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Newly sworn-in town manager Amanda Owens (center) joined with town employees on Monday to place fall decorations on Main Street between rain showers in downtown Franklin. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Town manager sworn in at council meeting

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Although the Oct. 4 Town of Franklin council meeting began with the swearing in of two individuals and the presentation of a certificate of appreciation for another, much discussion centered on the uptick in homelessness in the Franklin area.

Before new business ensued, Mayor Bob Scott first conducted the swearing in of Amanda (Amie) Owens as the new town manager. Owens, a native of Western North Carolina, has worked in local government for several years, as an executive assistant/deputy clerk for Haywood County and then town clerk for Waynesville, and most recently – before joining Town of Franklin – as assistant town manager in Virginia.

“I am humbled and honored to have been appointed to the position of town manager of Franklin and look forward to serving the citizens,” said Owens the next day. “My goals for the town are to continue to provide exemplary service, make improvements to infrastructure, and continue to work with Council and staff to enhance economic and community development projects for increased business and housing opportunities.”

She was joined at the swearing in by her mother, Melissa

See TOWN COUNCIL page 6



Franklin Mayor Bob Scott swears in the new town manager Amanda Owens. Owens's mother, Melissa Welch, holds the Bible.

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 4

Macon airport awarded \$900,000 for fuel farm



Page 8

SMPCC celebrates two decades of service



Page 12

Designer continues legacy of log cabin living

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Town residents head to the polls this month; county elections get a jump start

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

North Carolina Municipal elections kick off this month, with early voting scheduled to begin Thursday, Oct. 14. Voters have until Oct. 8 to register to vote in order to be eligible for the November municipal election. One stop voting — also known as early voting, will run from Oct. 14 until Oct. 30, at the Macon County Community building in Franklin, and the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. On Election Day, Franklin voters will cast their ballots at Town Hall; in Highlands at the Civic Center. Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The November election will be for municipalities only, meaning voters who live within the Town of Franklin city limits can vote in that election and voters who live within the town of Highlands city limits can vote in that election.

In Franklin, the office of the mayor and three council members will appear on the ballot. In Highlands, the office of the mayor and two commissioners will be up for election.

In Franklin, the seats up for election include the mayor's seat — currently held by Mayor Bob Scott; and town council seats held by David Culpepper, Dinah Mashburn, and the seat left vacant after the death of Barbara McRae.

Neither Scott nor Mashburn are seeking re-election.

Incumbent David Culpepper filed for a second term and will face challengers JimBo Ledford, Rita Salain, Frances Seay, and Stacy

Guffey. With three seats on the Franklin town council up for re-election, the top three vote getters will claim a seat this November.

Current town council vice-mayor and former Macon County Manager Jack Horton filed for mayor and without any challengers, has all but secured his seat as the next mayor of Franklin. Because Horton will be leaving his town council seat prior to the end of his term to take over as mayor, it will be up to the Town Council to appoint someone to fill his seat.

The seats up for election in Highlands this November are the mayor's seat currently held by Pat Taylor, and two commissioner seats held by Amy Patterson and Donnie Calloway.

Calloway is not seeking re-election.

Taylor will see a challenger in Marc Hehn who officially filed for the mayoral seat just before deadline. Hehn currently serves on the town board and if elected as mayor, his seat would then be filled by appointment. Taylor has served three, four-year terms in his official capacity in Highlands since first being elected in 2013. If re-elected this year, Taylor will begin his 4th term as mayor.

Patterson filed for re-election and will face challengers. Patterson and Calloway both ran unopposed in the 2017 election.

Challengers this election include Eric Pierson, who has previously served on the town board, Thomas Craig, Pat Allen, Nicolaus McCall, and Mary Alice Bynum. With two open seats on the Highlands board up for election, the top two vote getters will be elected.

The municipal elections will be decided in

November — a month before filing opens for several countywide offices. Although filing for the Macon County Sheriff's race doesn't officially open until December, after Sheriff Robert Holland announced his retirement, several candidates have already come forward expressing their interest, suggesting the field for Macon County's next sheriff will be a crowded one.

Current Sheriff's Office employees Dereck Jones, Brent Holbrooks, and Clay Bryson have all been actively campaigning for the vacant Sheriff position — along with retired law enforcement officer from Florida Robert Cook and former sheriff's office employee Chris Browning. Browning, who was one of the first individuals to announce his bid for Sheriff, announced via Facebook last week that because he does not live in Macon County, he will no longer be running for the position. According to Browning's post on social media, while part of his property, such as his mailbox, is within Macon County, his home is located in Clay County, which is where he pays taxes, making him ineligible to run for office in Macon County.

In addition to the position as Sheriff, the position of Macon County Clerk of Court will also open for filing in December — with three individuals, Magistrate Justin Stamey, former Macon County Sheriff's Officer Mike Trammell, and 21-year veteran of the clerk's office Shawna Lamb, expressing interest in running for the seat which was left vacant with the retirement of Vic Perry.

Three seats on the Macon County Board of Commissioner will also open for filing in December. The seats, currently held by Gary

Shields, Ronnie Beale, and Jim Tate, will be up for grabs and have garnered interest from several candidates. Incumbent Gary Shields has announced he plans to seek re-election, while neither Beale or Tate have made a statement. In addition to Shields, several people have spoken at local events or posted on social media expressing their interest in running — including local business owner Danny Antoine, Macon native Danny Reitmeier, and former Macon County Tax Administrator Richard Lightner.

"Today I am formally announcing my candidacy for County Commissioner in the upcoming election," Reitmeier said this week. "A few months ago, when I chose to not run for mayor, I stated that I intended to stay involved and looked forward to serving our community in the future and that future is now. I have had a strong desire to serve our community for quite some time and I am ready for the challenges that will come with this position. I am running for Macon County Commissioner because I want to see our county grow and prosper while maintaining our 'small town' atmosphere and charm. I want to lead our county into the future and develop a long term plan for the betterment of our children and grandchildren. I want to be a strong, true voice for the people and look forward to the opportunity to serve our county."

To date, no Democrats have filed to run for any of the open seats in any office, with all individuals expressing interest for Sheriff, Clerk of Court, and County Commissioner being Republican. Filing officially opens in December.

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followed by questions
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The Macon County News
& Smoky Mountain News

Macon Airport awarded \$900K for fuel system

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

The North Carolina Board of Transportation approved grant funding during its meeting on Sept. 2 for 13 airports across the state. Awards will be distributed by the the Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation and do not necessarily represent the total cost of each proposed project.

More than \$29.2 million was awarded in all to 13 airports across the state. The funds awarded require a 10% local match.

The Macon County Airport was awarded \$900,000 in state funds to construct a new fuel farm at Macon County Airport in Franklin.

Airports need to provide a ready source of fuel for users – including general aviation, corporate aircraft operators, and other commercial operators. Fuel farms are an efficient way to provide storage and dispensing of aviation fuels to multiple users at an airport. Various models are used to provide this necessary resource – some airports serve as the single source of fuel while others retain commercial providers.

With an annual budget of just over \$30,000, the \$100,000 local match needed for the project would have to come from the county — however at this point, the Macon County Board of Commissioners have not taken up the request for funding.

The airport reported a decrease in use due to COVID19 — however the airport was able to secure a \$30,000 grant in re-



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

lief funding.

Macon County's current fuel farm is aging and according to Macon County Manager Derek Roland, the airport currently has to utilize fuel trucks and has needed a new fuel farm for some time. North Carolina's goal of moving all underground fuel farms above ground by 2020 as well as getting airports relying on trucks for their fuel and to construct a secure fuel operation has fallen short due to the pandemic.

The fuel farm will have to stay within the existing footprints of the airport and the tanks will be taller in order to fulfill the 12,000 gallon preference made by the board. Fencing will also be installed around the farm.

As of the July meeting of the Macon County Airport Authority, airport board members reported that all the hangars at the airport were occupied and the airport has a waiting list.



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TOWN COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

Welch, who Owens said “has been by my side and supportive of me throughout this entire journey, and I wanted her to share in this culmination of achieving my goal.”

Mayor Scott also oversaw the swearing in of Austin Ryan Holland, who was joined by his fiancée, Kayla Waldroup, and Franklin’s chief of police, Bill Harrell. Holland is a lateral transfer from Swain County Sheriff’s Office to the Franklin Police Department and has served in law enforcement for five years, last serving as a sergeant.

Town Planner Justin Setser was presented with a certificate for “outstanding services” for the three months he served as interim town manager between the time the previous town manager, Summer Woodard, resigned to take a new position with the Town of Reidsville (N.C.), and the new town manager, Owens, stepped into her new role.

The Homelessness Dilemma

Regarding the increase in homelessness in the area, which has led to littering, theft, possible disposal of waste into the Little Tennessee River, and more, Chief Harrell and Captain of Patrol/Field Operations Devin Holland updated the council – apropos of the Sept. 23 article in “The Macon County News,” which shed light on the homelessness challenge to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Franklin Police Department (FPD), and the community at large. Chief Harrell reminded the council that there has been more homelessness in the last 15-16 months with homeless individuals primarily congregating under the main bridges in Franklin, such as the one on Main Street near McDonald’s and the one over the Little Tennessee River on the Little Tennessee River Greenway. He added that while homelessness is not illegal, the actions of some homeless persons, such as littering, destruction of property, etc., are. Tents and trash have been evident under the bridges and citizens are reporting criminal behavior. Glass, syringes, waste, and garbage – due to homeless people congregating near the Little Tennessee River – can get washed into and down the river when the river rises due to rain and flooding.

