

The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

Free
independent
weekly

The Macon County
Deadline NEWS
for the & Shopping Guide
THANKSGIVING ISSUE is
Thursday, Nov. 18 by 2pm.
The Thanksgiving paper
will be published
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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Town of Franklin sponsored a Veterans Day Parade and ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 11. Hundreds turned out on a rainy day to honor our veterans. Mayor Bob Scott offered welcoming remarks followed by the Posting of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. The Macon County Art Association presented portraits of veterans whose families requested them. The ceremony concluded with the laying of the wreaths, a 21 gun salute and the playing of "Taps." For more photos, see page 12.
Photo by Vickie Carpenter

School board ponders mental wellness program

Diane Peltz - Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met on Monday, Nov. 15, for its regular monthly meeting.

A Mental Wellness Basics Program was discussed, which would target students grades 8-12. Everfi, a part of Mission Health, would supply the curriculum at no charge to Macon County Schools. The program would consist of four, 15 minute long digital lessons. This program would allow teachers to equip students with real world skills for success beyond the classroom. A dedicated regional team would be made available to assist in the program implementation and ongoing support.

Lessons would consist of Mental Health Basics, Understanding Mental Disorders, Healthy Coping Skills and Getting Help. Since 2020 this program has reached more than 18,000 students. Studies show that upon completion of the program 19% more students felt more confident in knowing



where to find help, 25% more students recognize when to use coping skills strategies, 32% more students would seek help without hesitation, 18% of students felt more comfortable in knowing how to help someone in need. Ninety-eight percent of teachers rated Mental Wellness Basics as good or very good, and 92% of teachers said it was easy to fit into the curriculum. The Board will decide at next month's meeting whether or not to adopt the program.

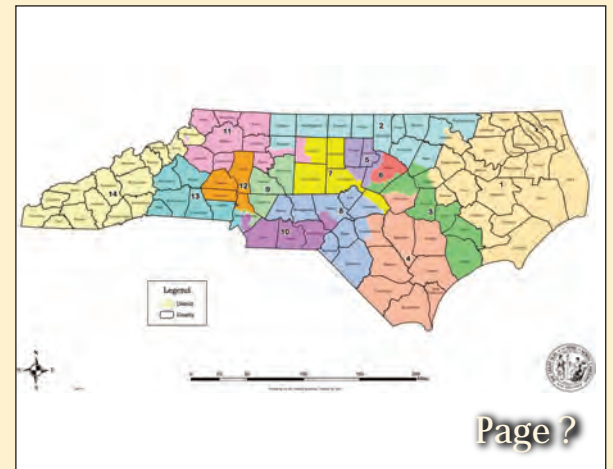
Career and Technical Education

A presentation was given by Colleen Strickland, CTE Director and Testing Coordinator, and Macon

Virtual Academy Principal, on one of the best kept secrets in Macon County. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a curriculum offering for all Macon County secondary students. The program affords students the opportunity to obtain a certification on their high school diploma. This

See SCHOOL BOARD page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



District 11 becomes District 14 in redrawn maps



Ginseng harvest concludes in December



Toys for Tots cruise-in deemed successful

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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

endorsement will qualify students to be ready for work upon graduation from high school. A special cord will be given at their graduation ceremony. Career pathway offerings include Animal Science, Plant Systems, Healthcare Professionals, Food and Nutrition, Welding, Adobe Academy, and Carpentry. Proposed additional pathways for 2022 and beyond include, Natural Resources, Project Management, Apparel and Textile Production, Biomedical Technology, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Education and Training, Information Technology. Currently more than 70 course offerings are offered in all Macon County Schools. Many students earning an endorsement in one of these fields continues on to secondary education. During the 2020-2021 school year Macon County Schools served 696 middle school students, and 1,004 high school students in Career and Technical Education. CTE students earned 187 industry recognized credentials. The North Carolina Career Endorsement includes, Completing Future-Ready Core Mathematics, CTE concentration, 2.6 unweighted GPA, Industry Certification, Career Readiness Certificate, WorkKeys, Benchmark score on ACT or SAT.

Summer programs will be offered through the Career Actuator Grant which will include designing a reality based camp. Students will come up with camp activities including cooking and other enterprises. They will basically design the complete activity process for campers. An Information Technology (IT) camp is in the works for students to learn about Cyber Security. They will become "hackers"

and learn how to guard against such threats. Public Safety will be part of the summer program where students work along with Macon EMS, the Police Department and First Responders. Upon completion of this summer program students will earn a certification in their chosen field of interest.

