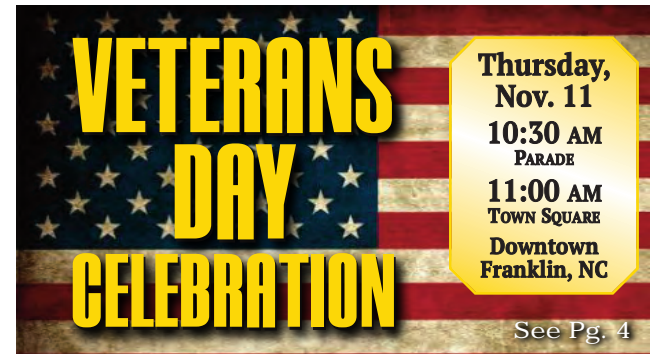


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**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION**

Thursday, Nov. 11  
10:30 AM PARADE  
11:00 AM TOWN SQUARE  
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See Pg. 4

November 11, 2021 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 26

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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One of the more spectacular views in the area is one from Wayah Bald especially as the sun rises. To get there from Franklin, take 64 W for approximately three miles, turn right at Wayah Bald/ LBJ Job Corps sign. Turn left on SR 1310 at Loafer's Glory gas station and travel approximately eight miles. Turn right onto Wayah Bald turnoff Forest Service Road 69. Follow the gravel road 4.5 miles. The historic Wayah Bald Fire Tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. In November 2016, the wooden roof structure on the tower was destroyed by wildfire as is evident by the surrounding still-barren landscape. In March 2018, Jeff Johnson Timber Frames of Franklin completed the rebuild project.

Photo by Robert A. Solesbee

## Sheriff's Office K9 Chase finds fleeing suspect

Following an attempt by a Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) deputy to stop a vehicle after witnessing a vehicle running a red light, a high speed chase began at the intersection of Riverbend Road and ended on Arthur Drake Road after the vehicle wrecked.

After losing control of the vehicle and coming to an abrupt stop, the driver exited the vehicle and fled into the woods on foot.

MCSO and the Franklin Police Department officers immediately set up a perimeter around the area and requested a MCSO K9 unit to assist in tracking the suspect. Deputy David Blanton and K9 Chase arrived on scene to conduct the search. A second K9 unit also arrived on scene to assist if necessary.

The suspect was later identified as Richard Dewayne Swafford, 27, of Georgia and was apprehended in a swampy area off of Arthur Drake Road by the K9 unit. During the search, K9 Chase indicated to his handler that the suspect was nearby where they were searching. When K9 Chase was within reach of the suspect the suspect immediately began

See CHASE page 2



The suspect fled the scene on foot after he wrecked his vehicle following a high speed chase. Photo submitted

### IN THIS ISSUE



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Macon Archers place well in regional competition



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Last chance to see 'The Magical Lamp of Aladdin'



Page 17

Beekeeping a boon for brothers, lifelong apiarist

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## CHASE Continued from page 1

yelling for Deputy Blanton to call off his dog. Deputies were able to see the suspect hiding in the brush and immediately gave the suspect verbal commands. Without resistance the suspect complied and surrendered to deputies.

During a search of the suspect and his vehicle, multiple items were seized which included a small amount of methamphetamine, a loaded .22 Revolver and more than \$8,000 in cash. Following his apprehension, the suspect was identified by deputies as being a wanted fugitive in the state of Georgia for robbery with a dangerous weapon and home invasion.

The suspect was detained at the MCSO Detention Center while he was waiting to go before a Magistrate and for a bond to be set. Meanwhile, the investigation into the incident remains ongoing.

### Juveniles lead law enforcement on multi-county chase

Macon County Emergency Services sent a message to the public Monday afternoon using the county's Code Red Alert system asking for the public's help in locating group of teens that had run away from the

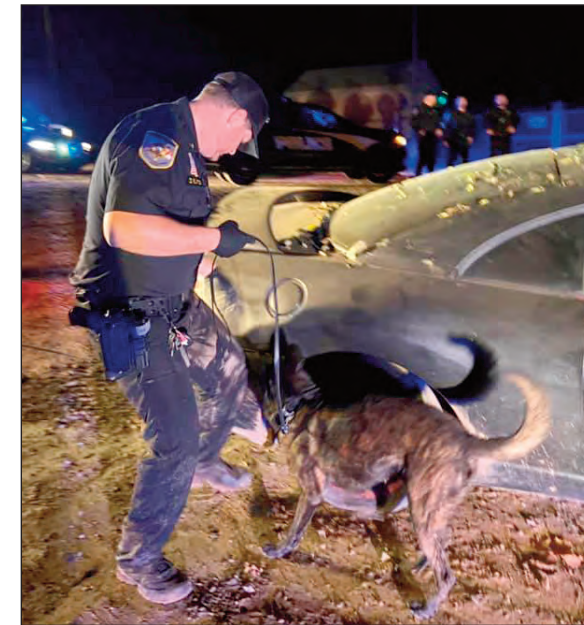
Methodist Home For Children in Macon County.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said that three of the individuals were located shortly after the Code Red message went out, however two others stole a vehicle and led authorities on a multi-county chase and were able to evade law enforcement.

The two juveniles fled Macon County into Jackson County where they exited the highway causing the pursuit to enter Main Street in Sylva around 5 p.m. The juveniles then re-entered the highway and headed into Haywood County. Jackson County authorities established a road block to prevent the chase from re-entering Jackson County while Haywood County Sheriff's Office continued the pursuit toward Buncombe County.

Haywood County Sheriff's Office deputies were joined in the chase by officers from the Waynesville and Canton police departments. When the pursuit entered Buncombe County, Holland said the Haywood County Sheriff discontinued the chase due to safety concerns for both the juveniles and the general public. The juveniles have not been apprehended.

Authorities say the investigation is continuing and charges are expected to be filed.



Deputy David Blanton and his K9 Chase were instrumental in capturing the fleeing suspect. A search of the wrecked vehicle yielded a revolver, a quantity of methamphetamine and more than \$8,000 in cash.



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# Town of Franklin to honor veterans on Thursday, November 11

Franklin's Annual Veterans Day Celebration takes place on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Town Square beginning with a parade at 10:30 a.m.

The Veterans Day event is a long-time tradition in Franklin. It is sponsored by the Town, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

"It is a true small-town remembrance of the sacrifices made by the veterans of all our armed forces and their families," Mayor Bob Scott said.

All veterans are welcome to be a part of the remembrance. "This truly is a day when the emphasis is on the veteran," Scott said.

Lineup for the parade begins at 10 a.m. in the lower-level parking area of Town Hall. The New Century Scholar students will lead each section of the service era of the veterans.

The parade will leave the lower level of Franklin Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. and travel to the Gazebo on the Square. Special banners will lead each group of veterans along the parade route according to the war or time period of service.

"We're excited to have the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment join in the Veterans Day activities again this year," said Amie Owens, Franklin Town Manager. "They always add the perfect patriotic touch musically to the event."

Events conclude with the veterans ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. This year's ceremony will feature a presentation of portraits by the Macon County Art Association.

For many years the Macon County Art Association chooses veterans and the artists of the association paint their portraits at no cost. This year the portraits will be presented to each of the veterans in the 2021 class. In the past the presentation was at the Association's Gallery but this year the presentation will be held at the gazebo. The event will conclude with the wreath laying ceremony and the playing of



The Franklin community will honor its veterans of all armed forces and eras with a parade and a ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 11, in downtown Franklin. The Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment will join the parade and provide musical accompaniment.



taps.

Everyone is encouraged to show their patriotic pride by dressing in red, white, and blue.

The Veterans Parade & Ceremony is presented by the Town of Franklin. For additional information visit [TownofFranklinNC.com](http://TownofFranklinNC.com) or call Franklin Town Hall at (828) 524-2516.



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# Cherokees in Revolutionary War topic of lecture

Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture is a lecture series held monthly at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center. The next program will be held on Monday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 at Cowee School in Franklin. Dr. Barbara Duncan will be the speaker.



Dr. Barbara Duncan

Dr. Duncan will explore the details of what happened in Macon County in September 1776 when two armies invaded deep into the Cherokee Nation. Gen. Griffith Rutherford and Col. Andrew Williamson led about 4,500 men on a mission "to extirpate the Cherokees completely," carrying out a scorched earth policy along the Little Tennessee, Hiwassee, and Valley Rivers. The Cherokees, allies of the British, resisted strategically. They concentrated on preserving the lives of their women and children, and although outnumbered, created an ambush on Wayah Road, where they engaged in The Battle of the Black Hole. Details of the actions of Rutherford, Williamson and their men come from primary sources – the journals, letters,

and interviews of officers-and will be presented in their own words. The historical context leading up to these events and their aftermath will also be considered.

Barbara R. Duncan received her Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. She coordinated "Folk Arts in the Schools" in Macon County for several years, worked for The Foxfire Fund, and went on to spend 23 years at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, where she wrote grants, researched, wrote books, and coordinated festivals and community-based programs to revitalize Cherokee traditions. Now retired from the museum, Duncan teaches Cherokee language as Assistant Adjunct Professor at University of North Carolina Asheville. With a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, she has created a new method for learning Cherokee language and authored a series of textbooks and a website at [www.your-grandmotherscherokee.org](http://www.your-grandmotherscherokee.org).

Duncan has written award-winning books about Cherokee history and culture and won multiple awards for her work. Her most recent book is "Cherokee Clothing in the 1700s," published by the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. She has published two books of poems, has released a CD and lives in Macon County where she enjoys gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.