“We’re short staffed as it is,” said Chief Harrell, “and this is terrible.”

He and Capt. Holland shared that the FPD is receiving from four to 12 calls daily pertaining to homelessness. Chief Harrell explained that every effort has been made and continues to be made to make “arrest as the last resort” and to work with

homeless persons to connect them with the many and varied area resources, such as No Wrong Door, REACH, Macon New Beginnings, Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men’s Center, and more.

Council member Dinah Mashburn elaborated that No Wrong Door, a local organization that supports individuals and families struggling with substance use disorders and mental health challenges, of which she is involved, has used grant monies to assist homeless individuals in the past. Yet, the “quick fix” does not solve the problems of homelessness for the long term. “We all want our town to be the best that it can be,” said Mashburn, “but I don’t know the answer to this problem.”

“There are great minds in this room and in the community, but we haven’t come up with the answers.”

– Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell

Mayor Scott and Capt. Holland noted that a main issue is that many homeless persons “prefer the lifestyle,” as Mayor Scott expressed, and they often reject services offered that might move them out of homelessness.

“Often because of drugs,” said Mashburn, “if they get out of jail and go back on the street, they basically go back to the same life they had [before they went to jail].”

“Yes, it’s more of a drug and mental health issue than just a homeless issue,” offered Council Member David Culpepper.

Chief Harrell also explained that “the majority of homeless people are not local. They come from somewhere where they weren’t welcome but say it’s easy here because of the hospitality of our community. We’ve made every effort to get them the help they need. And we’ve been working around the clock to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to deal with this issue and keep our community safe.”

He added that, when necessary, law enforcement “steps” must be taken to deal with the illegal activity, including trespassing. “We have to take a proactive stance,” he said, concluding, “It’s a slippery slope, and we have to be careful that we’re not enabling the lifestyle.”

Mayor Scott pointed out that Franklin is not the only town, out of the more than 500 towns in North Carolina, to be facing a homelessness problem.

in the community, but we haven’t come up with the answers.” In response, Vice Mayor Jack Horton suggested a “task force to come up with a permanent solution. We can’t solve this with a broad brush. We need to look at aspects individually.”

Other business

In other business, Setser asked for and received consideration for approval of the rezoning of 4.5 acres off Siler Road. The land, which borders Hwy. 441 and is currently owned by Duke Energy, will be rezoned from R1 to C2, which means from a residential zone to commercial use. Although the Town of Franklin opened up the issue for a public hearing, no one spoke for or against the measure. The council approved the rezoning consideration.

The planned skate park at Veterans Memorial Park, also known as the Jaycee Park, is receiving donations for its construction, which is scheduled to begin in February 2022.

A citizen received council approval for the closing of a portion of Bidwell Street from 5-9 p.m. on Oct. 31, due to the popularity of annual trick-or-treating on the street. The tradition typically draws many children and families, and the citizen explained that closing the street will better ensure safety.

The planning stages for a memorial bench was proposed by Travis Tallent, town clerk. “We will begin looking at locations, costs, and a timeline for the project,” said Tallent.

The bench would initially honor the late Gwen Taylor, co-owner of The Dusty Pallet in Franklin and president of the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association. She died Aug. 14, 2021. The other name proposed for the bench is Larry Hollifield, who was a member of the Macon County Planning Board for 17 years. He died Aug. 7, 2021. The Town of Franklin council agreed that other names may be added to the bench in the future.

“I think this project would be a great way to honor those who have helped Main Street become such an inviting area for visitors and residents alike,” said Tallent. “Both of these individuals [Taylor and Hollifield] were a true asset to Main Street, not only with their businesses, but also with the civic duties that they carried out. Their impact will not be forgotten and they will be sorely missed.”

The 25th Annual PumpkinFest is scheduled for Oct. 23, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Franklin. “We’re going to be rolling those pumpkins,” said Mayor Scott.

The next town council meeting is Monday, Nov. 1, at 6



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Macon County Public Health Hosting Pfizer Booster Vaccine Clinics, Starting October 15th, 2021

Beginning Friday, October 15th, individuals who have received the primary two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination may be eligible for a booster vaccine. This booster is only available to those who received their initial vaccines with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination.

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	Occupational or Institutional Exposure to COVID-19	First Responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff Public Transportation workers Manufacturing workers	Education Staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers) Food and agriculture workers Grocery store workers	Corrections workers US Postal Service workers Public Transit workers
65 and Older	Anyone over the age of 65 is eligible			
28 Days Since the Second COVID-19 Dose				
12 and Older*	Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised	Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood Received an organ transplant and are taking meds to suppress immune system	Received a stem cell transplant within last 2 yrs. or take immune suppress medicine Active treatment with high dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress immune system	Advanced or untreated HIV infection Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency – (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)

*Anyone between the age of 12 and 15 must have parent/guardian present to sign a consent to receive the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

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Pregnancy care center celebrates 20 years of helping women in crisis

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

When Kelsie Elliott was just 20 years old, she became pregnant with her first child. Her inexperience with pregnancy led her to the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center where the welcoming and safe environment helped prepare her for her journey into motherhood. With the help and guidance of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, Elliott welcomed her first child in April 2009.

Shortly after giving birth to her first son, Elliott became addicted to methamphetamines and spent the next five years in and out of jail, struggling with substance addiction, and immersed in a domestic violence relationship. At 25 years old, Elliott learned that she was pregnant again and once again turned to the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center. Throughout her pregnancy with her daughter, the center helped to support Elliott to stay sober and prepare for her next child. However, shortly after the birth of her other daughter, Elliott once again fell to the devastating grip of substance addiction. After being arrested for driving under the influence of meth, Elliott made the decision to check herself into a year-long rehab program. That is when the center helped Elliott to change the trajectory of her life for the betterment of her family. With the help of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, Elliott got and stayed sober, and worked to reconstruct the values and foundations she wanted in her life for herself and her children.

“Almost 13 years have passed since the first time I came to Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center,” Elliott said while speaking to a crowd at the 20th anniversary of the center. “Since that time, I have lived through many ups and downs; however, I never stopped pushing forward. Today, my family and I live a comfortable life here in Macon County. Together as a family, we enjoy outdoor activities such as camping and swimming, and the kids enjoy participating on various sports teams such as football, competition cheerleading, and gymnastics. I want to thank everyone at the Smoky Mountain Preg-

nancy Care Center for all the support provided to my family and me. Thank you all so much for being such an important part of my story.”

Elliott is set to graduate college in December of this year as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor and currently serves as an intern for No Wrong Door for Support and Recovery.



The Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center celebration included portraits of families who have received services over the last two decades.

Elliott was one of the guest speakers at the 20 year celebration of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center. The Pregnancy Care Center is a nonprofit agency that offers care and support to women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy. Its free and confidential services include but are not limited to pregnancy tests, limited ultrasound, maternity and baby clothes and accessories, adoption referral, post-abortion counseling,

educational materials, and friendship. Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center services are offered without regard to age, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, disability and/or arbitrary circumstances. Clients of the center are treated with kindness and compassion.

Through both tragedy and overheard conversations, in 1999, the damaging and deadly effects of casual sex and an unexpected pregnancy shocked the Macon County community. One local pastor's wife responded to this situation and by 2001 opened SMPCC as a resource and support center in Franklin, offering parenting and life skills lessons, access to a rewards closet, and trained peer counseling. By 2004, the clinic incorporated pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound scans, medical consultations and community referrals. Becoming a medical clinic expanded its impact and brought many more abortion vulnerable women and men to the center.

Saturday's celebration showcased the center's new mobile unit, which provides care for patients across Western North Carolina through mobile technology and staffing. The mobile unit — named Harmoni after a child born to E'Nisha Morris, a client of the pregnancy care center is scheduled to service WNC from Buncombe County and west.

The celebration featured portraits of more than a dozen families to receive services from the center over the last two decades. Some stories told of how the Pregnancy Care Center helped them to navigate the process of placing a child up for adoption, while others talked about how the center was available for concerned parents when doctors offices were full and not otherwise available in the small rural town.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, a former board member of the pregnancy care center, spoke about his time working as a detective for the Sheriff's Office when the body of a deceased newborn was found among the waste at the landfill. Sheriff Holland used that experience as a way to show just how important the resources at the center are for the communities it serves.



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Public Health to begin booster shots October 15

Macon County Public Health has announced a delay in plans to begin giving COVID-19 boosters to eligible persons due to a number of COVID-19 positive staff. This delay will not affect persons who wish to call and schedule their initial COVID-19 vaccinations or who need to schedule a COVID-19 test. Those who are eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 booster vaccination who do not wish to wait are encouraged to contact local pharmacies who may be able to provide this service during this delay. Pfizer booster vaccines will begin on Oct. 15 at Macon County Public Health.

The Pfizer booster is only available to those who received their initial vaccines with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination, and have certain conditions. However all over the age of 65 who had the Pfizer vaccine as their primary COVID-19 vaccinations are eligible. The Moderna and Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccines are not approved for additional booster vaccines at this time, though both companies are expected to submit data in support of booster vaccines in the coming weeks. The booster vaccine is available at no cost to those who are eligible, regardless of their insurance status. If you are insured, you are asked to bring your insurance card to your appointment. You do not have to receive your booster at the same location that you received your primary COVID-19 vaccinations.

Each COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and J&J) is working to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, in people who are fully vaccinated, if they become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. However, with increased variant transmission, researchers are seeing a decrease in protections in those who are fully vaccinated and at additional risk, either due to their immune system or individual risk factors (like their occupation or living situation).