Macon County Pre-K

Brook Keener, Exceptional Children Director, spoke about the importance of the Pre-K program. Currently there are five classes in Macon County Schools. One is at Cartoogechaye Elementary School, two at South Macon Elementary and two at Iotla Elementary. In total, 92 students are enrolled in the Pre-K program. This program is not funded by state dollars. Funding consists of private pay, NC Pre-K (4 year olds) for families who are receive free or reduced lunch, and Developmentally delayed funding. The cost for parents who are private pay is substantially lower than most child care facilities charge. The rate for one child is \$450 month compared to many private facilities who charge \$600 to \$650 per month. As it stands now, East Franklin Elementary has no room to put in a Pre-K classroom. Highlands School is being looked at for a classroom for private pay families, as demographics reveal that doing so would be feasible.

In order to support a Pre-K class, funds are needed for adequate classroom facilities, playgrounds spaces to accommodate licensure requirements and other needed equipment. School Board member Carol Arnold, spoke about concerns with growth in Macon County Schools. She agreed that Pre-K is a much needed program but worried that if the student population continues to grow it may necessi-

tate the use of these classrooms for students in K-4. ESSER funding might be able to be used for some of the expenses. The board called a special meeting for Monday, Nov. 22, at 5:30 p.m., to discuss funding.

Board Continues Masks Optional

Masks optional mandate was also upheld at the meeting. The positivity rate for COVID in Macon County is at 5.82% and

transmissions are holding steady. There are currently 12 students out, who are positive for COVID and 85 in quarantine. Three staff are currently out with a positive COVID along with four staff in quarantine. As expected there has been a slight increase in the number of quarantines. Most of the positive exposures have not been traced back to in-school transmissions. The School Board will reevaluate the mask optional mandate at its next meeting.



Women's club installs new officers

The Franklin Women's Club met Friday, Nov. 12, at Fat Buddies restaurant for the installation of new officers for the 2022- 2023 term. Barbara Tobias conducted the installation assisted by Vicki Ditmeyer. Outgoing president Joyce Wood passed the gavel to incoming president, Linda Ellison. The club is dedicated to the betterment of the children of Macon County. Standing (L-R) are Diane Bullis, Jean Farmer, Valerie Eldred, Brenda Jacobs and Linda Ellison; seated are, Bonnie Jones and Joyce Wood.

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Newly drawn districts result in westernmost counties renamed District 14

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

The 2020 Census added a congressional seat in North Carolina, which was approved by the North Carolina legislature last week. The majority of Western North Carolina residents who have historically been located in District 11 will now be considered District 14. The name of the district is not the only thing that is changing. Representative Madison Cawthorn announced last Thursday night that he will not be seeking election in the same district and will instead be running for election in the newly drawn District 13.

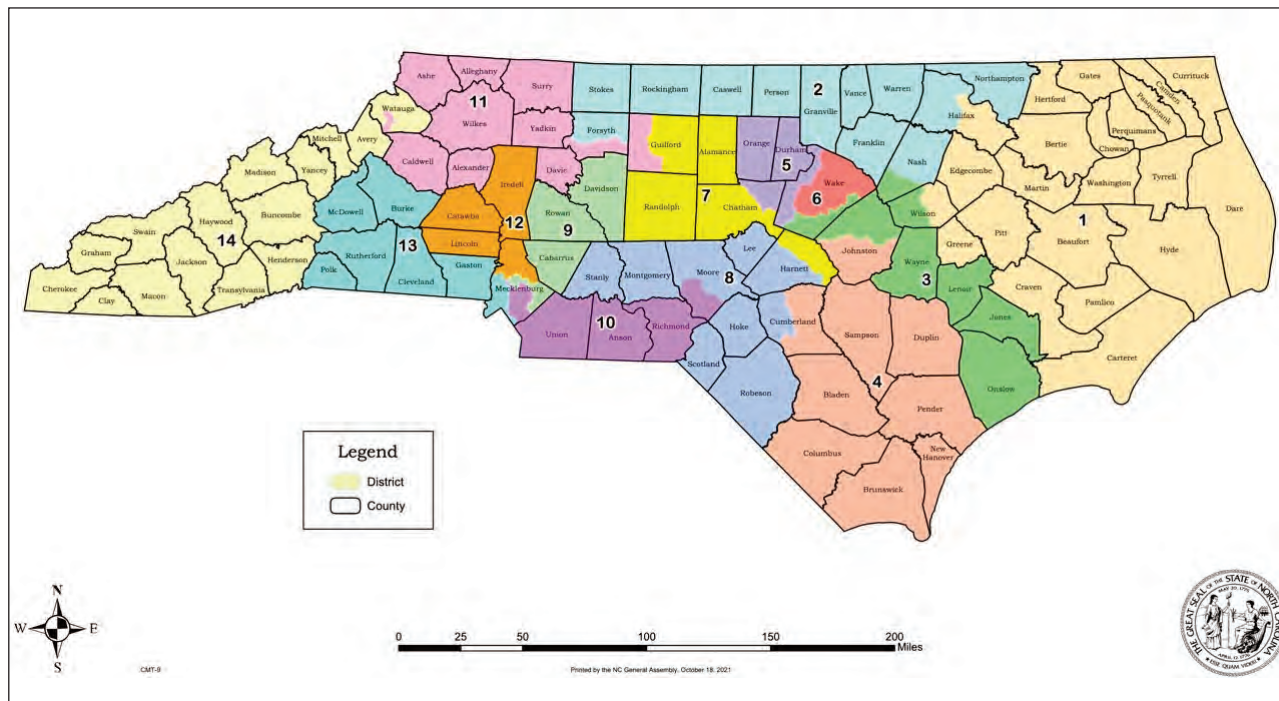
"I believe we have a unique opportunity to increase conservative leadership from North Carolina," Cawthorn said in a video posted around 7 p.m. on Thursday. "I have every confidence in the world that regardless of where I run the 14th congressional district will send a patriotic fighter to DC. Knowing the political realities of the 13th district I am afraid that another establishment 'go along to get along' Republican would prevail there. I will not let that happen. I will be running for Congress in the 13th Congressional District."