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“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

– George Washington

# Macon Archers earn gold at NC 4-H State Shooting Sports Competition

Macon Sharp Shooters 4-H Club and Macon Archers 4-H Clubs attended the State-wide 4-H Shooting Tournament on Oct. 9. The .22 Junior Rifle team was made up of Ryland Angel, Wesley Merritt and Marco Morales. They, along with senior shooter Jackson Cabe, shot rifle against more than 350 competitors from across the state.

Macon County 4-H compound shooters Jackson Cabe and Gavin Tweed shot their archery competition to start their day. This allowed them to be available for any of the

other shooting competitions going on throughout the day. Their archery scores were neck and neck with each other and they both finished well in their division.

The Junior Recurve team, comprised of Matthew Albers, Lily Powell, Wesley Merritt and Marco Morales, had to wait until the last shooting time of the day – 4 p.m. It had sprinkled rain off and on all day, but they approached their shooting time in high spirits. The wind started to pick up just as they began their practice end. Then the rain started in earnest.



Ryland Angel shoots on the .22 Junior Rifle Team.



Gavin Tweed and Jackson Cabe shoot compound bows at 4-H state-wide shooting tournament. Both finished well in their division.



Lily Powell and Matthew Albers are members of the Junior Recurve team. Albers won a silver medal in overall individual scoring.

While they shot their scoring ends, they dealt with seriously tricky winds and heavy rain. They were all drenched by the time they completed their tournament shooting. They had toughed out a long day and some nasty weather to accomplish what they came to do that day.

When awards were handed out later, this team found that this year's hard work, focus and dedication had earned them a team gold medal. They had accomplished their goal of winning at State. It was some very excited archers whose spirits soared again when they heard the announcement that their teammate, Matthew, had won a silver medal in the overall individual scoring as well.

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# Mainspring sponsoring virtual programs, events

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In an effort to educate, inform, and interest people in Macon County and some surrounding counties regarding the history and culture of the area as well as ongoing preservation and conservation efforts, Mainspring Conservation Trust periodically offers free events and programs.

Two virtual events are upcoming that round out 2021. On Nov. 11 at 7 p.m., is “Virtual Nature Sketching With Rosalie Haizlett.” She is an illustrator and educator who has been an artist-in-residence at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and with the National Audubon Society. Her illustration clients include the Smithsonian and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Haizlett’s first book, “Watercolor in Nature: Paint Woodland Wildlife and Botanicals with 20 Beginner-Friendly Projects,” will be published by Page Street Publishing Company this month, and she is offering anyone who is interested a chance to learn to sketch what they observe in nature.

Also, the Virtual Mainspring Book Club is held via Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. The final book pick for 2021 is “Wild Spectacle” by Janisse Ray, to be discussed Dec. 8. Moderated by Mainspring’s Rachel Newcomb, monthly books selected relate to Mainspring’s conservation mission and are written by local and regional authors. Some meetings are also followed with an appearance by the author. The goal of the book club is to grow awareness of conservation initiatives in the Southern Blue Ridge region and to become inspired by nature and the outdoors.

To sign up for either virtual event and to acquire the Zoom links, email Newcomb at [rnewcomb@mainspringconserves.org](mailto:rnewcomb@mainspringconserves.org) or call (828)524-2711 ext. 305.



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# November is National Alzheimer's Awareness and Caregivers Month

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month. The Alzheimer's Association's Western Carolina Chapter and Eastern North Carolina Chapter are marking these events by recognizing and honoring the 358,000 family members and friends across North Carolina who are currently caring for a person living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

In 2020, friends and family of those with Alzheimer's in North Carolina provided an estimated 517 million hours of unpaid care, a contribution valued at \$7.3 billion. According to the 2021 Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures report, 83 percent of the help provided to older adults in the U.S. comes from family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers. And nearly half of all caregivers (48 percent) who provide help to older adults do so for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Caregivers of people with dementia report providing an average of 92 hours of care per month.

The demands of being an Alzheimer's caregiver are all-encompassing and increase over time as the disease progresses. This month, the Alzheimer's Association is encouraging people to recognize Alzheimer's caregivers for all they do every day to support people with dementia.

"During this month and throughout the year, we celebrate the heroic contributions of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers, while also raising awareness about the unique challenges caregivers face," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter. "Never have the efforts of caregivers been tested more than during the past year and a half. That is why we are committed to supporting caregivers now more than ever."

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementias is exceptionally demanding and especially challenging. Providing help and support to caregivers can be easier than most people think. Even little acts can make a big difference. The Alzheimer's Association offers the ideas below to encourage people to lend a hand to a caregiver this month and year-round:

#### Ways to Support an Alzheimer's Caregiver

- **Learn.** Educate yourself about

Alzheimer's disease and dementia – its symptoms, its progression and the common challenges facing caregivers. The more you know, the easier it will be to find ways to help.

- **Build a Team.** Organize family and friends who want to help with caregiving. The Alzheimer's Association offers links to several free, online care calendar resources that families can use to build their care team, share tasks and coordinate helpers.

- **Give Caregivers a Break.** Make a standing appointment to give the caregiver a break. Spend time with the person living with dementia and allow the caregiver a chance to run errands, go to their own doctor's appointment, participate in a support group or engage in an activity that helps them recharge. Even one hour could make a big difference in providing the caregiver some relief.

- **Check In.** Many Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers report feeling isolated or

are there and ready to help.

- **Help for the Holidays.** Holiday celebrations are often joyous occasions, but they can be challenging and stressful for families facing Alzheimer's. Help caregivers around the holidays by offering to help with cooking, cleaning or gift shopping. If a caregiver has traditionally hosted family celebrations, offer your home instead.

- **Join the Fight.** Honor a person living with the disease and their caregiver by joining the fight against Alzheimer's. You can volunteer with your local Alzheimer's Association chapter, participate in fundraising events such as Walk to End Alzheimer's and The Longest Day, advocate for more research funding, or sign up to participate in a clinical study through the Alzheimer's Association's Trial Match.

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease and ways you can support families and people living with the disease, visit [alz.org/honor](http://alz.org/honor).

- **Caregiving through the Holidays** (in-person | Brevard, NC | November 4) - For many caregivers the holiday season gives rise to stress, frustration and anger, instead of peace and good will. This program is designed to teach caregivers to care for themselves, their loved ones, and about holiday safety all while giving suggestions that may make the holidays more enjoyable for you and your loved ones.

For a complete list of upcoming virtual programs or to register for a program, visit [act.alz.org/ncmonthlyprograms](http://act.alz.org/ncmonthlyprograms) or call 800-272-3900.

#### Additional Facts and Figures: ([alz.org/facts](http://alz.org/facts))

- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.

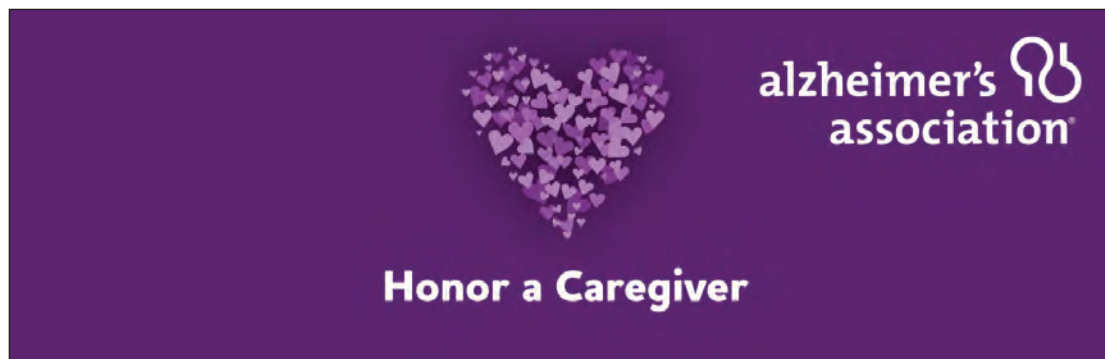
- More than six million Americans are living with the disease, including 180,000 North Carolina residents — a number estimated to grow to as many as 210,000 by year 2025.

- More than 11 million family and friends, including 358,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States.

- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

#### About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. The Western Carolina Chapter provides patient and family services, information and referral, education, and advocacy in 49 central and Western North Carolina counties. A variety of services includes a 24/7 Helpline, support groups, educational programs, and MedicAlert®. For more information about Alzheimer's disease or the Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter, visit [alz.org/northcarolina](http://alz.org/northcarolina) or call (800) 272-3900. For the latest news and updates, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



alone. So start the conversation – a phone call to check in, sending a note, or stopping by for a visit can make a big difference in a caregiver's day and help them feel supported.

- **Tackle the To-Do List.** Ask for a list of errands that need to be run – such as picking up groceries or prescriptions. Offer to do yard work or other household chores. It can be hard for a caregiver to find time to complete these simple tasks that we often take for granted.

- **Be Specific and Be Flexible.** Open-ended offers of support ("call me if you need anything" or "let me know if I can help") may be well-intended, but are often dismissed. Be specific in your offer ("I'm going to the store, what do you need?"). Continue to let the caregiver know that you

As part of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month, the Alzheimer's Association's Western Carolina Chapter and Eastern North Carolina Chapter are offering free education programs and support groups to help all North Carolina caregivers and their families. Featured programs include:

- **10 Ways to Help a Family** (virtual | November 18) - Often individuals don't know how best to help a family affected by Alzheimer's or another dementia related disease. Frequently caregivers are unsure how to ask for help or what assistance to even ask for. Join for a brief overview of Alzheimer's and dementia and the challenges caregivers may face followed by a panel discussion exploring tips for how to help a family and caregiver.

