Hamlin is winless in 2021 no more.

Hamlin maintained control of his No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota as Larson buried his No. 5 Chevrolet into Turns 3 and 4 on the final lap. Larson gave Hamlin a tap, but Hamlin blocked the top lane and got to the finish line .212 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

"He drove it in past the limit of the car and tires," Hamlin said of Larson's banzai charge. "I knew he was coming. I was a little conservative on that last lap because I had that four-car-length lead."

The victory was Hamlin's first of the year after a winless 26-race regular season. He won for the fourth time at Darlington and for the 45th time in his career to earn an automatic berth into the Round of 12 in the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs.

"Yeah, it was a matter of time," Hamlin said of the long-awaited win. "We can't just keep leading inside 10 laps to go every week and not get a win."

Hamlin kept Larson at bay over the final two restarts but couldn't pull away to a comfortable lead.

"We got to the white (flag), and I was like, 'Well, I haven't been able to gain on him now, I'm going to try something,'" Larson said of the desperation try he labeled a "video-game move." "Honestly, got to his bumper too quick. I was hoping he was going to run that diamond to kind of be safe and I could skirt to his outside, but gave everything I had."

"I didn't want to wreck him. I just wanted to try to get to his outside there, but he did a great job not really making any mistakes during the last run, and I was having to push really hard in second to try and just stay with him."

Larson led 156 of the 367 laps to Hamlin's 146. Hamlin won the first stage and Larson the second.

Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. caught a break when Ryan Blaney spun in Turn 4 on Lap 318 while the two JGR drivers stayed on the track trying to stretch the cycle of pit stops. Truex beat Hamlin off pit road but was flagged for speeding, and Hamlin held the top spot the rest of the way.

Non-Playoff driver Ross Chastain finished third, followed by Truex, who recovered from the penalty and an earlier loose wheel to run fourth. Playoff drivers Kevin Harvick, Kurt Busch, Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano were fifth through eighth, respectively, but for other title hopefuls, the race brought disaster.

Two-time series champion Kyle Busch suffered an early exit and a blow to his hopes of winning a third title. Contact with the No. 3 Chevrolet of Austin Dillon sent Busch's No. 18 Toyota rocketing into the outside wall in Turn 2, causing irreparable



Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Offerpad Toyota, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on September 05, 2021 in Darlington, South Carolina. Photos by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



damage.

Busch fell out in 35th place and now faces an uphill battle to advance to the Round of 12.

Three-fourths of the Hendrick Motorsports armada took a major hit as well. Alex Bowman scraped the wall on Lap 14 and stayed on the track, hoping to make it to the competition caution on lap 25. But a tire rub proved disastrous, sending Bowman's Chevy into the Turn 4 wall, and damage the No. 24 Camaro of teammate William Byron in the process.

Bowman was able to continue and finished 26th, but Byron wasn't as fortunate. After recovering to run in the top 10, Byron cut a left front tire on Lap 200, crashed hard into the Turn 1 wall and exited the race with a 34th-place finish.

Reigning series champion Chase Elliott fell out in 31st place after slamming the outside wall on Lap 327 in a three-wide melee in Turn 1 with Bubba Wallace and Christopher Bell.

An early wreck put a dagger to Michael McDowell's slim championship chances. On Lap 31, McDowell's No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford broke loose behind Erik Jones' Chevrolet in Turn 2, smacked the outside wall and careened nose-first into the inside SAFER barrier.

McDowell exited the race, his car destroyed and his title hopes hanging by a thread.

"The 43 (Jones) kind of got everybody jammed up," McDowell said after exiting the infield care center. "I think he started on the front there without tires, which is a tough spot to be in, and I just went three-wide underneath him and just got into the patch (of new asphalt in Turn 2) with my left sides just a little bit low."

"I got loose enough into the wall and that was about it. I'll have to see the replay, but just heartbreaking for everybody on this Front Row team. We had high hopes coming into the Playoffs and this is not how we wanted to start it."

Bowman, Busch, Byron and McDowell fell below the current cut line for the Round of 12. Elliott leaves Darlington 10th in the Playoff standings.

Noah Gragson snags first 2021 victory with strong run at Darlington

Fresh from the announcement of his return to JR Motorsports next year, Noah Gragson sped to victory at Darlington Raceway on Saturday, clinching a spot in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoffs.

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After pre-race favorite Denny Hamlin was sent to the rear under penalty for an equipment violation during a pit stop under caution on Lap 139, Gragson grabbed the lead from Daniel Hemric on Lap 143 and held it the rest of the way.

Gragson's victory in the Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help a Hero 200 at the 1.366-mile speedway was his first of the season, his first at Darlington and the third of his career.

After debris from a Hemric spin on Lap 144 caused the eighth caution of the afternoon and sent the race to overtime, Gragson surged ahead on the final restart and finished .218 seconds ahead of runner-up Harrison Burton.

Reigning series champion Austin Cindric ran third, closing to a single point his deficit to current series leader AJ Allmendinger, who finished 20th after pitting under the final caution because of a loose wheel.

"It's been way too long," said Gragson, who celebrated by climbing the frontstretch catchfence with his team after climbing from his car. "I hate that the 54 (Hamlin) ... something happened to him on pit road. It was pretty fun racing there.

"We made good adjustments on the pit stops ... And like you said, it's been way too long. A lot of frustration this year, and things haven't gone our way, but we're getting some momentum when we need to, and I just can't thank everybody enough on this No. 9 team."

Hamlin appeared headed for his sixth Xfinity Series victory at Darlington when Brandon Jones spun off Turn 4 on Lap 138 of a scheduled 147. On the ensuing pit stop for new tires, Hamlin's crew was penalized for bringing equipment over the wall too soon, ending the driver's chances for a win.