These booster vaccinations will give these individuals the protection that they may have lost over time. There is no current data to support vaccine boosters in the general population, because the general population has not seen the same decrease in protection, though it is possible that a vaccine booster will be recommended to the general public in the future.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness. Therefore, we ask that community members strictly follow the governor's recommendations and continue to practice social distancing, as well as safe hygiene measures such as hand washing and frequently cleaning touched objects and surfaces. Everyone who is eligible is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, a safe and effective prevention tool.

If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2081 to schedule an appointment for a test. To register and schedule an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please call 828-349-2081.

No flu shots during lightning

Macon County Public Health released a statement to communicate how it will handle seasonal flu vaccinations in the case of stormy weather. The influenza vaccines may be administered in the rain. However, it is not safe for us to do so in lightning and thunder. If there is lightning and thunder during flu clinic hours (1 to 4 p.m.), flu shots will not be provided during that time. Once the lightning and thunder stops, the flu shot clinic will resume.

For more information, call (828)349-2081.

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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House held no-vote sessions Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 20-21, 2021. The Joint Redistricting Committee held additional public comment sessions. On Tuesday, I attended the public comment session at Western Carolina University. These meetings give the public the opportunity to voice their opinions on the legislative map drawing process.

Public hearings were also held at Central Piedmont Community College, Mitchell Community College, UNC-Pembroke, and Fayetteville Technical Community College.

The House held a no-vote session on Wednesday, as budget negotiations continue between the House and Senate. Speaker Moore stated that a final legislative agreement on the budget is expected within the coming days.

I attended the Wildlife Resources Committee Thursday morning. A bill on the committee agenda for consideration, SB233, Modify Fox/Coyote Taking for Certain Counties, would modify a list of counties that, during the trapping seasons annually set by the Wildlife Resources Commission, have an open season for taking foxes with weapons and trapping foxes and coyotes with no tagging requirements or bag limits. The bill was pulled from committee prior to a vote and may be reconsidered at a later date.

At 11 a.m., the North Carolina House of Representatives reconvened to consider numerous bills, including:

– HB218, Streamline Permits/Redevelopment of Property, would require local governments that implement water supply watershed programs to allow an applicant to exceed the allowable density under water supply watershed program rules in certain circumstances, and would exempt certain footprint expansions from site plan modification requirements. I voted in favor of the bill and it passed with a vote of 60-39.

– HB91, Accountability and Fair Play in Athletics, in its sixth edition, would create new requirements for overseeing regulation of high school interscholastic athletics, including a memorandum of understanding that requires specific obligations for a nonprofit authorized to administer high school interscholastic athletics. The House voted, 98-0, to not concur with the Senate version. A conference committee of legislators has been appointed in an effort to reach a compromise.

– HB776, Remote Notarization/Gov't Transparency, would do the following:

> Allow, effective January 1, 2022, authorized North Carolina notaries to remotely perform electronic notarial acts using real time online communication technology. The notary and the principal to the transaction would be required to be physically located in North Carolina at the time of the notarial act.

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Unwanted children suffer profound psychological issues

In this time of once again having heated debates about a woman's right to choose whether or not to bear a child there is one aspect that does not get enough attention. That is, what happens to the child and the mother after the unwanted birth?

Sure, there are some happily-ever-after stories. However, as a psychotherapist practicing in many different settings over the past 50 years I have encountered many more tragic stories of poorly cared for children, mothers desperate for help because they are inadequate to provide even basic care to themselves and their offspring. Many of the people with profound psychological issues were unwanted and poorly cared for. They know they were unwanted and a burden, or were raised in an institution or foster homes, or they barely survived with a depressed, dysfunctional mother.

The cost to society is enormous. The cost to such individuals and families is incalculable. I often wonder at the heightened passions about Right to Life and the under concern about the conditions of that life after birth.

Carole Light, Ph.D – Franklin, N.C.

The Making of a Nation

Centuries ago nations or territories were gotten by the force of those who were the powerful against those who were the weakest. The world seemed to be evolving towards what it was to be in the future. Land, territories were all fair game to those in power seeking riches and control. But as time passed and most lands were taken there seemed a settling of sorts, where most nations were satisfied with who and what they had become. Holding back the desire to force their will upon others seemed brief, because there are those in power who always seem unsatisfied with their own boundaries and wanting more – not more for their nation but more for themselves and their selfish desires. These powerful people always persuade through promises of anything that would get them what they want, and as today, many buy into anything that is promised them. There are many nations and people who fall into the deceptions of the powerful who become dictators once supported, but now feared. Histories past and present display pain placed upon their own citizens. Germany, Russia, China, most of Asia's murdering and enslaving their own people, and within our own hemisphere, Cuba, areas of S. America, and recently Venezuela, which was once a prosperous nation but now has a 90% poverty rate and people are suffering. All that was promised has dissolved, yet the powerful remain untouched from their own undoings. I've often wondered why leadership seems unsatisfied even with all the riches they've acquired? Why is it they seek complete dominance?

We ourselves were a nation and a people that refused to have

such an attitude or mindset. We were different in that we didn't look to a king or dictator to lead our nation into the future, the memories of self-centered leadership leaving people with no freedoms of directing their own lives left bitter memories. We were the first of nations to be self governing in "We the People," and directing ourselves in a unifying respect of freedom and love towards each other and humanity as a whole. This task hasn't been without pain or cost nor can it ever be totally achieved, but is strived towards a goal set before us. If there's to be any continued effort of justice, truthfulness, fairness, acceptance, this cannot be found within the annals of humanity, even in the best of our Constitution man twists or ignores its meaning to benefit himself. What man seeks can only be found outside of mankind. God, is what man can never be, for He is all that is good, just and true. He gives life, but more, He himself is Life, which gives beyond man's temporary life. He gives a freedom beyond man's freedom which often turns to bondage. The building of a nation depends on what people build their lives upon, building in the hope of mankind gives you what we already have? Building a trust in God gives a hope that goes far beyond all hopes of mankind. Re-thinking life,

DeniShepard – nds13@frontier.com

The protection of the laws

The anti-abortion law enacted by Texas appears strong and worrisome. But, is it really strong? This major question lingers: Where will the "bounty money" come from? The Fourteenth Amendment may be relevant. It states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the protection of the laws."

Somewhere in the Fourteenth Amendment there must be a legal basis to challenge the Texas law. Read it once more. Then decide what you think about the law itself cast up against the Constitution. Each of us has feelings about the abortion controversy. But, we must follow the Constitution or amend it.

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

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

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School board has wrong foundation for decisions

After attending the Macon County school board meeting Monday night, I was reminded why America has been trending in the wrong direction. Unfortunately, a majority of school board members voted to continue requiring children to suffocate in masks which cause countless, verifiable, unintended consequences. It is now obvious they are setting a double standard requiring innocent kids to wear masks while they themselves do not wear a muzzle except to keep up appearances. We all have become too comfortable with the monkey show of masks ON, masks OFF anywhere we go. We should not be teaching our kids fear and hypocrisy. However, there is a growing number of people who are beginning to side with the countless doctors and scientists who are speaking against this complete nonsense. Just last week, over 3,000 doctors and scientists signed a declaration accusing Covid policy makers of crimes against humanity. 3k is a large group, but there are many more other experts in their medical fields who oppose the mainstream narrative. Kathy McGaha should take notice.

The school board seems to want what is best for the kids, but they are not upholding freedom and common sense at this all-important local level because they are ultimately afraid. Afraid of being labeled. Afraid of being blamed. Afraid of the truth. Afraid of uncertainty. This is the fear that has ruled for nearly two years because we allow it to infect our decision-making instead of seeing the bigger picture of reality. The truth can be right in front of us, but we fail to comprehend it simply because it is easier to believe a bigger lie than to have the courage to go against the collectivist groupthink. That is why a cultured society like Germany could descend into barbarism so quickly in the 1930s. Hitler was quoted as saying, "What good fortune for governments that people do not think." History repeats itself, but I digress.

When it comes to the statistical gymnastics of case numbers, quarantine days, and keeping students at school instead of remote learning, we are working off a completely false premise thinking we can effectively manage the spread of germs when a virus will do whatever a virus will do regardless of our futile attempts to superficially declare war on it. A school board member even admitted that her father died from COVID after staying at home AND being vaccinated. If that is where we are at, then masks certainly will not be beneficial just as the CDC admitted in an extensive study in May of 2020. This father dying is a tragedy for sure. All of us have learned that life is fragile and none of us are guaranteed tomorrow no matter the lies that the anti-science bureaucrats and media feed us. Sure, we can take precautions for things, but why become obsessed just because we are told to be obsessed with deceptive statistics? Naturally, it is impossible for most folks to make rational decisions amidst the current degree of the uninformed.

In case we haven't noticed, there is a war for the soul of America on multiple fronts, but the vast majority of people do not realize who the enemy is. History teaches us that stirring conflict and confusion is the oldest trick in government's playbook. Today, the flow of information and free speech has been attacked like never before in our nation's history, yet there are simpleton do-gooders (who might be otherwise intelligent) like a recent doctor who wrote into this opinions section that "misinformation is dangerous." How noble and virtuous this person is (LOL) to be so concerned that people cannot think for themselves when told blatant lies from the Marxists he supports. Critical thinkers and defenders of freedom don't give a rat's ass what kind of credentials someone has behind their name if they are merely regurgitating obvious un-American drivel that has no place in a free society. Just look how crooked the Pope is. Only idiots would believe his unbiblical and socialist heresy, yet uninformed people follow him blindly

because he is a figurehead. What is truly dangerous is America being too apathetic to stand for truth and the silencing of genuine debate on issues that affect our daily lives. History is littered with groupthink being totally wrong. Just ask Galileo, Martin Luther, Magellan, and Ron Paul who were all proven right despite their "misinformation." Covid survival rate for ages 0-19 is 99.997%. At school, kids are allowed mask breaks. Does the virus take a break then too? What about when kids are playing sports or attending other events without masks? Do viruses not get transmitted during recreation? Is our immune system now a conspiracy theory according to the mainstream? The Fauci minions of the world are spreading misinformation with constant flip flops, and facts prove it. Apparently, the school board and local health department do not comprehend these simple realities. Or worse, they do understand yet suppress their conscience out of fear.