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# Southwestern student from Otto receives nursing scholarship

In early September, a new recipient was announced for the Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

Southwestern Community College Nursing student Corrie Kinsland of Otto received the scholarship worth a total of \$1500. Awards are issued for tuition, books, and any other related educational expenses for those enrolled in the Nursing programs.

The scholarship was created in 1997 in memory of Judy Moore, RN. Moore was a nurse who practiced in Public Health in Macon County.

The initial award was issued in 1998, and since then 40 candidates and 45 awards have been given, creating a total of \$46,400 in financial aid.

"I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and gift, and I'm so appreciative of the generosity of all those involved," said Kinsland. "I am honored to represent a scholarship in memorial of such a wonderful person and the legacy that she carries on."

After graduating at SCC, Kinsland intends to enroll in the RN to BSN program at Western Carolina University.

"I am very proud of our nursing student, Corrie Kinsland, for obtaining this scholar-

ship," said Kimi Walker, SCC's Interim Director of Nursing. "The Judy Moore Scholarship has been a great resource for our students over the years. I enjoy volunteering on the board to help our nursing students succeed, and I encourage them to apply. All community colleges and universities with nursing students are eligible and encouraged to apply."

**About Southwestern Community College**  
For more than 50 years, Southwestern Community College has served Jackson, Macon, Swain counties, and the Qualla Boundary by offering a wide range of educational options for residents in all stages of life. SCC has been ranked No. 1 by Bestcolleges.com in its listing of "The Best Community Colleges & Trade Schools of 2020," marking the fourth time in the past 15 years Southwestern has ranked among the nation's Top 10 community colleges. SCC provides a supportive learning environment and more than 40 degree programs in Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences/College Transfer and Career Technologies. SCC also offers a variety of community resources, including the Small Business Center, Workforce Continuing Education and Career Services.



Kimi Walker, SCC's Interim Director of Nursing, presents the Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship to Corrie Kinsland of Otto. Pictured are, from left, Susan Braithwaite, Anne Hyder, Walker, Kinsland, Cathy Moore and Megan Crisp.

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

American Legion Post 370 will be holding a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m., today [Thursday] at the Veterans Memorial Park in front to the police station. After the ceremony, veterans can go to the Blue Bike restaurant for a free lunch with their spouses. This program is funded by Mike Bryson as a tribute to the people who have served our country in the military.

I want to pay tribute to the first GIs who set a lasting example of duty and service for this country. GI is an acronym for Government Issue. When one is in the US military he or she is given uniforms, a place to sleep, food and healthcare. Military personnel are trained for specific tasks and are paid a modest salary. A person in the military is in fact government issue and an extension of the will and policies of the United States. They are under the total control of our government during their time of service.

Some of the first GIs were those brave patriots who fought and then wintered at Valley Forge with the great Washington. Of course there are those idealized portraits of Washington and his soldiers at Valley Forge, but those images do not capture the hell on earth that they endured.

Bob Drury and Tom Calvin wrote the book simply called "Valley Forge." The authors stress that the soldiers who encamped in the winter of 1788 were a rag tag collection of farmers and working class labors with hardly any military training. The British had repeatedly defeated them the year before. Morale was low as they set up their makeshift encampments. British troops were quartered 60 miles away in Philadelphia enjoying the bounty of city life.

These GIs were issued hardly anything by the fledgling American government. For barracks, the soldiers dug out rectangular spaces about three feet below ground and then built a roof of logs, twigs, mud and anything else that they could find. Many of the soldiers were lacking shoes, clothing and blankets. For food, they ate mostly what was called fire cake, a mixture of meal, flour and maggots. When they did get a ration of meat it was usually rancid. Many of the GIs at Valley Forge died of small pox and other diseases, or from malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Display deer stolen from Otto Post Office

This is a letter to all our neighbors in the Otto Community. As you know the Otto Garden Club spends time, money and energy to beautify the Post Office area. You all are acquainted with the plywood deer family we put out each year for the holiday season. For some reason someone found it necessary to steal the "buck" from behind the P.O. where we have stored them for years. We hope and pray it is not being used for target practice!

If you see our deer gracing a neighbor's yard you might let the postmistress know; she will let us know and we will take it from there. The person obviously does not know that it is a Federal crime to remove anything from a Federal building. We just want him back in time to put out our display the last of November

We wish all our good neighbors a happy and healthy holiday season and a better New Year.

Joan Palmroos – Otto, N.C.

### Macon County needs a constitutional sheriff

A sheriff takes a solemn oath to uphold, serve, defend, and protect our freedom and the United States and North Carolina constitutions. Yet most do not take it seriously. In fact, there is only one sheriff candidate in Macon County who takes that oath seriously as far as I can tell. To prove my point, another candidate proudly stated in front of a group that if faced with federal agents coming to take our guns, he would have to support them! Have to support them? Does he really believe they have power over him? This proves three things: 1) he doesn't take his oath seriously, 2) he doesn't understand the responsibility and authority he has been given, and 3) he isn't on the side of freedom. He obviously doesn't realize that the county sheriff has ultimate power over all other agencies – local and federal. Is this the kind of sheriff you want to protect your rights? And have these other candidates even read the Constitution that they vow to uphold and protect? Go to the candidates' meet-and-greets and ask them if they will defend us if the federal government attempts to take our guns. Most will tell you whatever they think you want to hear, so here's the clincher. Ask them if they are a member of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA). I guarantee, only one will answer "yes" (if they are honest).

"Who has the duty and responsibility to protect the American people from government overreach and crimes committed by rogue agents? Who has the duty to enforce States' Rights and the Tenth Amendment? The county sheriff is the one who can say to the feds, "Beyond these bounds you shall not pass." – Sheriff Richard Mack, founder of Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

The county sheriff is the only official who has the power and authority to protect us from tyrannical government overreach. So ask yourself: Is your sheriff going to protect your Constitutional rights, or just cower to the feds and join the rest of the "good ole boys" who line their pockets with government grant money?

The Declaration of Independence states "that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government... But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism [tyranny], it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security." We need to throw off the "establishment" here in Macon County and elect a constitutional sheriff if we care at all about our freedom.

The time is now to speak up and fight for your freedom, which is a God-given right protected by the U.S. Constitution, not a government-given right. Your civil duty doesn't stop with voting. Attend your school board, board of commissioners, board of health, and board of elections meetings, and speak up. For example, did you know that Macon County (and the entire state of N.C.) uses the exact same ES&S voting machines that were proven to be so severely corrupted in Pennsylvania? A full report of those findings was presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners at the Oct. 12 meeting. What did those commissioners do with that information? What actions have they taken as a result?

For more information on what constitutional sheriffs all around the United States have done, go to [www.cspoa.org](http://www.cspoa.org). No need to be a sheriff or peace officer to be a member. Sheriff Mack's book "County Sheriff – America's Last Hope" is invaluable. Call 828-342-7666 for local information.

Finally, my fellow Christian brothers and sisters; there is power in prayer, but eventually we will have to pick up that rock and sling it at the giant!

Patricia Monahan – Franklin, N.C.

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

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## We had better wake up and get 'un-woke'

This is in response to Mr. Jim Gaston's letter to you entitled "Open letter to the person who gave me Covid." We are residents of both Franklin, N.C., and Aiken, S.C., and love the folks in Franklin and spend about half the year there.

We read with great interest Mr. Gaston's letter to the editor that appeared in the Oct. 28 issue of *The Macon County News*. Upon reading the first paragraph or so we were not quite sure where he was going with his letter. But then we soon realized that what he was writing, in our opinion, was spot on. Mr. Gaston's words should be required reading for those that have bought into this "Covidocy" hook line and sinker. Yes, there is a virus going around out there, called Covid 19, that has cost many to lose their lives but so are other flus and such that are also affecting lives. There are probably few times in our American history, and the world for that matter, that has been so disruptive as this Covid business and the associated fear-mongering that has been going on.

Folks, this is all about control. If you have ever read Saul Alinsky's book "Rules for Radicals" you'll perhaps understand better what I mean by that. One of the main themes in that book was to "never let a crisis go to waste." The left jumped on this Covid thing with a vengeance and with the main stream news media brain-washing a vast number of "sheeple," it has resulted in a further dividing of "We the People."

If one is only inclined to tune in to the majority of the mainstream news outlets, they will get a left leaning—yes, I'll say Marxist-based version of what is really going on. There are numerous other news outlets that, in our opinion, state the facts truthfully. But their voices are being censored out of the equation by the Marxist controlled outlets and now Big Tech. The vacillating back and forth regarding the wearing of a mask or not, the arbitrariness of who or what number of people can gather at various functions, or what constitutes a "safe function" for that matter, and this President's insistence of overly concentrating on Covid, with his various mandates, when there are many other serious issues he is letting slide, etc., etc., ought to be enough alone to wake people up to ask "just what is really going on" and just what is the truth.

Bottom line is that we, as a freedom-loving people, had better wake up and get un-Woke and un-Politically Correct if we want any kind of this wonderful Republic that our brilliant Founding Fathers gave us to pass on to our children and grandchildren on down the line. Remember the famous line that our Benjamin Franklin was quoted as saying when asked what kind of government we have: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Without God's intervening and blessing, and a turning to Him, we are doomed as a nation.

Ron Van Beuning – Franklin, N.C.

## We have a great future ahead of us

Got to thinking about the fact that all critters, including humans, must evolve from almost nothing.

For humans, it involves being born, learning to breathe, and going through school, for some even college.

But living under Communism and Socialism is the worst possible thing that can happen to humanity. It reverses natural Evolution and sets humans back thousands of years.