Gragson took the checkered flag on Lap 152 at the end of the only overtime attempt. The victory marked his fifth straight finish of seventh or better.

Cindric took advantage of Allmendinger's late issue to set up a tight battle for the regular-season championship with two races left before the 12-driver Playoff field is set.

"We did a solid job all day trying to execute but we weren't perfect," Cindric said. "I'm proud of what we gained today with the Snap-On Ford Mustang. It's definitely the best race I feel like I've had at Darlington, just having the strength and not having too many weaknesses.

"As a team, that takes a lot of conversations throughout the week to try to get that right, so we righted a lot of wrongs for me at this race track today. I feel good about that."

Justin Haley, last weekend's Daytona winner, finished fourth, followed by Kaulig racing teammate Jeb Burton. Justin Allgaier, Tyler Reddick, Jeremy Clements, Myatt Snider and Alex Labbe completed the top 10.

There were eight cautions for a total of 41 laps and 19 lead changes among eight drivers. Hamlin, who finished 12th, led a race-high 43 laps. Gragson was out front for 40 circuits.

Sheldon Creed continues Playoff domination at Darlington

DARLINGTON, S.C. – Sheldon Creed completed the Darlington double on Sunday, extending his monopoly on the Round of 10 in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Playoffs.

Creed's victory in the In It to Win It 200 at Darlington Raceway was his second straight in the series and his second straight at the 1.366-mile egg-shaped track, giving him a season sweep at the Lady in Black.

It was the third straight win in a Playoff race for the reigning series champion, who secured his title with a victory in the 2020 season finale at Phoenix Raceway.



Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help a Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on Sept. 4, 2021 in Darlington, S.C.

Thanks to impeccable work by his over-the-wall crew, Creed seized track position and control of the race. He led the final 80 laps after regaining the top spot from Chandler Smith during a pit stop under caution on Lap 68.

"We've had a tough season, but we're finding it at the right time," said Creed, who won for the third time in 2021. "I had to work for that one. The KBM (Kyle Busch Motorsports) trucks were moving there in the short run. Even in the long runs, I thought they were better than us. Just track position—I could kind of go where I wanted when I was in front. If I got behind them, I was going to be in big trouble."

With his second-place finish, Nemechek, the regular-season champion, clinched a spot in the Round of 8 on points. Eight other drivers are vying for the remaining six berths in the next round, heading for the Sept. 16 cutoff race at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Zane Smith (ninth Sunday) and Chandler Smith (seventh) are the two drivers below the cut line entering the Round of 10 finale at Thunder Valley.

Stewart Friesen ran third in Sunday's race and improved to fourth in the standings, two points behind third-place Matt Crafton (10th Sunday) and 33 above the current cut line. Todd Gilliland finished

fourth at Darlington, followed by non-Playoff drivers Parker Kligerman and Grant Enfinger.

ThorSport Racing driver Ben Rhodes suffered the most severe damage to his Playoff chances after running into the back of Creed's truck on an early restart, then spinning and hitting the wall in a three-car incident with Jack Wood and Kris Wright on Lap 67.

Rhodes finished 34th, seven laps down, and dropped to fifth in the standings, 15 points above the cut line. The race featured eight cautions for a total of 35 laps. There were four lead changes among three drivers, with Nemechek out front for 39 laps and Chandler Smith leading the remaining four circuits.



Sheldon Creed, driver of the #2 Liftkits4less.com Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series In It To Win It 200 at Darlington Raceway on Sept. 5, in Darlington, S.C.

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1. The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical
5. Hallucinogenic drug
8. Some special effects, acr.
11. Chip in Vegas
12. Cordelia's father in Shakespeare play
13. One in squirrel's stash
15. Dissenting clique
16. Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
17. Type of lemur
18. *Popular messenger
20. Mosque prayer leader
21. Down Under marsupial
22. Thanksgiving serving
23. *100 days of snapping, e.g.
26. Military's inactive force
30. Repeated Cuban dance step
31. The Kinks' lead singer, a.k.a. godfather of Britpop
34. Late December season
35. Rough, as in voice
37. Chop off

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 38. Stephen King's "The _____" 39. "Do _____ others..." 40. Strep throat organ 42. File a suit 43. Sewing pearls on a wedding gown, e.g. 45. One with authority 47. Army bed 48. Space path 50. Law school test acronym 52. *Unique social media identifier 55. Latin dance 56. "Place" in French 57. Sacred Hindu writings 59. Post-mortem bios 60. Actress Campbell 61. African chieftain 62. Recipe amt. 63. Nirvana's "Come as You _____" 64. Badger's den | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current tense of "had" 2. All over again 3. Eczema symptom 4. Second shot 5. Corporate department 6. Salpae, sing. 7. Type of coffee maker 8. Elizabeth McGovern's "Downton Abbey" role 9. Inspiring horror 10. As opposed to outs 12. Capital of Zambia 13. Bruce Wayne's _____ was Batman 14. *Message under a post 19. Bootlicker 22. Da, to a Russian 23. *Done to social media past before applying for job? 24. Feudal lord 25. Haile Selassie's disciple 26. Gym exercises | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Comedy Central's "critique" 28. Dolby Theatre to Oscars 29. Often considered wise 32. *Video blog 33. Charge carrier 36. *Audio series 38. Killed, like dragon 40. Big bang maker 41. Permeate 44. I to Greeks, pl. 46. Sheet music line, pl. 48. Basketry stick 49. Clark Kent actor Christopher 50. Black, yellow and chocolate dogs 51. Parking spot for a boat 52. Bone in human forearm 53. *Bernie wearing mittens, e.g. 54. *Do this before posting? 55. Chronic drinker 58. It's open to interpretation |
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