So, when it comes to society wearing masks because the number salads tell the decision makers they should trust in masks, when will we admit that we cannot control a virus any more than we can control climate change (another conflict that the ruling elite will get us ginned up over)? I encourage the naysayers and school board members to google search 1.) Covid Charts CNN Forgot, 2.) "Off Guardian Your Covid Cribsheet," 3.) www.covidchartsquiz.com, 4.) Youtube videos of Dr. Peter McCullough and 5.) Frontline Doctors. Research the success stories of other states that do not require masks vs. states that do require masks in schools. Even the mainstream charts (that you supposedly trust) are essentially the same proving masks do not work. Duh!

Fortunately, there are many people waking up to the goat rodeo and joining the freedom movement while no one with all the facts available today is abandoning freedom for the lies.

While it is sad that our local school board is unable to recognize that statistics and tests can be faulty, manipulated, inconsistent, and downright wrong, especially when considering unintended consequences, they are merely acting as most humans would in their positions without searching out truth apart from the charade that we are all following. We would do well to learn from ancient Israel's terrible leaders in Isaiah 9:16-17 and 10:1. I'm sure these school board folks have good intentions, but so does the road to hell. At least Tommy Cabe understands this situation and voted against masks. We need more like him. Have we learned nothing from the facts that are finally trickling out about this virus hysteria? Apparently not if we are still trusting the wrong resources that come from obviously corrupted sources. This, and many other conflicts, is what happens when we allow state and federal intrusion into our lives instead of keeping it real and keeping it local. It's time to get a backbone and stand for truth instead of chasing moving goal posts! Stop kowtowing to inconsistency and unrealistic narratives! Parents should decide what is best for their children and not the government. There is another old cliché that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Just ask the Germans whose excuse was that they were just following orders.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

Voter ID law declared unconstitutional – again

North Carolina again made the national news. But not in a good way. After a three-week trial, a panel of N.C. Superior Court judges ruled that the N.C. Voter ID law was racially discriminatory and unconstitutional. This is the second time in five years that the N.C. Voter ID law has been struck down by the courts for similar reasons. In 2016, a U.S. appeals court found that the law targeted African Americans "with almost surgical precision." The most recent ruling stated that the law "was motivated at least in part by an unconstitutional intent." They cited a 2015 study that found

GILLESPIE

Continued from
page 10

> Amend, effective December 1, 2021, various statutes governing confidentiality of personnel records of governmental employees to provide the public access to the date and a general description of each demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, and dismissal in addition to each promotion. The bill would also require each affected governmental employer to adopt policies to allow employees to challenge the wording of the general descriptions. The House voted 98-0 to not concur with the Senate version of the bill and a conference committee has been appointed.

The House held no-vote sessions on Thursday and Friday Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 27-28. T

Wednesday's House session convened at 10 a.m. and the following legislation was considered:

– SB85, Allow Vision Service Plans, would allow hospital service corporations authorized under Article 65 of Chapter 58 to offer vision service plans. The bill would make changes to the insurance laws by defining any nonprofit corporation authorized under the Article that operates any dental, health care, medical, or vision service plan, as a "hospital service corporation." SB85 passed by unanimous vote, 92-0.

– SB183, Begin Modernizing Ignition Interlock Laws, in its third edition would:

- Amend certain driving privilege restrictions.
 - Allow an individual who owns multiple vehicles to designate certain vehicles for operation with an ignition interlock system.
 - Expand the current waiver for undue financial hardship to equip a vehicle with a required ignition interlock system.
 - Create a study on expanded uses and supervision of ignition systems. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 84-8.
- SB695, Various Education Changes, in its third edition would provide the following:
- Exempt school administrators from certain licensure requirements.
 - Authorize local school administrative units to use payroll deduction plans to pay 10-month employees in 12-month installments.
 - Change the date for reporting on student meal debt.
 - Authorize public school units to hold State funds in local bank accounts for up to three business days after the date of drawing on the State funds before making a final disbursement to the ultimate payee. The bill passed, 92-0.

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

at least 5.9% of registered voters lacked identification and that 9.6% of Black voters "lacked acceptable ID" compared to 4.5% of White voters under a previous elections bill.

So, once again, our General Assembly has been smacked down by the courts. There are similar N.C. Voter ID cases pending in the federal and state courts and members of the majority party of the General Assembly have vowed to appeal this most recent ruling and to continue the other pending cases.

And all of this is happening as the General Assembly is in the process of redrawing the lines for the 2022 elections based on recent U.S. Census data. North Carolina has a long history of litigation regarding redistricting and especially concerning racial discrimination in redistricting. Indeed, N.C. has had more litigation over this issue than any other state. It has ultimately led to U.S. Supreme Court cases interpreting racial discrimination with respect to redistrict under the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause and under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Does anyone want to make a bet that the redistricting decisions being made this year will NOT result in multiple lawsuits?

Did you vote for Kevin Corbin and Karl Gillespie to go to Raleigh and waste time and your money? Ask them how much money the General Assembly has spent in legal fees and costs over these matters. And ask them if we could have made better use for these millions of dollars.

Gary St. Arnauld – Franklin, N.C.

Homeowner carries on log cabin legacy; opens home to former owners

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

At one time, the log cabin was the primary dwelling in Western North Carolina. Plenty of available lumber facilitated the architectural style. Yet, even in modern times, the log cabin remains a popular design. Craig Duncan's half-century-old cabin is proof that even in modernity the style is a viable residential option.

Perched on a summit just off Highlands Road, Duncan's log cabin was visited in 2019 by the son and grandson of the original builders.

"I was working in the yard and an SUV pulled up with a family in it," said Duncan, an Atlanta, Ga.-based interior designer who spends part of each week at the Macon County cabin. "David Andrews got out and introduced himself and

said he grew up in the cabin and explained that his family moved from Macon County to Arizona. We walked around the house and he showed his dad the house through Facetime on the phone."

Duncan connected so well with the former owners' son that he invited the family back to stay in the cabin during this year's Thanksgiving. "It will be special for him and for me to know that he can enjoy the log home where he once lived."

He added, "I love knowing that the former owners who built the log cabin have seen it and are happy with how it's been maintained and how it's continuing to be viable as a home for future generations," said Duncan.

Duncan purchased the 1,200-square-foot log cabin in 2014 from his father, Donald Duncan, who had lived in it previously but who purchased another home in Macon County. "I fell in love with it right away," said Duncan.

Although the log home's foundation as well as exposed log walls and ceiling made of local white pine were "solid," Duncan decided to update the cabin using local, skilled craftspeople, local woods, and other area supplies. When upstairs pipes burst in 2018, the logs continued to hold firm with little-to-no-damage, but the kitchen and dining area, especially, needed another renovation.

"All along, I wanted to add touches, but not lose the integrity of the original log home," said Duncan.

Some distinct details include hand-collected river rock on the floor of the master bedroom shower and in the kitchen's backsplash. Wide-plank oak floors were refinished. A new roof was added. Some walls of exposed logs were painted and some walls were covered



Craig Duncan enjoys the fresh air, light, and view afforded him on his log cabin's back porch, added in the 1980s.



Log cabins, prevalent as an architectural choice since the 1700s in Macon County, are viable as housing options even today.

with sheet rock in order to establish contrast inside the home. Tongue and groove planks exist between the exposed ceiling logs.

A large stone fireplace displays a collection of local pottery and face jugs, one of which was purchased at the Bascom in Highlands. "I'm also a big local auction person, and when the Franklin Auction House was in business, I was able to purchase seven original signed Charley Harper lithographs of woodland creatures," said Duncan. "And, in the kitchen I have a wall display of antique red barn paintings."

On the fireplace-flanking, built-in bookshelves, constructed by Duncan's father, are not only books but antique porcelain platters and more pottery.

Although Duncan has provided his interior design expertise for a makeover at Ms. Lois' Restaurant in Franklin

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and for occasional clients in the Cashiers or Highlands' areas, he said the purpose of maintaining the log home is to have a place to truly relax and enjoy the seasonal beauty of the mountains. "It's a getaway, and I want people to know that log cabins were wonderful as homes years ago and they work as homes today," he said.

He recommended that anyone purchasing a log home avoid "dressing it up too much or making it look too modern ... to not make it something that it's not." He refers to his cabin's decorating style as "modern cabin grandma/comfortable southern."

And, since many log cabin designs tend to be dark, he suggested letting as much light penetrate through windows as possible instead of covering them with heavy window treatments – and using lighter fabrics and colors inside.

A large window in the living room area enables Duncan to see the mountains from the sitting "nook,"



Craig Duncan's log home's fireplace mantle displays his collection of antique pottery and face jugs found locally.

and a covered porch added in the 1980s is a well-used outdoor room with comfortable seating and an expansive mountain view.