The Communism being taught in some of our schools and colleges teaches that if we do as we are told, we can live utopian lives with no hard effort. Why put any effort into your life if the government takes loving care of you? Yeah, sure, from tigers to leopards to sharks, everything depends on hard work to survive. Guess who beats that rap and lives a life of luxury and is well taken care of? You guessed it, the ordinary cow. All a cow has to do is wait until he is

turned into a steak but lives a life of luxury in the meantime.

So, go with Communism and Socialism and let the government take care of you. After all Biden is smarter than you and certainly AOC told you that work was not necessary.

You don't need to learn, you don't need to think, just follow orders. Forget adding something new to humanity.

As the Russian workers used to say, "I will pretend to work if you pretend to pay me."

On the other hand, you may decide to make something of yourself and live a life of courage. You may decide to live a life of discovery, become successful and do your own thing.

Only the Republicans can offer this sort of life.

Actually, Evolution is an extremely important part of our lives.

Each of us must struggle and work hard, develop our brain power and lead a life worth living. Life ain't worth living if you are a Communist and Socialist, unless of course you are one of the big-wigs in DC as a politician. Ever wonder how Obama went from poverty to being worth \$40 million in only eight years?

Really, unless we blow ourselves to hell and back during a nuclear war, we have a great future ahead of us. It may take a thousand or more years but we will be traveling to distant planets and who knows, we may find God on one of them.

This is hard to understand but when we die the energy and the quantum particles live on after our bodies turn to dust.

Quantum particles never die and recent discoveries tell that they carry our intelligence with them.

So, yes, we have a lot to look forward to and in maybe a thousand or two thousand years.

One thing for sure, we won't make it being a government cow.

Socialism failed in every country that tried it so don't get suckered into a trick by the Democrats that get us to fall in line. We won't enjoy being in inevitable poverty.

Bob Wilson – Franklin, N.C.

## Do due diligence to learn about vaccines

What is the value of a human life? What is the value of a child's life? If you are the parent or grandparent of a young person age 25 or younger, what is the value of the life of that person you love, the value of his or her hopes and dreams?

Have you heard of myocarditis, a heart inflammation from which some young males in particular have died after getting the COVID vaccine? The father of Ernesto Ramirez Jr. in Texas is mourning his 16-year-old, his only child, who died of myocarditis shortly after getting the vaccine. The father said his son only wanted to play baseball and go in the air force. Del Bigtree reported that 75 fully vaccinated athletes in Europe have had "sudden and unexpected" heart attacks and died in the last five months. The youngest was 13. This is based on a report in German media. There are many accounts like this if you do some research.

Do you know that the CDC has a system for reporting adverse events after vaccines, VAERS? Do you know that that system has reported over 34,000 deaths from the Covid vaccines and hundreds of thousands of adverse events, many with life-long consequences? These figures may be much less than actual adverse events due to the reporting process. Do you know that vaccine manufacturers cannot be sued for any harm from vaccines?

Dr. Eric Rubin, a member of the FDA advisory committee and editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine* stated, "We're never going to learn how safe this vaccine is unless we start giving it. That's just the way it goes." What? Is that logical? That statement in my opinion should refer to a clinical trial. In an NBC interview, he also expressed that he was "worried" about unknown side effects for young kids.

# TAYLOR

From previous page

We like to think of those images of pristine snow at Valley Forge, but that wasn't the case. It was always cold. Troops were barraged by incessant heavy snows and then torrential rains that made the encampment a miserable mud pit.

Washington feared he would not even have an army by spring. But, miraculously many men remained and survived. Supplies finally came to the encampment. A Prussian military officer, von Stuben, arrived. He taught the GIs in that spring how to be a fighting force that could do close-order drill and transformed them into multiple battle formations.

In the summer of 1789, Washington marched his newly trained Continental Army to Monmouth Court House where he led the GIs to engage a world class British infantry. The Continentals didn't win the battle that day, but they didn't lose it either. The British were stunned that Washington had an army, a trained force of GIs. This first American military personnel set the standard that subsequent GIs have followed. A standard of duty, honor and steadfastness.

What is amazing is that these veterans of the American Revolution left military service and became American citizens all replete with successes, failures and ordinary lives. That is what veterans do. Take pause to think about them today.

Do you know what's in the vaccines? Can your doctor give you a list of ingredients? Researchers in Spain tested vials of all the vaccines and found graphene oxide, a toxic metallic substance, in all samples. The research was repeated in the U.S. with the same result. That's just one toxic ingredient among others.

Before you have your young children vaccinated against COVID, from which they have a very low risk of severe illness or death, please do due diligence to learn what's in the vaccine. Two sources of much information are Dr. Bryan Ardis, <http://thedrardisshow.com> and America's Frontline Doctors,

<http://www.americasfrontlinedoctors1.com>, founded by Dr. Simone Gold. In this 10 min. interview, Dr. Gold explains how she and her children had all vaccines prior to the COVID ones and details her concerns about the latter, including what doctors are seeing with myocarditis: <https://rumble.com/vn4425-dr.-ardis-interviews-dr.-simone-gold.html>.

Panthea Crawford – Franklin, N.C.



# Last chance to see 'The Magical Lamp of Aladdin' this weekend





The Overlook Theatre Company will present "The Magic Lamp of Aladdin" for three more performances, Friday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m., and again at 7 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, call (866)273-4615 or visit SmokyMountainArts.com. Photos by Betsey Gooder and Beth Payseur



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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 Oct. 29 - Nov. 4. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



## Franklin Police Department

October 29

Richard Lee Davis, 35, was issued an order for arrest for trespassing. A \$2,000 bond was set.

October 31

Alejandro Pacheco, 26, was charged with assault and battery. A \$1,000 bond was set.

November 3

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with injury to personal property and second degree trespass. A \$750 bond was set.

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

November 1

Annette Marie Blackwell, 42, of Island Ford Rd., Inman, S.C., was charged with extradition/fugitive from another state (S.C.), extradition/fugitive from another state (Tenn.) and Extradition/fugitive from another state (Ga.). A secured bond of \$90,000 was set.

Jessica Gail Conway, 35, of Columbus George Rd., Cherokee. Was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, child abuse and probation violation. A secured bond of \$16,500 was set.

Shane Christophe Holder, 30, of Washington Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for trespass of real property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

November 2

Shala Faye Trull, 23, of High Haven Rd., was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Penny Thompson Ferretiz, 50, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor child abuse, operate a vehicle with no insurance, open container after consume alcohol first, faililure to secure passes under 16 and driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

November 3

Jessica Elizabeth Quinn, 45, of Hibiscus Dr., Balsam, was charged with driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

James Phillip Howell, 63, of Arnold Hill, was charged with failure to appear for felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of firearm by felon. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

November 4

Carol Dale Mintz, 32, of Sylva, was charged with interfering with a electronic monitor device, misdemeanor larceny, damage to personal property and failure to appear for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$67,000 was set.

Matthew David Boud, 37, of Tall Oaks Lane, was charged with failure to appear for trespassing, possession of stolen goods/property, felony larceny, misdemeanor larceny, larceny. A secured bond of \$16,500 was set.

# WNC Pottery Festival draws crowd to Sylva

Colin Gooder – Contributing Writer

Previously held in nearby Dillsboro, the 2021 Western North Carolina Pottery Festival moved to Bridge Park in Sylva on Saturday, Nov. 6 due to road construction. It turned out to be a good move, drawing a large crowd of leaf-lookers as well as pottery and craft aficionados from the surrounding region.

The WNC Pottery Festival is an annual juried event featuring more than 40 master potters from across the United States. Named one of the Southeast's Top 20 Arts Events by the Southeast Tourism Society, the show features a wide variety of works, ranging from classic Raku pottery to innovative sculpted forms made of clay, wood, and metal.

The festival also showcased live throwing demonstrations along with competitions between participants. Admission tickets were drawn throughout the day for lucky festival goers to win prize pots and ceramic works.

David Hergesheimer and his wife traveled from Dayton, Ohio, to showcase the work of Yellow Springs Pottery, a cooperative of eight fellow potters. Hergesheimer said it was well worth the trip, with the WNC Pottery Festival consistently being one of the

most well attended shows in the region. He pointed out that festival-goers weren't just looking, but had been actively buying throughout the day. Both he and his wife, who is of Japanese descent, had sold a good amount of their work by early afternoon.



Master potter Cat Jarosz traveled from nearby Asheville to feature her whimsical creations at the festival. Her functional stoneware pieces range from unique interpretations of the classical form of a Japanese lantern, to tea pot sets shaped like cartoon elephants. She prides herself on creating works that are fun, cre-



Mr. and Mrs. David Hergesheimer traveled from Dayton, Ohio, to be a part of the Western North Carolina Pottery Festival. Photos by Colin Gooder

ative, yet technically challenging, and every bit as functional. As she likes to say, "Homemade tastes better on handmade."

Judy Brater, who teaches at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, featured several of her colorful, complex sculptural creations inspired by the natural flora and fauna of the surrounding mountains. Her extraordinary work resembles the style of classical children's book illustrations, candle holders and pots with fluid flowing branches topped with flowering blossoms, with bluebirds perched alongside or turtles decorating the branches.



Judy Brater teachers at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown.



Brater said she was impressed with the crowd this year, and sold several pieces throughout the day. Many of the onlookers were soon potential students, having expressed interest in learning the craft

after being inspired by her work. The John C. Campbell Folk School can be reached at (828)837-2775.

The WNC Pottery Festival is held annually the first weekend in November in Sylva. For those who are interested in ceramics and pottery, Western Carolina University is currently featuring the Contemporary Clay 2021 exhibit, which runs through Dec. 10, at the Bardo Arts Center on campus. The exhibit is a contemporary survey of "the ever-expanding field of American-made ceramics."