David Andrews, who was a young boy in the 1970s when his grandfathers, Jack Andrews and Lowell Emenhiser, built his family's log cabin, revisited the home in 2019 and will stay there with his family during this year's Thanksgiving holiday.



Light textiles and accessories choices as well as windows free from heavy treatments enable this almost half-century log cabin to appear more spacious and open.

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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 Sept. 25 - Oct. 2. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

September 27

Garry McKinney, was charged with driving under the influence. David Blanton made the arrest.

September 28

Bryan C. Cochran, was charged with communicating threats. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Gina Rene Breedlove, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

September 29

Patrick Joseph Bayles, was charged with driving while impaired. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Thomas Howard Giesy, was charged with probation violation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Tristan Justice Davis, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, assault with a deadly weapon on law enforcement officer, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer and flee/elude arrest. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Patricia Ann Geiger-Morgan, was charged with simple assault. Joel Lynch made the arrest.

September 30

Clarissa Anne Smith, was charged with failure to appear for a felony. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Roy Lee Hurst Jr., was charged with indecent liberties with a child. Mike Langley Sr. made the arrest.

Jacqueline Helena Kidd, was charged with child support en-

forcement contempt.

Dustin Bo Rodmaker, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Kendra Elizabeth Arbelo, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Joseph Matthew Nesbit, was charged with communicating threats. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Arturo Javier Sole, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of heroin. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Nicholas Harley Cleaves, was charged with assault by pointing a gun, assault on another person in presence of a minor, communicating threats and resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Jay Wright made the arrest.

October 1

Jamie Daniel Baxley, was charged with aggravated assault. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

October 2

Carl Kenneth Floyd, was issued an indictment for sell/deliver heroin. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

September 25

Jacqueline Helana Kidd, 36, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$21,000 was set.

September 26

Denton Eugene Mathis, 52, was charged with communicating threats. A \$2,000 bond was set.

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with intoxicated and disruptive in public, second degree trespass and littering. A \$2,000 bond was set.

September 27

Dakota Charles Mathis, 28, was issued warrant service. No bond was set.

September 28

James Daniel York, 56, was charged with indecent exposure. A \$250 bond was set.

September 29

Brian Loren Thomas, 38, was issued an order for arrest for

indictment for possession of methamphetamine. A \$2,800 bond was set.

September 30

Jason Jay Spurgeon, 40, was charged with trafficking marijuana by possession, trafficking marijuana by transportation, maintaining a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and rear lamps violation. A \$50,000 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

September 27

Patrick Dewitt Parris, 57, of Cat Creek Estate, Franklin, was issued a warrant for arrest for methamphetamine. No bond.

Michael James Bailey, 34, of Duckback Trail, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for animal control ordinance violation. A \$500 bond was set.

September 28

Whisper Nicole Cogdill, 28, of Pee Wee Branch, was charged with misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Charles Michael Nash, 33, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was issued a true bill of indictment for break or enter of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Jacob Neal Wilnoty, 26, of Ike Swimmer Rd., Cherokee, was issued an indictment for aggravated felony, serious injury by a motor vehicle and second degree murder without regard. A secured bond of \$500,000 was set.

September 29

Piper Ann Betances, 39, of Audubon Trail, Cashiers, was charged with obtain property by false pretense, forgery of instrument and identity theft. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Steven Cody Moore, 29, of Fishers Creek, was charged with financial card fraud, attempt to obtain property by false pretense and identity theft. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Shawn Littlebull Standingdeer, 35, of Aspen Dr., was charged with indecent liberties with a child. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

David Ray Sims, 46, of Grassy Creek Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill/inflct serious injury. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Travis Lee Collins, 43, of Elizabeth Trail, Franklin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Macon County Writers Club will meet on Oct. 5, 1 p.m., at the library in the big room. Bring your stories. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information contact jsteeley@dnet.net

Franklin Women's Club will meet on Friday, Oct. 8, at Fat Buddies restaurant in Westgate Plaza for a "purse auction." Patty Priester will be the auctioneer. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at (828)421-0411. For more information about the club, call Joyce Wood at (828)349-4440.

Barkin' with Bartram Dog-friendly Hike will be held on Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The hike will begin at Appletree Campground in north Macon County on the Bartram Trail and hike approximately 4 miles round trip. The Bartram Trail parallels the Nantahala river on this section. The hike will be led by board member and dog whisperer, Jill Shuckert-Osborne.

Bartram Trail Second Saturday Work Day will be held on Oct. 9 at Wallace Branch, 1719 Ray Cove Rd. These work trips are in partnership with the Macon County STEM program and are part of youth recruitment strategy for the paid 2022 Youth Conservation Corp Summer crews. All volunteers are welcome and needed.

Death Cafe will be held on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 to 4 p.m. Join Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT, for a group-directed conversation where you can share your fears, tears, laughter, curiosity, creativity, and stories related to death and dying/life and living. For more information, call Jan at (510)684-5555 or visit www.deathcafe.com.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center will be Saturday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. at the center, 336 Living Hope Way. Worship and a message from the word and testimony. Please wear a mask coming in and as you leave and when you socialize. For more information about the program go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Otto Community Development Organization's Macon Sheriff's Canine Unit Demonstration will be rescheduled for Monday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m., outdoors at the Otto Community Building, 65 Firehouse Lane, in Otto (just north of the Otto P.O. off Hwy 441). The event is free and open to all Otto residents and visitors. www.go2ottonc.com.

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet for a light dinner Tuesday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m., at the Post Home located at 614 W. Main St., with the regular meetings following the meal at 7 p.m. All members and military veterans are encouraged to attend as drawings for the three items raffled at the Macon County Fair will be held and the winners notified by telephone.

The Gem Country Republican Women's Club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies BBQ Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Brent Holbrooks, candidate for Sheriff of Macon County. Also, this is the kick-off meeting for the new Fall fundraiser. All Republican women are cordially invited to attend.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 13 and 27, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the sings. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Library the Macon County Public Library is displaying a pictorial and written history of the organization through the end of the year. The library is located at 148 Siler Farm Rd., in Franklin.

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

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

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

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

Slow Spokes Franklin, a bicycle riding group, meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m., at Tasse Shelter on Ulco Dr. Join them for a casual ride on the Greenway. For more information, call (828)371-4925.

Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. While allowing play without masks, current regulations require all players to be fully vaccinated. For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email LarryRNoyes@gmail.com

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday Oct. 10 Service, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Scott Eichelberger will continue his message as part of his series on Genesis. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828) 369-7977.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. Nancy McGimsey will share on "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is beginning inquiry classes for those interested in learning about the Catholic faith beginning Monday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. Deacon David Ramsey will be leading the classes. Masks are required. Snacks will be provided. For information, call (828)524-2289.

Memorial United Methodist Church has joyful worship services in person and on Facebook at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Masks are required for indoor services. We have communion the first Sunday of each month. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd. (across from Loafers Glory). The pastor is Evan W. Hill. For more information, call (828)369-5834.

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

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

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

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

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

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

S	T	A	P	H	I	D	O	S	M	O	G
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'Tales from Hadrian's Wall' author to present new book at the library

Author and Macon County resident Jim Kautz will be presenting his newest book Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room.

In "Tales from Hadrian's Wall, Kautz details his 10-day walk with his son along the historic Hadrian's Wall Path. Told through the eyes of two enthusiastic travelers, this compelling travel narrative through moors and pastures and over mountainous crags provides an intimate glimpse at the pair's once-in-a-lifetime experience. Along the way, they learn about English culture and explore the marvels of nature, history, and family.

Told with keen observations and light-hearted humor, Kautz describes the wonders of this important but largely neglected part of England. At the same time, he highlights the pleasures of long-distance walking and the irreplaceable experience of bonding with his son.

Call the library at (828)524-3600 to register for attendance with Kristina Moe, or email kmoe@fontanalib.org



Jim Kautz has authored a book about walking Hadrian's Wall Path in England with his son.

Input sought on Nikwasi Mound and cultural district

The public is asked to help envision the future of the Noquisiyi Cultural District by taking a survey for input on the design of the area surrounding the Noquisiyi Mound in Franklin, N.C. Noquisiyi (later interpreted as Nikwasi) means Star Place. It is a Cherokee townsite that is sacred and significant place to many. Noquisiyi is adjacent to the Little Tennessee River. The town's meeting house once rose over the landscape, built atop the mound. Today, Noquisiyi Mound, the settlement's only surviving landmark, rises as a gateway to Western North Carolina.

The Noquisiyi Cultural District will be a place for Cherokee to tell their story and will provide green space and economic opportunity. It is envisioned to be a collective site with diverse offerings that reflect the past, present, and future culture of Cherokee. It will be a national example of how communities can build cross-cultural bridges. The district will be a gateway and cultural center to far Western North Carolina and to the 60-mile Cherokee Cultural Corridor, which celebrates and interprets the understanding of Cherokee landmarks and sites.

The public's feedback will guide the next stage of planning for the Noquisiyi Cultural District which is led by Equinox, a planning and landscape architecture firm from Asheville. Equinox is working with Eastern Band of Cherokee Advisors, and a leadership team under the Nikwasi Initiative to guide the process. The Nikwasi Initiative will also host several virtual public meetings in November. Visit www.nikwasi-initiative.org.

How to take the survey

The survey asks for feedback on the Noquisiyi Cultural Dis-



The Nikwasi Mound interpretive kiosk provides detailed information about the ancient mound and a way of life that once existed in Franklin.

trict vision and how to honor the importance of the Noquisiyi Mound as the heart of the district. The public has options for how to take the survey, including an online survey. An online survey can be taken by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/Noquisiyi>. This survey should take 2-5 minutes to complete. Paper surveys are available locally at Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin.