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Franklin Women's Club** will meet Friday, Nov. 12, noon at Fat Buddies restaurant in the Westgate Plaza. Installation of new officers for 2022-2023 will take place with Barbara Tobias officiating. To RSVP, call Brenda Jacobs at (828)421-0411. For more information about the club, call Joyce Wood at (828)349-4440.

**Nantahala Hiking Club** will meet on Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Public Library. Jeff Johnson will be discussing safety for all forest users during hunting and training seasons. He will also give tips on keeping your canine hiking partner safe, while giving his own personal experiences and interactions with hunters, hikers and private land owners. The public is invited to attend.

**Taste of Scotland Society, Inc. Gathering and Free Concert** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Big Bear picnic area. Anyone who loves Celtic music is invited to come and join them and musicians can just drop by and play. The bands will be George James with the Jacobites By Name, Celtic duo Norma Jean, Jim of Cashiers and others. The Taste of Scotland Society, Inc. monthly meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of each month 4:30 p.m., at Frog Quarters. Burns Night will be held on Jan. 22, 2022, and the Taste of Scotland Festival is set for June 17 to 19, 2022.

**Holly Springs Community Development Club** will meet on Monday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. at the community building located at 2720 Cat Creek Road, Franklin. Representatives from the Women's History Trail and the Folk Heritage Association will be the guest speakers. Dessert and beverages will be served. Everyone is welcome.

**Gem Country Republican Women's Club** will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 11:30 at Fat Buddies BBQ Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Mike Trammel, candidate for Clerk of the Court. All Republican Women are encouraged to attend.

**Yoga in the Macon County Public Library** will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 5:15 pm, in the meeting room. Register with the instructor at Beyond Bending Yoga. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Rd. For more information, call (828)525-3600.

**Vaya Health One-time, In-person Community Class for Caregivers and Loved Ones of People Experiencing Dementia** will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. This class uses case review and activities to identify frequent challenging behaviors associated with dementia and psychosis. Participants review factors that may trigger behaviors and discuss prevention and intervention strategies. For more information visit <https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/>

**Otto Garden Club** will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m. at the Otto Community Center. This month the club will play "Flower Garden Bingo." For more information, call Joan at (828)369-2801.

**First Presbyterian Church (FPC) Community Thanksgiving Take-out Dinner** will be held on Thursday, Nov. 25, from noon until 2 p.m.

Drivers should enter Church Street from Iotta Street, then follow the signs and directions from traffic assistants to proceed to the drive-thru food station. Individuals can remain in their vehicles for meal pick-up before exiting onto Harrison Avenue. Volunteers will work in a drive-through setup in front of the FPC Chapel at 26 Church Street handing off packaged plates of turkey, fixings and a slice of pumpkin pie. Dinners will not include utensils or beverages. No advance reservations are needed. Participants are asked to stagger their arrival times to minimize traffic congestion. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Macon County Library, 149 Siler Farm Road. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling (800)733-2767. Donate Nov. 1-23 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Those who give Nov. 24-28, will receive a pair of Red Cross socks, while supplies last.

**Macon Early College is now accepting new student enrollment applications for the 2022-2023** school year. The application and an informational flyer are available on the MEC website [mec.macon.k12.nc.us](http://mec.macon.k12.nc.us) under the Parent Information tab. The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 23. For more information, call MEC Principal Mark Sutton at (828)524-2002.

**Historic TM Rickman Store** is open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 259 Cowee Creek Rd. Dulcimer music in the morning and music jams begin at noon.

**Thursday Painters** meet at the Environmental Research Center every Thursday 10 a.m. Bring your own project, a table covering, and a bag lunch. All skill levels and mediums welcome. Free and open to the public. Contact Pat Mennenger at [pm14034@yahoo.com](mailto:pm14034@yahoo.com) For more information, visit [Franklinuptowngallery.com](http://Franklinuptowngallery.com).

**AL-ANON Family Groups** In-person meeting with Covid 19 preventive measures is held each Thursday, noon at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held on Saturday, 10:15 a.m. ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit 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 at [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org). 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 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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spiritual Light Center** will host Rev. Dr. Richard Talley on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. Dr. Talley will share on "Happiness Through Gratitude." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

**Grace Baptist Church Old Fashioned Gospel Sing** will be held on Sunday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m. with Fields of Grace Trio. The church is located at 143 Setser Branch Rd. For more information, call Pastor Frank Rodriguez at (828)369-2435.

**First Alliance Church** is holding Sunday Service, Nov. 14, at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School (for all ages) 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.

**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**

8	7	1	4	2	6	3	9	5
6	3	4	5	1	7	2	8	9
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2	5	9	7	6	8	4	1	3
9	1	8	6	4	3	5	7	2
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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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## Gem & Mineral Society installs officers

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin met last month and officially installed new officers for 2021-2022 with Franklin Mayor Bob Scott administering the oaths of office. Pictured (L-R) are Mayor Bob Scott, Treasurer Kathi Walbridge; President Mark Laing; Board Director Marsha Harmon; Vice President Al Pribble; Board Director Susan Fritz; Museum Manager Larry Ellert; Board Director Charlotte Frye; and Board Director Matt Castor. The Gem & Mineral Society operates the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum in the old jail building on Phillips Street downtown Franklin. The Society welcomes new members who are interested in pursuing a hobby in lapidary arts. General meetings are open to the public and held the last Thursday of each month at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Road, Franklin. For more information about meetings, membership or private tours call 828-369-7831.



## Couple celebrate 73 years

David A. Brigman, 93, and Hazel DeMott Brigman, 92, will celebrate the 73rd Anniversary of their union of Nov. 11, 1948. Their story earmarks a lifetime of love and support for each other. The couple grew up together in the small southeastern North Carolina town of Lumberton. After Mr. Brigman served his country in the Navy during WWII, he returned home and the Brigmans were married. Mr. Brigman, using the GI Bill, completed watchmaking and jewelers training. Thus began the Brigman's long career of more than 50 years serving the public in their watchmaker and jewelry store businesses. Along with building their business, they raised a family of four children, Dennis C. Brigman, Larry W. Brigman, Rhonda Kay Brigman and Trena Brigman Sapp. The Brigmans have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Since retiring several years ago, the Brigmans spend their time between their homes in Zellwood, Fla., and Franklin.

## Take-out Thanksgiving at FPC Thursday, Nov. 25

For more than 25 years, the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has sponsored the Community Thanksgiving dinner in downtown Franklin. That tradition will continue this year, but as in 2020, meals will be offered as take-out only from noon until 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 25. Volunteers will work in a drive-through setup in front of the FPC Chapel at 26 Church Street. They will hand off packaged plates of turkey, the traditional fixings and a slice of pumpkin pie. Dinners will not include utensils or beverages. No advance reservations are needed.

Drivers should enter Church Street from Iotla Street, then

follow the signs and directions from traffic assistants to proceed to the drive-through food station. Individuals can remain in their vehicles for meal pick-up before exiting onto Harrison Avenue. Participants are asked to stagger their arrival times during the two-hour serving period to minimize traffic congestion and to reduce wait times.

The FPC Thanksgiving planning team is not recruiting community volunteers to prepare desserts or to assist with food service. Until last year, volunteers were essential to the management and smooth operation of this fellowship event that typically serves 350-plus people.

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# Bee Business is a boon for two brothers and a life-long apiarist

Deena C. Bouknight, Contributing Writer

The Wheeler brothers, who hail from other parts of the United States but who currently live in Franklin, never imagined themselves involved in beekeeping. Scott Wheeler retired from a career at The Hershey Chocolate Company in Pennsylvania, while Mark Wheeler works part-time as an educator teaching life skills to disabled persons.

Life-long apiarist Dick Tracy has been keeping bees in one capacity or another – from a few hives to big-business beekeeping – since he was a 20-year-old. His fervor for keeping honey bees, and his extensive knowledge of the practice, became the impetus for the Wheelers' enthusiasm.

"At one time I was managing 500 hives," said Tracy, who moved to the area two years ago to be close to his mother, who was raised in Macon County.

Mark met Tracy a year or so ago through a church connection. Mark learned about Tracy's his experience and his interest in bees and became intrigued. His interest in beekeeping piqued, Mark began researching and reading on his own. He decided to involve his brother, Scott, in establishing a hive.

As Tracy explained, the Wheelers have been "bit by the bee bug," just like he was 50-plus years ago.

"I know a man who is 92 and still has hives," he said. "Once you're bitten by the bee bug, you just don't ever want to quit."

A pandemic year turned into a productive year for the Wheelers and Tracy. They decided that instead of having individual hives, they would pool their resources, time and sweat-equity and enter full-force into a beekeeping endeavor. In less than a year, the three men have acquired and manage more than 40 hives.

"Mark has become the 'expert' at making queens," said Tracy. "He made 60 queens this year. We use some and sell some."

Mark learned quickly that to "make" queen bees involves taking honey bee eggs and, instead of allowing them to lie horizontally, to gingerly turn them vertically. That simple act ensures that the egg will not hatch as a worker bee but as a queen bee.

"I've always been curious about bees," said Scott. "Their complexities are so interesting. So beekeeping gives me an opportunity not only to know



From left, Mark and Scott Wheeler are learning the beekeeping business from life-long apiarist Dick Tracy, whose wife, Brenda, developed a logo, labels, and more for the venture.

and understand, but to participate. I help wherever my brother and Dick need me."

Scott puts on "whatever hat they tell me to wear," he said. But mostly enjoys talking to people about the honey and has sold honey at community events.