For an emailed copy, questions or for more information, contact Elaine Eisenbraun at 828.226.7523 or via email at elaine@nikwasi-initiative.org.

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Donnie Clay, Coordinator for Pickin' on the Square



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Deaths & Funerals

Alberta May Carter

Alberta May Carter, 77, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday Sept. 23, 2021. She was born May 1, 1944, in Palmer, Mass., to the late Evelyn Morris and Albert Warren Mack and adopted by John Marusinski.

After moving to Florida, she first worked in a sewing factory then she worked and retired from The Florida State Department of Health, first in personnel in St. Petersburg, then as an Administrative Secretary for the division of Environmental Health in Clearwater.

She moved to the mountains after retirement with her husband, Harold, who enjoyed bee keeping and harvesting honey to sell at the local Farmer's Market. She continued with her love of sewing and was introduced to a whole new family in the quilting community. From her many classes, retreats and sewing days with friends she shared her love of family, fabrics, and chipmunks! Her enthusiasm and joy will be missed by many in the quilting community. She loved her great grandchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family, and friends dearly. She was loved by many.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Harold Charles Carter of Franklin; two daughters, Cathy Ann Adkins of Franklin and Debra Ann Schramel (David) of New Port Richey, Fla.; a son, John Charles Carter of Franklin; four grandchildren, Anthony Damon Black (Tyler Jeane), Jeffery David Schramel (Chastity), Mary Alice Schramel (Timothy), Joshua Lee Adkins (Alexa); three great grandchildren, Grady Alan Black, Kayne Allen Adkins, Lennon Alexandria Black; and a sister, Evelyn Cinq-Mars.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Jeffery Charles Carter, and her three siblings, Warren Albert Mack, Robert Morris and Lorraine Blackwood.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:30 till 2 p.m., prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Kidney Foundation or Diabetes Association of your choice in her name.

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

James Henry Verran Sr.

James Henry Verran Sr., 91, passed away Sept. 28, 2021. He was born in Akron, Ohio, on March 15, 1930.

He served in the U.S. Army as well as the U.S. Air Force. He was a school teacher and later received his building contractor's license.

He loved building houses of which he built many in his lifetime. He also enjoyed renovating homes. To say he loved his work in an understatement. He loved to be busy at work.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary; his three children, James Jr., Robert Mark and Ann Marie; and one granddaughter, Rebecca.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



Alberta May Carter



James Henry Verran Sr.

Roger Austin Brabson

It is with great sadness that the family of Roger Austin Brabson announces his passing after a brief illness on Sept. 29, 2021. He was born on May 26, 1951, the son of Anna Mae Buchanan Brabson and Harry A. Brabson.

He was known as a master carpenter who took great pride in his craftsmanship. What he lacked in formal education he made up for with on-the-job learning. He was bright, learned easily, and went on to teach others. He was also interested in genealogy and could recall dates and family history effortlessly.

Some of the best things about Roger were his kindness, his genuine concern for others, and his great love for his family, especially his children and his grandchildren. He and his wife, Pauline, were married for 49 years. He liked saying he had only fibbed once to Pauline during all their years of marriage when he fell off his diet and ate a cheeseburger which led to a confession when his conscience got the better of him.

He was friendly and never met a stranger. He loved conversation. He teased him that he talked so much in the grocery store everything in the cart melted before they even checked out. He liked to keep up with what others were really thinking by reading the newspaper section, "Rants and Raves," which gave him plenty to think about and also to talk about. He had three little dogs to entertain him, and he was especially fond of his rooster who he claimed could speak. He loved telling he could hear his rooster say, "Let me out of here, Mr. Brabson!"

His Christian faith was very important to him. He was a deep thinker who liked to study scriptures and break down difficult passages so that he could understand their meanings.

Left with many wonderful memories are his wife, Pauline Ray Brabson; his children, David Brabson (Kim) of Franklin, N.C., Angela Brabson of Tuckasee, N.C. and Amanda Stacy (Stuart) also of Franklin; his grandchildren, William, Elizabeth, and Patrick; his siblings, James Brabson (Jane) of Asheville, N.C., Jerry Brabson, JoAnn Brabson Bateman (Eddie), and Nathan Brabson (Toni) all of Franklin; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

Freda Brewer Owens

Freda Brewer Owens, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021.

She was born in Macon County to the late Thomas Eugene Brewer and Hazel Irene Henry.

She adored her family and was the caregiver for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Gene Owens; children, Ashley Owens, and Meagan Rogers (Eric); siblings, Shelby Rhodes (Richard), Kenneth Brewer (Peggy), Rick Brewer (Sherry) and Rochelle Reed (Donny); grandchildren, Cooper, Madelaine, and Sophie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A service will be held Sunday, Oct. 10, at 3 p.m. at Macon Funeral Home Chapel. Danny Antoine will officiate.

Honorary pallbearers will be Chris Brewer, Justin Brewer, Jake Brewer, Jeb Brewer, Donny Reed, Billy Rhodes, and Richard Rhodes.

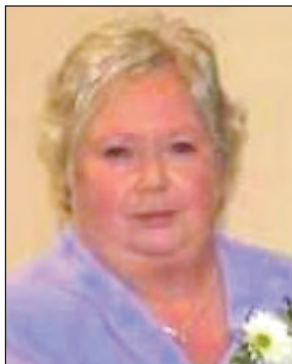
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Davita Dialysis in Franklin at 80 Westgate Plz, Franklin, NC 28734-1422

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

Macon Funeral Home will handle the arrangements.



Roger Austin Brabson



Freda Brewer Owens

Corinne Davis Carlton

Corinne Davis Carlton, 93 of Otto, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.

She was born in Fulton, Ga., to the late Henry Grady Davis and Florence Ernest Davis. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Gibson Carlton Jr; siblings, Evelyn Fuss, Harold Davis, Geraldine Betsill, Blanche Chatham, and Charlotte Head; and grandson, Chase Carlton.

Before moving to North Carolina, she was a member of Skyview Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School, was a member of the choir, and sang alto in the quartet called the Christian Quartet. She was an avid reader and enjoyed writing poetry and telling the history and stories about her family.

She is survived by children, Debbie Chastain (Jerry); "Chip" Craig Carlton (Carol); brother, Douglas Davis (Betty); grandchildren, Chad Carlton (Ariel), Suzanne Chastain Hall (Tony), Christopher Chastain (Tami); great grandchildren, Zachary and Charley Chastain, Chance, Corinne, Renee and Colt Carlton; sister-in-law, Mary (Mickey) Carlton; and several nieces and nephews.

A service was held at Macon Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Burial followed at Crest Lawn Memorial Park in Atlanta, Ga.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Prentiss Church of God Building Fund.

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

Macon funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Regenald Frank Lightsey

Regenald Frank Lightsey, 90, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021.

Born in Williston, Fla., he was the son of the late Rufus Frank and Mary Virginia Colson Lightsey. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Richard Benton Lightsey, a sister, Virginia Fay Lightsey and a brother, Elmer Warner Lightsey.

He was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Crossville, Tenn., and taught the senior adults Sunday school class. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, and spending time with family.

He retired from the United States Marine Corp as a Captain; he proudly served and was a Vietnam veteran. After retiring from Marine Corp, he went on to serve for many years with the Sumter County, Florida Sheriff's Department.

He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Ruth Frances Crossan Lightsey, of Franklin; daughter, Janice Evelyn Benton and husband, John of Franklin; and two sons, James Frank Lightsey and wife, Venita of Livingston, Tenn., and Clayton Neal Lightsey and wife, Cindy-Lou of Crossville, Tenn.; 14 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home. Brother Danny Staggs will officiate. The family respectfully asks that masks be worn.

In lieu of flower, donations can be made to VVA Chapter 994, 249 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC 28734; or Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Floor 17 Chicago, IL 60601, as well as Four Seasons Hospice, 571 S. Allen Rd. Flat Rock, NC 28731

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Corinne Davis Carlton



Regenald Lightsey



Deaths & Funerals

James Alexander Dendy

James Alexander Dendy, 61, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021. He was the son of the late Joseph and Lena Crane Dendy.

He loved being outdoors gardening and fishing. He was a beloved partner, father, grandfather, and brother.

He is survived by his life partner of 27 years, Janet Hall; daughters, Oliva Dendy of Highlands, and Denise (Jairo) Espinal of Highlands; five grandchildren, Jocelyn, Mykeal, Ashley and Alyssa Espinal and Iylla Dendy;

brother, Jay R. Dendy of Otto, N.C.; niece, Jennifer McKinnon Dendy; nephew, Jason (Tracy) Dendy; aunt, Evelyn Picklesimer and uncle, Ernest Crane.

Graveside services were held on Monday, Oct. 4, at Mt. Moriah Cemetery with Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Pallbearers were Michael Maddox, Isaac Crane, Shane Dendy, Shannon Dendy, DeWayne Picklesimer, Jason Dendy and Mykeal Espinal.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is serving the Dendy Family.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Robert (Bob) Joseph Smith

Robert (Bob) Joseph Smith, 82, passed into Glory on Aug. 24, 2021, in Carrollton, Texas.

Long time residents of Macon County, Bob and Virginia owned Lullwater Retreat in Franklin, N.C., for 25 years, hosting Christian retreats, camps and family reunions. He was a graduate of University of Florida and served in the United States Air Force as a civil engineer.

Serving God and families were his foundational motivators in life.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Virginia Fouts Smith; daughter, Anna Vickers (Jon); and son, Mark Smith; as well as eight grandchildren, three sisters, their spouses, nieces and nephews and their families.

He was an elder at Community Bible Church, Highlands, where a memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m.

Memorials may be sent to Samaritan's Purse, one of his favorite charities.

Kaleb Leavy Pitts

Kaleb Leavy Pitts, infant son of Kevin and Jenny Pitts, went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, surrounded by his loving family.

Kaleb is survived by his parents, Kevin Allen Pitts and Jennifer Saucier Pitts of Otto, N.C.; his sisters who adored him, Kenzie, Olivia, and Caroline Pitts, of the home; paternal grandparents, Ralph and Gail Pitts of Franklin, N.C.; maternal grandparents, Lester Saucier and Vicki Gutierrez both of Louisiana; and great grandmother, Hilda Garrity of Louisiana; four uncles, Ben Saucier and Paul Saucier of Louisiana, David Saucier of Mississippi, and Andrew Pitts of Florida.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 9, at 4 p.m., at Cowee Baptist Church with Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Chris Ciuffo officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Abel Speaks, 10011 N. Central Expy #3005, Dallas, TX 75231.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Emmanuel William Carrion

Some things are just difficult to believe. On Sept. 25, 2021, the passing of Emmanuel William Carrion, also known as Manny, is one of those. He was unforgettable, larger than life. He honestly never met a stranger and left a memory with everyone he met.

He was born on March 22, 1979, to William and Susan Anne LaPlante Carrion. He loved his family and embraced being Puerto Rican from the time he was a small boy. As a catcher in little league his friends called him "The Puerto Rican Missile" because of the way he could throw out any runner trying to steal. He was athletic excelling in baseball and football in High School and always wanted to be the best.

He was bighearted and generous. He loved being the one to pick up the bill at a restaurant. Many times he would invite his family or friends to Miami Dolphins or Atlanta Braves games and surprise them with great seats. It pleased him to be able to spoil his family with trips and kind gestures. He absolutely enjoyed taking care of those he loved.

He loved to make people laugh, it's one of the parts of his personality that made people want to be with him. He was able to make time disappear so that the last visit of months ago seemed like only yesterday. No one ever had to wonder what he was thinking because he was more than happy to speak his mind. Manny liked to pretend he had a tough guy image, when he really was tender hearted and just a powder puff.

He loved the sea and spent lots of time on the water "catching" with his family and friends. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting as well as fresh water or salt water fishing. Closer to home, he liked a good game of corn hole with Chase and his dad.

Manny was a hard worker. He owned Carrion Tree Service in Hiawasse, Ga., and in Bradenton, Fla., since 2009. He also owned The Sand Bar in Hiawasse. While he lived in Townes County, Georgia, he was very active in the Chamber of Commerce, community and youth sports leagues. He was civic-minded and once donated 90 turkeys to Care-Net to help feed hungry families.

Manny was an active member of Bayside Church in West Bradenton. Knowing his relationship with his Savior and the promise of a Heavenly reunion helps bring peace to his family even though his big presence as the oldest child in his loving close knit family is irreplaceable. His impact on people who knew him and have told their stories since his passing has been a great comfort to those who loved him best.

Left with many wonderful memories of Manny and the life he lived is his wife, Jill Hayden Carrion; and his children, Morgan Michelle Van Hoogen, Chase William Carrion, Taylor Lynne Carrion, and Price William Carrion all of Bradenton; his parents, Willie and Sue Carrion; and his siblings, Rebecca Jenkins (Red), Isaac Carrion (Bridget), Sarah Holbrooks (Brent) all of Franklin, and Benjamin Carrion (Kelly) of Durham, N.C.; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service for family members only celebrating Emmanuel's life will be held Oct. 9, at LifeSpring Community Church. Rev. Bryon Lamb, Rev. Ben Windle, Rev. Jason Smith, and Red Jenkins will officiate with music by Jim Byrd. The service will be broadcast live via LifeSpring Community Church, Franklin, NC, Facebook page beginning at 11 a.m.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is serving the family.

Online condolences at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



Emmanuel Carrion

Billy Lee Sowards

Billy Lee Sowards, 82, passed away Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021. He was born in Lincoln County, West Virginia, on Dec. 21, 1938, to the late Harry Sowards and Ruth Stowers Sowards. He was married to the late Ina Whittington Sowards who preceded him April 22, 2006. He was retired from the U.S. Navy after many years of service. He was of the Baptist faith. He loved reading and studying the Bible.

Survivors include his daughter, Cheryl Sowards of Franklin, N.C.; two sons, Father Mike Sowards of Pennsylvania, and Wil Anderson of Maggie Valley, N.C.; one sister, Sue Coulter of West Virginia; eight half brothers and sisters; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

A military service was held Monday, Oct. 4, in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Father William M. Sowards and Mrs. Brianna Hess officiating. Burial will Oct. 12 at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Fla.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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

Sonia Bibeau

Sonia Bibeau, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Aug. 2, 2021. She was born in Winston-Salem to the late John Alexander and Elizabeth Tickle Cartner.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Marcel Bibeau; and son, John Emerson Meyer.

She loved to travel and play bridge and was a lover of all music genres.

She was Teacher of the Year at McFatter Technical Center, and was named Outstanding HOSA Advisor for the state of Florida. She earned her bachelors degree from Florida International University and was department head for the medical community at McFatter Technical Center.

She is survived by a daughter, Mary O'Connell (Charles) of New Hampshire; sons, Ashley Haskell (Mary Ann), and David Meyer both of Florida; four grandchildren, Reaney and Reagan Haskell, Katherina Meyer and Michelle Wapelhorst.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Salvation Army at www.givesalvationarmyusa.org

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Willie Eldon Bates

Willie Eldon Bates, 72, passed away Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021. Graveside services were held on Sept. 26, at Hodgin Family Cemetery.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.



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Bubba Wallace scores win in rain-shortened Talladega race

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

An opportune caution and a sudden rain shower helped make Bubba Wallace the second African-American driver ever to win a NASCAR Cup Series race.

Wallace held the lead in Monday's rain-delayed YellaWood 500 at Talladega Superspeedway when Ryan Preece turned into the outside wall off the bumper of Chris Buescher's Ford to cause the fifth caution of the event. As the cars circled under the yellow, rain drenched the 2.66-mile race track. NASCAR brought the cars to pit road on Lap 118 of a scheduled 188 – 70 laps short of a finish. After another shower thwarted track-drying attempts, NASCAR called the race and declared Wallace the winner.

Wallace is the first black driver to win a race in NASCAR's premier series since Wendell Scott took the checkered flag at Speedway Park in Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 1, 1963. It was also the first victory for 23XI Racing, a team that debuted this year with driver Denny Hamlin and Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan as co-owners. Drivers outside the respective Playoffs won all three Talladega races in NASCAR's top three divisions this week. All were first-time winners.

"Man, I'm just so proud of everyone at 23XI," Wallace said. "New team coming in and getting a win late in the season. I know a lot of history was made today, I believe, which is really cool, but it's about our guys, about our team, about what was done. I appreciate Michael Jordan, I appreciate Denny for believing in me and giving me the opportunity... It's pretty fitting that it comes here at Talladega."

Wallace was choked up when asked about the historic significance of his achievement.

"I never think about those things, and when you say it like that, it obviously brings a lot of emotions, a lot of joy to my family, fans, friends... You've got to stay true to your path and not let the nonsense get to you and stay strong, stay humble, stay hungry. There've been plenty of times when I wanted to give up. You surround yourself with the right people, and moments like this that you appreciate."

Team Penske drivers Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano improved their chances of transferring into the Round of 8 in the Playoff with second- and third-place finishes. Kurt Busch was fourth, followed by Christopher Bell, Chris Buescher, Hamlin and Kevin Harvick.

The wreck that ultimately made a winner of Wallace severely damaged the Playoff hopes of William Byron, whose Chevrolet was collected by the spinning car of Preece. Byron was relegated to 36th in the finishing order and likely will need a victory in Sunday's Bank of America Roval 400 at Charlotte to advance to the Round of 8.

"He (Preece) was just coming down the track, and I was kind of trying to run a third lane," Byron said of the wreck. "Just part of Talladega. We'll go to the Roval, try to win that one and advance that way."

Byron was the last of three Hendrick Motorsports drivers to get swept up in an accident. Kyle Larson was the first. By the time the first sudden rain shower of the day darkened the as-



Bubba Wallace, driver of the #23 McDonald's Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the rain-shortened NASCAR Cup Series YellaWood 500 at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 4, 2021 in Talladega, Ala. Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images

phalt in Turns 1 and 2 and forced a stoppage on Lap 74, Larson's fortunes already had taken a turn for the worse.

A strong push from Byron's Chevrolet turned Justin Allgaier's Camaro sideways as the cars thundered through the tri-oval on Lap 56. Allgaier shot up the track into Larson's Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, severely damaging the front suspension and the sheet metal on the driver's side of the car.

Larson was able to make minimum speed after a restart on Lap 65. The caution for the five-car wreck that crippled Larson's car also encompassed the end of Stage 1, won by non-Playoff driver Chris Buescher.

On Lap 67, Larson shredded his right front tire, which was cocked at an angle toward the outside wall when he resumed racing. He lost three laps on pit road and fell to 39th in the running order as his crew made frantic repairs.

Attrition elevated Larson to 37th at the finish, but he lost the security he had as a six-time winner in the series this year. The regular-season champion leaves Talladega second in the standings but just 22 points above the current cutoff for the Round of 8.