Scott and Mark expressed that neither beekeeping, nor any other work-

hobby-related path, has been on their radar in the past, but, "We are hoping that beekeeping brings us even closer together through sharing a common goal," said Scott.

The three men are finding that their conversations are always about bees.

"I just like their social structure, how they work together as a unit ... as a community," said Mark. "They have such skills. They dance when they let each other know they have found something, whether it's nectar or pollen. And the queen ... how she makes a test flight and then a navigational flight, and then a maiden flight ... how she can lay 1,500-2,000 eggs within a 24 hour period. It just never stops being interesting. You can never know it all. It seems like we are always learning something new."

Scott said he has learned that upwards of more than 100,000 bees can be living in one hive.

Importantly, the Wheelers know how to tell difference between a honey bee, crucial to the survival of flowers and crops due to wide-spread pollination, and yellow jackets, which also pollinate but mostly prey on such insects as grubs or scavenge for food. Honey bees are not as aggressive as yellow jackets.

Tracy is considered a full-fledged apiarist, the formal term for beekeeper, due to his decades of experience. Tracy said he is impressed with how quickly the Wheeler brothers have learned – and how willing they are to spend upwards of 50 to 60 hours a week beekeeping.

To accommodate growing the number of bee hives to around 80 next year, the Wheelers and Tracy have had to purchase much equipment. Extractors pull the honey from the comb, smokers calm the bees, and filtering and bottling tanks play a role, for example. Tracy has taught the Wheelers how to construct the hive boxes and lids as well as tackle

numerous other tasks related to beekeeping.

While the beekeeping venture among the three men has only been on track for less than a year, honey production was at about 53 gallons for 2021. The honey is sold in 1-pound or 3-pound jars.

By 2022, Tracy and the beekeeping brothers expect to do more than just extract honey; they plan to offer assistance with education, gassing bees for mites, maintaining hives, providing queens and bees, and more.



Dick Tracy is considered a full-fledged apiarist, which is the formal term for beekeeper, due to his decades of experience.



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## 'One Blood Revival' at The Gathering Church

On Thursday, Nov. 11-13, at the Gathering Church in Moravian Falls, N.C., is to be the beginning of the national "One Blood Revival." Pastor Devin O'Neal and his wife Georgia, wish to welcome all who plan to attend and worship God, and to pray and intercede for this nation there. There will be 22 speakers, three days of intense, non-stop worship, ministry and prayers. Participants will contend for the collision of the "waters from the ancient wells" and the "waters of the latter rain" coming together in full force, spiritually washing, clearing away any racial divisiveness.

This week marks the 400th-year anniversary of the signing of the first of our country's original founding documents, the Mayflower Compact. This also is combined with the 100th-year anniversary of the 24/7 Moravian Prayer Campaign and their 24/7 prayer houses located across America.

Upon their safe arrival, the Mayflower's settlers had signed a covenant with God. Drawn up by the settlers, they had greatly helped bring about the establishment of the future governance and government in these United States of America. They stated their undertaking was for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith and the salvation of the inhabitants of this land.

Held as the beginning of the national "One Blood Revival" this continues in the honoring and welcoming of all various people groups to the country, by contending in united prayer, praise and worship of God together, and in asking Him for a great revival, promised to the nation's founders, and as later prophesied by William Seymour in 1910, 111 years ago at the Azusa Street Revival, San Francisco, Calif.

"We are asking God to extend out His Hand a second time, like He did for William Seymour, only let it be twice as strongly, in order to heal our nation of any racial divide. We believe that these prophetic signs are given to show there is a reclamation of peace in our nation. We ought each one to remember that unity must be the central piece of this at the present time," explained Pastor Devin O'Neal.

God does nothing on Earth without His people. God wants to include and use you by your joining us in helping to bring about the healing of our nation. Afterwards will be two powerful opportunities to follow through to reclaim the nation for Jesus Christ and secure the liberties for the next generation.

This historical event will take place at the Gathering Church, as Bob Jones prophesied.

Stated Pastor O'Neal, "This sign happened on 02-02-2020, and the Lord told us to hold the 'One Blood Revival' on 11/11/21, in North Carolina."

Oct. 31 was also Martin Luther's Reformation Day, in 1517, when he nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Germany. The Mayflower Compact had also been about the Reformation of the Church. There was division at that time of sailing, even on the Mayflower. The Puritans had just left a one-state, perverted church – a combination of Roman Catholicism and the Roman secular state – while the Moravians, originally out of Czechoslovakia, then Switzerland and France, were fleeing persecution by the European Catholic priests, as their own leader, John Husk, had been captured and was being burned at the stake. It was told by the survivors that as the fire had begun burning him, the binding ropes fell off and he had been able to raise his charred hands, and at the very last, was heard singing praises to God—in his ultimate freedom. The Moravians had eventually settled in the counties near Winston Salem, Valdese and Hickory, N.C.

Submitted by Myra D. Colgate



### Robert 'Eddie' Raby

Robert "Eddie" Raby, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Charles Garmon and Lali Bateman Raby. In addition to his parents, he was preceded by his wife of 37 years, Betty Ann Raby; and a brother, Gene Raby. He was an Army veteran, who served during the Vietnam conflict. He attended the Community Baptist Church. He was most happy spending time in Burningtown, going to flea markets to barter, and telling stories.



Robert 'Eddie' Raby

He is survived by Pat, his longtime companion of 12 years; two daughters, Christa Ledford (Bobby), and Heather Gibson (Mike); two brothers, Larry Raby and Bert Raby; and a sister, Betty Burns of Mauldin, S.C.; five grandchildren, Clay Gibson, Mallie Ledford, Blake Gibson, Lexy Gibson, and Sarah Ledford; numerous nieces and nephews, and two best friends, Mitchell and Wesley Wilkes.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Nov. 9, at Burningtown Baptist Church cemetery. Larry Raby and Rev. Jim Greer officiated.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Burningtown Baptist Ch. Cemetery, C/O Eddie Simonds, 279 Edwards Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com). Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Frances Brumit Ledford

Frances Brumit Ledford, 62, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021.

Born in Johnson City, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Joseph Cecil and Evelyn Geraldine Oliver Brumit. She spent many years as a teacher assistant in the Macon County School system. She worked at Cullasaja Elementary School and East Franklin Elementary School.

She attended both Riverside Fellowship and Cullasaja Assembly of God. She cherished the time she spent with all her family; but especially enjoyed the time with her grandchildren. She loved all animals, but particularly her dogs.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Kent Ledford; two children, Brent Ledford (Katie) and Brittany Ledford, both of Franklin; brother, Joe Brumit (Janice) of Asheville, N.C.; and a sister, Nancy Hester of Wartburg, Tenn.; three grandchildren, Bella Ledford, Elliot Ledford, and Jacob Hughes; father-in-law, Furman Ledford; and mother-in-law, Emma Lou Ledford and brother-in-law, Kevin Ledford.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Forest Jones and Rev. Richard Salmonson officiating.

Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dustin Byrge, Kevin Ledford, Jake Hughes, Larry Shope, Chuck Mayol and Dale Clouse.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, 851 Lake Emory Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Frances Brumit Ledford

### Mary (Duck) Virginia Pendergrass Thomas

Mary (Duck) Virginia Pendergrass Thomas, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Troy and Lassie Hall Pendergrass. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband, Floyd "Buddy" Thomas; and three siblings, Shirley Rowland, Dean Barber, and Bob Pendergrass. She was of the Baptist faith. In her spare time, she enjoyed fishing, working with her flowers, and tending to her cats and chickens.

She is survived by her companion, Lonnie Woodard of Bryson City, N.C.; one son, Ronnie Roper (Loretta) of Franklin; and a sister, Rita McCoy of Franklin; four grandchildren, Kyrstal Roper, Kasey Mossebarger (Paul), Troy Roper, and Kaitlynn Roper; three great grandchildren, Turner, Parker, and Nash; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Friday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Jared Benedict and Rev. Johnny Raby will officiate. Burial will be in the Woodlawn cemetery.

The family will receive friends, from 1 till 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to Macon Funeral Home, 261 Iotla St., Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

### Marilyn Henson Payne

Marilyn Henson Payne, 84, of Otto, N.C., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021. She was born in Macon County, Dec. 12, 1936, to the late Ed and Iris Cabe Henson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Kyle Payne, and her daughter, Melanie Payne. She was a graduate of Western Carolina University and retired from the U.S. Forest Service. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, where she played the piano. She loved to read and do puzzles; she also loved her grandchildren and was known as "Meemaw."

Surviving are her son, Kevin Payne of Otto; brother, Dean Henson of Otto; two grandchildren, Alyson Payne and Ethan Payne (Brittany); and a great-grandson, Clay Payne.

A Celebration of Life service was held Sunday, Nov. 7, at Asbury United Methodist Church, with Rev. Eric Henson officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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

### Justino Soriano

Justino Soriano, 43 of Otto, N.C., passed away on Nov. 3, 2021.

He was born in Mexico to Marcelina Aguilar and the late Martin Soriano.

He is survived by his mother, Marcelina Aguilar; his wife, Aurelia Colmenares Leon of Otto; children, Alberta Soriano Colmenares, Carlos Soriano, and Fernando Soriano all of Otto; siblings, Nicolas Soriano of Florida, Virgilio Aguilar of Scaly Mountain, N.C., Isabel Aguilar of Mexico, and Valerio Aguilar of Mexico; and his beloved dogs, Rocky and Lucero.

A service was held Monday, Nov. 8, at St Frances of Assisi with Father Tien Duong officiating.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Marilyn Henson Payne



Justino Soriano



# Deaths & Funerals

## Charles Robert Rowe

Charles Robert Rowe, 63 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Nov. 4, 2021.