A multicar chain-reaction wreck after the resumption of the action brought an early end to Alex Bowman's afternoon. On Lap 98, Chase Elliott pushed the Chevrolet of Ricky Stenhouse Jr. into the rear bumper of Bowman's Chevy, turning the No. 48 Camaro into the outside wall and out of the race.

"The 9 (Elliott) just shoved me one last time there, and it got the 48 loose," Stenhouse radioed to his team.

Bowman was fighting for the race lead when he was turned

by the contact from Stenhouse's car.

"Yeah, just dumped over on the left rear and turned us around really bad," Bowman said. "Bummer for the Ally 48 team. We had a fast car; we were leading there. That's just superspeedway racing and the box that we're put in by these racetracks. You'll have that. Bummed to have torn up race car, but we'll move on and try to go win the Roval."

Kyle Busch was another victim of the Lap 98 wreck, but the two-time Cup champion remains nine points above the current cut line—tied with defending champion Chase Elliott—heading to the Round of 12 elimination race on Sunday at the Charlotte Roval.

Harvick is nine points below the cutoff, with Bell 28 points in arrears and Byron and Bowman 44 and 52 points on the outside, respectively.

As darkness falls on Talladega, Brandon Brown gets breakthrough NASCAR Xfinity win

TALLADEGA, Ala. – As he crossed the finish line under caution on a dark race track, Brandon Brown surrendered to the emotion of his first victory in the NASCAR Xfinity Series.

"Thank God," Brown exulted. "We did it. We did it. We won!"

On a day of unexpected victories at Talladega Superspeedway—a track where the unexpected sometimes seems commonplace—Brown had a narrow lead three-wide with Justin Allgaier and Brandon Jones at the previous scoring loop when NASCAR called the fifth caution of the race on Lap 102 for a multicar wreck in Turn 4.

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With darkness preventing the resumption of the race, NASCAR showed the checkered flag to Brown under yellow on Lap 107 of a scheduled 113, with Jones credited with second and Allgaier third.

Brown's excitement hadn't abated one iota by the time he got to Victory Lane.

"You can ask my neighbors at Coastal Carolina, I did plenty of burnouts to practice for this moment," said Brown, who drives for his family-owned team, Brandonbilt Motorsports. "Oh, my god. It's a dream come true. A Talladega winner. Oh my god, Dad, we did it!"

"This is everything we hoped and dreamed for. Everything I've ever wanted to do is take the trophy home to Mom and Dad. Oh, my god. Thank you so much Larry's Lemonaid... all of our partners. It's unbelievable."

Brown was a keen student of the action during the first two stages of the race, won by John Hunter Nemechek and Blaine Perkins. He noticed major changes in momentum between the top and bottom lanes at the 2.66-mile track.

"Everything shifted top to bottom so much, it was like, 'OK, let's just stay patient where we're at and hope for the best,'" Brown said. "We saw our moment and we seized it. God, I'm just so proud of Brandonbilt Motorsports and so proud of our team, here and at home and everyone that worked on our team since the beginning. We did it. We did it. We did it."

Brown, Jones and Allgaier were trading the lead three-wide when the No. 20 Toyota of Harrison Burton broke loose in Turn 4 and ignited an eight-car crash that slowed the race for the final time.

Daniel Hemric finished fourth, followed by Jordan Anderson, Justin Haley, Jeb Burton and defending series champion Austin Cindric, who clinched a spot in the Round of 8 in the Xfinity Playoff with an insurmountable points edge over ninth-place Jeb Burton.

On the final lap of the first stage, the cars of Sam Mayer and regular-season champion AJ Allmendinger collided in Turn 3, demolishing both vehicles. The No. 8 JR Motorsports Chevrolet of Mayer slammed the outside wall so heavily that NASCAR had to red-flag the race for repairs to the SAFER barrier.

Allmendinger took a heavy hit in the points, but he's still 33 above the cut line heading to next Saturday's Round of 12 elimination race at the Charlotte Roval, a track where he is expected to excel.

"That's why you work so hard during the regular season to build up bonus points," Allmendinger said after a trip to the in-field care center. "We'll see where it puts us going into the Roval... It's a minor setback in a great year."

If Allmendinger's setback was minor, the hit Noah Gragson



Brandon Brown, driver of the #68 The Original Larry's Hard Lemonade Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sparks 300 at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 2, 2021 in Talladega, Ala.

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

suffered in a Lap 88 wreck was a major one. Gragson was running at the front of the field in the inside lane when slight contact from Jeb Burton's Chevrolet to the left rear of Brett Moffitt's Camaro—after Moffitt's car had gotten loose—triggered the first major wreck of the event.

Moffitt's Chevy slid down the track into Gragson's No. 9 Camaro, which rocketed nose-first into the outside wall. As Gragson slipped back down the track, Myatt Snider—with nowhere to go—plowed into the rear of Gragson's car.

Like Allmendinger, Gragson suffered a significant blow in the standings but remained 18 points above the current cut line for the Round of 8.

"The 02 (Moffitt) just got turned by the 10 (Burton), and I got it head-on and got cleaned out by the 2 (Snider)," Gragson said. "So, just a bummer. We had a fast car."

Brown's victory was the nightcap—literally—of a Playoff doubleheader with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Earlier on Saturday, Tate Fogleman secured his first Truck Series win in the Chevrolet Silverado 250.

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21. *Pretend girlfriend, surgery, body parts
23. Monkey ____, monkey do
24. Post-it message
25. It makes a guitar louder
28. Royal Indian
30. Perfumes
35. Glorify
37. Freeway exit
39. Like today's cell phones?
40. Keen on
41. Like a confection
43. At any time
44. One of the large keys on the right
46. Greek portico
47. Common workday start
48. Former President of Egypt
50. Ancient eternal life symbol
52. *Bathtub, hacksaws, Jigsaw
53. Euphemism for "damn"
55. *Blind violinist, transplant surgery, sees ghosts, with The
57. *Hotel, mother, shower
60. *Count, bite, cross
64. Hot winter drink
65. Aye's opposite
67. Financial benefactor
68. Seize a throne
69. Headquartered in Langley
70. Exclude or omit
71. Done on a Smith Corona
72. Old age, archaic
73. 6666...

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 38. Low-ranking worker
 42. One who accepts the offer
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 57. One in a pocketful, according to Mother Goose
 58. Fish a.k.a. porgy
 59. Bygone era
 60. Two of a kind
 61. Type of operating system
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FREE LAWN CARE Estimates, \$5. Off With Ad, Yard Clean Up & Care, Mulch/Fertilizer, Pressure Washing, Gutters Cleaned. No Yard Too Large or Too Small. Bob (828)342-5273.

SHUTTLE CAR Service to Airports, Bus & Train. (305)216-7234 or (954)650-3851.

NEW CREATIONS Landscaping LLC. Landscaping Projects, Cleanup, Annual Color, Mulch, Pine Straw, Aerating, Fertilizing, Hardscapes, Steps, Retaining Walls, Grading, Gravel, Design, Grounds Maintenance and Much More! Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates (828)524-6959.

EXPERIENCED LOCAL LADY Will provide Elderly Companionship/Sitting, Day Shift. Will assist with daily living skills. Errands shopping, medications, light housework. No heavy lifting. Reference provided. Own Transportation. (828)200-1505.

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

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

Garage & Yard Sales

ANOTHER MEGA SALE! Partial Proceeds Benefit Cystic Fibrosis, Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 8am-4pm, Asbury Church across from Otto Fire Department. Halloween, Collectibles, Fall & Home Decor, Furniture and Much More! More Information Call Betsy (828)332-7192.

DEALS & STEALS Friday & Saturday, 8-4, 2594 Wells Grove Rd. Don't Miss This Huge Sale!

HOLLY SPRINGS Community Development Association, Indoor Yard Sale on October 9, 8am to noon at the community building located at 2720 Cat Creek Road. Items for the sale will be accepted on October 7 and 8 from 1pm-5pm.

DIESCHER ELECTRIC Professional service. Reasonable rates. NC Licensed and fully insured. 20+ years experience. (845)807-1326.

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

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

CAROLINA PAINTING & Remodeling, Pressure Washing, Painting, Home Repairs, 28 Years Experience in WNC. Cell (828)371-9754.

CRANE BROS. WELL Drilling, 6" Drilled Wells for Farms Homes and Industries, Free Estimates. 248 Crane Circle, Franklin. (828)524-4976.

DAVID CHEEK'S WELL PUMPS Sales Service & Installation of Pumps and Iron Removal Systems. For All Your Water Needs. (828)369-5176.

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

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

Wanted

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

Animals

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

Auctions

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

Help Wanted

OLD EDWARDS INN & Spa, Highlands NC. Estate Concierge, Membership & Activities Coordinator, Catering & Conference Services Mgr, Sales Mgr, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer. Apply online: www.oldedwardsinn.com/careers

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

BECOME A TEACHER at Great Beginnings Preschool and receive Free Childcare! Full-time and Part-time Teachers Needed. Pay based on Education and Experience. Degree preferred but not required. Go to Mygreatbeginnings.org for application. Please return applications to Great Beginnings C/O Betsy Shepherd. For more information (828)369-2411.

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

Misc. For Sale

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

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

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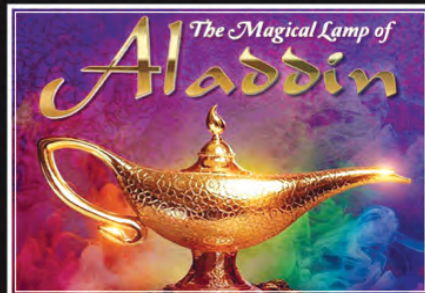
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