He was born in Richmond, Va., to the late Edward Sr. and Cecelia Klotz Rowe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Michael Fancis Rowe; and grandson James Rodney Sweeten.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Deborah McCraw; daughter, Michelle Sweeten Cain of Franklin; brothers, Edward Benjamin Rowe Jr. of Chesterfield, Va., and Thomas Lee Rowe; and granddaughter, Heaven Leigh Conner.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be to Macon Funeral Home to help with the expenses.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Charles Robert Rowe

## Elaine Johnson

Elaine Johnson, 91, of Highlands, N.C., passed away peacefully on Nov. 3, 2021, at the Eckerd Living Center where she had resided in recent months. Her passing was due to complications of vascular dementia. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Keith Gunnar Johnson.

She was born on July 19, 1930, the daughter of the late Frances and Douglas Copeland, and grew up in Montgomery, Ala., where she graduated from high school and earned a BA degree in English from Huntingdon College. Her grandfather was a former mayor of Dothan, Ala.

After her marriage to Keith Johnson in 1952, the couple resided in Brockton, Mass., and South Easton, Mass., and she worked in the insurance agency business. In the 1970s, her husband's position with the decorating firm FW Schumacher & Company in Boston, Mass., was transferred to Florida, where the couple resided in West Palm Beach and later in St. Petersburg.

While still living in Florida, they purchased a summer home on Netsi Place in the Mirror Lake section of Highlands. Following their retirement in 1988, the couple expanded their cabin on Mirror Lake and moved there full time. They both became active in the Mirror Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) for many years where Keith served as vice president and Elaine served as secretary. At MLIA meetings they could always be seen seated at the head table along with then MLIA President and Mayor Buck Trott, Elaine with pencil and short-hand pad at the ready. Following each meeting she typed up the minutes meticulously on an electric typewriter. During that time she also became known for her column in *The Highlander* called Mirror Lake Reflections.

She was also active in the Mountain Garden Club where in her later years she was honored with Emeritus status. During the club's annual Memorial Day plant sale, she became the official gatekeeper of the event and was fondly known as "the sheriff." During her younger years and extending throughout most of her adult life, she was an avid horsewoman and rider.

Prior to residing at the Eckerd Center, she lived for a number of years at Chestnut Hill.

She is survived by a sister, Frances Evans, of Durham, N.C.; a sister-in-law, Barbara Johnson Foster, of Scituate, Mass.; a brother-in-law, Wayne Johnson (Dr. Frankie Mickelson), of Washington DC, and Highlands; and seven nieces and nephews.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Johnson family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com).

## Donald John 'Jack' MacLean

Donald John 'Jack' MacLean, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021. He was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., the son of Donald John MacLean Sr. and Sally Reynolds MacLean. He graduated from the RCA Technical Institute NYC in 1952 and then was hired at Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J., where he worked for 31 years.

He was kind-hearted with a quick wit and loved to tell stories about his days in the Army at the Panama Canal in 1947.

His hobbies and interests included Amateur "Ham" Radio (K2IUUK) that he learned from his father (W2QFH), jazz drumming, photography, black and white darkroom processing, owning and working on European sports cars, attending automobile and bicycle races, Apollo missions and tropical travel. He also documented his family life with his 35mm cameras and left an archive of film to cherish.

He is survived by son, John Scott MacLean (KC5JIA); daughter-in-law, Dianne Segall MacLean; two grandsons, Andrew Reynolds Jacob MacLean and Eric Ryan MacLean, Eric's wife Brittany; and his great grandson, Alex Stone MacLean. He joins his wife Lois of 65 years and his oldest son Garry in eternal rest.



Donald John MacLean

## Perlie Edwin Cabe

Perlie Edwin Cabe, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. He was born in Lawton County, Oklahoma, July 30, 1943, to the late Ardell Edwin Cabe and Opal Lucille Medlin Cabe. He worked for the NCDOT for 33 years and retired in 1996. He was a charter member of the Clarks Chapel Fire Department, loved to garden and work, and loved his family. He was a member of the Clarks Chapel Community Development Club, assisted in roadside cleanup on Medlin Road, looked after the Clarks Chapel UMC parsonage and in 2019, received the Laity Service Award at Clarks Chapel UMC.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Joan Cabe; a son, Jonathan Cabe (Christy) of Franklin; a daughter, Laura Call (Mark) of Franklin; one sister, Carolyn Southard of Blairsville, Ga.; five grandchildren, Sydney Balmer, Hunter Jamison, Lucinda Call, Zachary Call, and Aaron Call; one great grandchild, Elizabeth Balmer; and a very special friend who is considered family, David Watson. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, David Cabe.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Nov. 11, at Clarks Chapel United Methodist Church with the Rev. Janet Greene officiating. Burial will follow at the Clarks Chapel UMC cemetery. The family will greet friends after the service.

Memorials may be made to Clarks Chapel Cemetery Fund, 1999 Clarks Road, Franklin, NC 28734.



Perlie Edwin Cabe

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## Judy Gale Rogers Waldroop

Judy Gale Rogers Waldroop, 67, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021.

She was born in Gaston County, North Carolina, to the late Claude Sr. and Lala Garren Rogers. She was a member of Cartoogechaye Baptist Church and was the 210th National Guard Family Support Coordinator.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Clifford Waldroop; son, Jamie Waldroop (Beth) of Newland, N.C.; brother, Claude "Moose" Rogers (Geneta "Hoppy") of Franklin; two grandsons, Jacob Waldroop (Kylie) and Austin Waldroop; and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Macon Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. Rev. Steve Reeves and Rev. Brandon Fenoglio will officiate.


In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Cartoogechaye Baptist Church Live Nativity, St. Jude's or Shriners Children Hospital.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



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## Kyle Larson comes full circle winning Championship Race

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

AVONDALE, Ariz. – At the end of an almost mythical season came the quintessential story of redemption.

Taking advantage of an opportune caution and a blazingly fast pit stop by his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet crew, Larson held off Martin Truex Jr. during a 24-lap green-flag run to the finish in Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Championship Race.

The victory—Larson's 10th of the season and the 10th at a track where he had never won before—made a deserving series champion of the 29-year-old Californian, who honed his racing skills in open-wheeled cars on dirt.

As Larson slowed his car for the cool-down lap, the tears started flowing.

"I can't... I cannot believe it," Larson said after climbing from his car. "I didn't even think I'd be racing a Cup car a year and a half ago. To win a championship is crazy. I've got to say first-off thank you so much to (team owner) Rick Hendrick, Hendrickcars.com, Jeff Gordon, NASCAR, every single one of my supporters in the stands, watching at home and my family.

"There were so many points in this race where I did not think we were going to win. Without my pit crew on that last stop (on Lap 285), we would not be standing right here. They are the true winners of this race. They are true champions. I'm just blessed to be a part of this group. Every single man and woman at Hendrick Motorsports, this win is for all of us, and every one of you.

"This is unbelievable. I'm speechless."

Until Lap 282 of 312, however, Larson's chances of victory were all but nonexistent. He was fourth among the Championship 4 drivers and trailing Truex, the leader at the time, by more than four seconds.

But on the lap that changed the race, the brakes in David Starr's exploded and dropped a rotor in the low lane in Turn 3. Under the resulting caution, the ninth of the race, Larson's crew performed its second-fastest stop of the year and got Larson off pit road in the lead from pit stall No. 1, which the driver had earned by winning the pole during Saturday's qualifying.

Larson restarted from the outside on Lap 289 with Hamlin beside him. Truex, who lost two positions on pit road, lined up behind Larson, with defending Chase Elliott to his inside. Larson surged into the lead, and Truex followed, passing Hamlin.

Truex contested the lead early in the run before Larson established a more comfortable margin. But Truex was closing at the finish and was just .398 seconds behind when Larson crossed the stripe for the final time to earn the 16th victory of his career, and the 14th series championship for the organization (series-most).

"I don't know what the caution was for, but just untimely caution for us and lost two spots on pit road, and that was the race," Truex said. "Twenty (laps) to go, you're not going to pass one of the fastest cars out there. We just didn't have the short-run speed all day, and then certainly with 20 to go, it's going to be hard to pass anybody out front in clean air. Come in here once again as underdogs and had a shot at it, so that was fun."

Before the Lap 282 caution Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs racing Toyota was closing on Truex, but the yellow flag foiled a well-executed game plan by Hamlin's team.

"I really liked where we were at with about 25 to go," said Hamlin, who came home third in front of Ryan Blaney and Elliott. "We were just exceptional in the long run, which wasn't too surprising, but started running the 19 (Truex) back down there and got within a couple car lengths, and obviously that debris caution changed a lot.

"Special congrats to Larson and his team. Those guys, any time you can win 10 races in a year, you're absolutely a deserving champion. They did a great job on the last pit stop and got him out there, and it was just set sail after that."

Had he won, the 25-year-old Elliott would have become the youngest driver to win multiple Cup championships, but his No.



Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, his family, friends and crew point to the sky after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 7, 2021 in Avondale, Ariz. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet didn't have either the track position or the necessary speed in the final run.

"I felt like our NAPA Chevy was really good, and I thought our team did a really good job preparing this week," said Elliott, who led 94 laps, second only to Larson's 107. "I was really proud of our group. I thought we brought a really good car and did a lot of things that we were wanting to do today. Just didn't work out, and the sequence of the way all that went certainly was unfortunate for us. ... Congrats to Kyle and (crew chief) Cliff (Daniels). What an amazing season... and glad to see Kyle have success. When you're a good driver and a good person, and you surround yourself with good people, success is warranted. It's good to see that. But we'll be back stronger next year and try to give them a run."

### Daniel Hemric bags Xfinity championship with first NASCAR national series win

AVONDALE, Ariz. – Daniel Hemric picked the perfect time to win his first NASCAR national series race—and a title came with it.

Executing an aggressive bump-and-run in Saturday night's NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship Race, Hemric passed Austin Cindric in the final two corners at Phoenix Raceway.

Approaching the finish line, the cars collided side-to-side, with Hemric crossing the stripe .030 seconds ahead of Cindric—roughly five feet—denying the driver of the No. 22 Team Penske Ford a second straight championship.

The victory came in Hemric's 208th NASCAR national se-

ries start, silencing critics who kept asking, "Will Hemric ever win a race?"

The answer came from crew chief Dave Rogers moments after the winning driver crossed the stripe and clinched the title.

"How about that, champion?" Rogers said. "You'll never have to hear that stupid question again."

"Never again!" Hemric shouted in reply.

Hemric, who is leaving the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota in favor of a ride with Kaulig Racing next year, was unapologetic about moving Cindric's Ford up the track to win the race at the end of a two-lap overtime that extended the event from 200 to 204 laps.

"I'm blacked out, blacked out," Hemric said at the start/finish line after turning a back flip off the roof of his car. "Just knew I had to be the first one to the line. I thought I let him get too much of a run off of (Turn) 4 (on the first lap of overtime).

"Drove into (Turn) 1, knew I was close, not to completely use them up, but we work our asses off for an opportunity like this—excuse my language. This is what it's all about, winning at the second highest level in all of motorsports. What an honor..."

"How about those race fans? That back flip good enough for you? I've been waiting a long damn time to do that."

Cindric took the loss with consummate grace.

"Until you spin somebody out, it's not dirty racing," said Cindric, who entered the championship event with five wins to his credit this season. "If everyone in the stands enjoyed it, it's good racing."

As a consolation prize, Cindric secured the Xfinity Series Owners Championship for Roger Penske with his runner-up result.

The other two Championship 4 drivers—Noah Gragson and AJ Allmendinger—were in contention at the end. Gragson slammed the wall shortly after a restart on Lap 193 and fell to 12th at the finish.

Allmendinger suffered a loose wheel late in the race and spun in Turn 2 on Lap 181, causing the eighth of 10 cautions. Cindric, who led a race-high 113 laps, had a commanding lead at the time,



Daniel Hemric, driver of the #18 Poppy Bank Toyota, celebrates with a back flip in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 6, 2021 in Avondale, Ariz. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images



but the yellow bunched the field and set up the late-race shootout.

Harrison Burton ran third on Saturday, followed by Riley Herbst and Justin Haley. John Hunter Nemechek, Brandon Jones, Brett Moffitt, Justin Allgaier and Sheldon Creed completed the top 10.

Ben Rhodes wins NASCAR Camping World Truck Series championship, as Chandler Smith sweeps title race AVONDALE, Ariz. – A bantamweight boxer in the training room, Ben Rhodes punched like a heavyweight on Friday at Phoenix Raceway.

On Lap 142 of 150 in the Lucas Oil 150 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series championship race, Rhodes tapped the tailgate of Zane Smith's Chevrolet with the nose of his No. 99 ThorSport Racing Toyota, nudged Smith up the track in Turn 2 and made the pass that secured his first title.

At the time, the pass was for fourth place—as Chandler Smith was running away to victory in a No. 18 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota that featured superb long-run speed.

Rhodes, who uses boxing as the favorite part of his training regimen, eventually passed Sheldon Creed for third and held that spot to the finish, but he crossed the stripe ahead of the other three championship contenders—Smith in fifth, John Hunter Nemechek in seventh and Matt Crafton in 12th.

"That was the hardest last 40 laps I think I have ever driven in my life," said Rhodes, who won the first two races of the season and none since. "I was doing things to the race car I probably shouldn't have been doing. It was dumb, but I had everything to lose.

"And we brought it home and won it. I'm so proud of my ThorSport Racing group. I just can't thank (owners) Duke and Rhonda (Thorson) enough. They are the reason I'm here tonight."

Rhodes' title was the fourth driver's championship for ThorSport Racing, with Crafton having won the first three in 2013, 2014 and 2019. It was the first owner's title for ThorSport.

Entering the race as the favorite, Nemechek never had a chance. After a disappointing 16th-place qualifying ef-

fort, he scraped the wall in Turn 1 on the opening lap and got clipped on the left front by the No. 02 Chevrolet of Kris Wright.

Six laps later, Nemechek limped to pit road with a flat left front tire, lost two laps during the unscheduled stop and spent the first two stages fighting to regain the lead lap.

Though Nemechek recovered the second of his lost laps as the highest-scored lapped truck under caution for Tate Fogleman's stalled truck on Lap 101, he could drive up only to seventh before the finish.

"Yeah, I got run in to the first corner, got into the fence, somebody else ran in to us on the left side and this thing is killed pretty much," Nemechek said. "Had a left front tire go flat, went down two laps, got both of our laps back, but just needed more laps, I guess. After all, felt we had the best truck tonight, Playoff-wise for sure."

Zane Smith passed Rhodes for third place on Lap 110, five laps after the final restart. Though Chandler Smith got past both trucks during the final 45-lap run, Zane Smith held the championship position for 32 laps as Rhodes pursued and finally made the title pass.

Chandler Smith swept the first two stages and won for the second time in his career after taking the checkered flag at Bristol in September. In the process he clinched the Sunoco Rookie of the Year title.

Stewart Friesen took second place, crossing the finish line 4.694 seconds behind the race winner. Creed ran fourth behind the new champion, followed by Zane Smith, Christian Eckes, Nemechek, Todd Gilliland, Carson Hocevar and Austin Hill.



Ben Rhodes, driver of the #99 Bombardier LearJet 75 Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the 2021 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 5, 2021 in Avondale, Ariz. Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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### ACROSS

1. Repeating word on South Pacific map
5. Bro's sibling
8. Dashboard abbr.
11. Fusses
12. \*Basketball slam
13. Go "Boo!"
15. Boisterous play
16. Upper hand
17. Part of mortise joint
18. \*Unopposed attempt to score (2 words)
20. "The Famous Five" children's writer Blyton
21. \*Basketball player Bojan Bogdanovic or Drazen Petrovic
22. "Mares eat \_\_\_\_" or "does eat \_\_\_\_," sing.
23. One who covers in silver, e.g.
26. Figure
30. Be ill
31. Part of "panther"
34. Capital of Latvia
35. Like helium
37. Quilting party
38. Analyze
39. Dehydrated
40. Litter of piglets
42. Down Under bird
43. a.k.a. armadillo
45. Provincial governor in ancient Persia
47. Argo propeller
48. Subway in Paris
50. Conclusion starter
52. \*Made basket (2 words)
56. Not a soul
57. Like animal near extinction
58. Greek sandwich
59. Bandages

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60. Arabian bigwig
61. Answer to "Shall we?"
62. Bar offering
63. \*It sends a basketball game to overtime
64. Highland tongue

### DOWN

1. Vomit
2. Sensory input
3. It wasn't built in a day
4. Characteristic to consider
5. Traditional scarf/head-dress
6. Brick of precious metal
7. Place at an angle
8. Indian princess
9. Circus trainer's poker
10. '80s band " \_\_\_\_ At

- Work"
12. Remove antlers
13. Titanic propeller
14. \*Shaquille O'Neal and Wilt Chamberlain, e.g.
19. Halloween option
22. Not their
23. 1/100th of a rupee
24. Wrinkle-prone natural fabric
25. Warning
26. \_\_\_\_-do-well
27. Part of a stair
28. Old World lizard
29. \*Fast-break \_\_\_\_
32. Skier's aid
33. Part of H.M.S.
36. \*Reward after missed shot
38. \*Larry O'Brien NBA

- Championship Trophy, e.g.
40. Away's partner
41. Stable worker
44. Relieves
46. On/off type of switch
48. \* \_\_\_\_ Hurricanes
49. Creepy
50. Work very hard
51. Use a whetstone
52. Worry without necessity
53. Deed hearing
54. A in A&E Network
55. \*The Phoenix Suns did it in the 2021 NBA Finals
56. \*Professional basketball league

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4x4 with heated leather seats, panoramic sunroof, navigation + media player and ONLY 5,400 miles!!

### 2019 CHEVROLET TRAX LT



4 cyl. turbo, automatic, power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, keyless entry and ONLY 23,351 miles!!

### 2020 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71



Crew cab, leather, navigation, heated seats and remote start, 1 local owner with no accidents. Save thousands!!!

### 2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT



1 owner, clean CARFAX, local trade in. Power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, keyless entry and so much more and only 71,048 miles!

### 2018 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT



V6 power and 30 MPG on this 7 passenger fully equipped SUV. Save thousands over a new one!!

### 2018 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT



1 local owner with only 5,829 miles on this fully equipped full size sedan with power windows, locks, mirrors, power seats and keyless entry!!

### 2020 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF ROAD



Fully loaded including heated leather seats, power moonroof, running boards and bed liner. None nicer!!



**COUNTRYSIDE CHEVROLET**  
FRANKLIN, NC



### 2020 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4



Crew cab, 4x4, 6.2 LT V8, heated/cooled leather seats, moonroof, 14" heads up display, remote start and so much more and only 15,593 miles!!

### 2020 CADILLAC ESCALADE



4x4 with the Premium Luxury Package!! Too many options to list here. Come check it out!!



**YOUR HOMETOWN DEALER**

FIND NEW ROADS™



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