According to Cawthorn's video statement, his decision to run in District 13 was made primarily because his residence is close to the border between District 13 and 14. Rep. Cawthorn lives in Henderson County and while the entirety of Henderson County remains in District 14, the county borders Rutherford County which is located in the newly drawn District 13.

"Our state is growing and changing rapidly. We now have a brand-new congressional district, and as it stands, the new lines have split my constituents. My house is almost directly on the line of separation for the 13th and the 14th Congressional districts, and now half of the counties in the new district are counties I currently represent. My people are split, and I am forced to make a very difficult decision. Ultimately, I have to answer this question: what choice would enable me to make the greatest impact on the affairs of our state and our nation, so that our children and grandchildren can inherit the best version of America we can possibly give them? After consulting my family, my constituents, and with prayerful consideration, the answer is clear. I will be running for congress in the 13th congressional district," said Cawthorn.

In Cawthorn's video statement, he also claimed that half of the counties now in District 13 are counties he currently represents in District 11. Polk and McDowell counties and a slice of Rutherford County will move from District 11 to District 13 and accounts for around 100,000 residents. The remaining area of District 13 includes Burke, Cleveland, Gaston, and a slice of Mecklenburg County.

District 11 isn't the only district changing for WNC residents. The new maps, which were approved by both the House and Senate leaders, adds Transylvania County to Senate District 50, giving Senator Corbin an entirely new county to represent — and campaign in when re-election rolls around.



Newly redrawn districts in North Carolina have resulted in renaming of various districts including the westernmost counties, which will now be known at District 14.

"I am looking forward to picking up Transylvania County and to have the opportunity to serve those folks," said Senator Corbin. "I'm not particularly happy about losing a few precincts in Haywood, but even though those people may no longer be in District 50, I remain committed to representing them anyway. I'm not going to pay attention to an imaginary line."

An organization called Democracy Docket, formed by Democratic lawyer Marc Elias, announced Friday that a group of voters who successfully challenged previous North Carolina maps will make a similar appeal in state court contesting the latest congressional maps. The new legal challenge focuses on partisan gerrymandering and claims boundaries approved by Republican-controlled legislature Thursday were drawn for political gain in a way that violates the N.C. Constitution.

The Princeton Gerrymandering Project, which analyzes maps and seeks to eliminate partisan gerrymandering across the country, gave all three maps an overall "F" rating, as they would all provide a significant Republican advantage.

The maps drawn after the last census in 2010 led to a political and legal fight that lasted almost a decade.

Senator Kevin Corbin considering a run for Congress

With the news the Rep. Madison Cawthorn will not be seeking election in Western North Carolina, a familiar face has said

that he is considering a run in District 14 — which comprises the majority of the current District 11.

"Soon after Rep. Cawthorn made it public that he wasn't going to run for re-election in our district, my phone started ringing. I have told people that I am considering it. At this point, I will tell you I'm giving it a very, very serious look," said Sen. Kevin Corbin (R-Franklin).

Sen. Corbin said the he is happy working in the North Carolina General Assembly and after one term serving in the Senate, a run for Congress may be in the near future.

"My first thought when people asked if I was considering running, was, 'No, I'm very happy at the Senate,'" said Senator Corbin. "Right now in this capacity, I am in a place to do a lot of good for my district, and that's important to me," said Corbin. "But, I have had a lot of response from across the district asking for me to step up and a lot of people offering to help me in that endeavor, so it is a possibility."

Sen. Corbin is currently serving his freshman term in the North Carolina Senate, but is no stranger to Raleigh. Sen. Corbin made the move to the Senate after serving two terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives serving NC District 120.

The filing period for Congress opens Dec. 6 and continues until Dec. 17, with the primaries set for March 8. The election for Congress would be in November 2022.

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Family settles for \$725K in death of inmate while in custody of JCSO

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Melissa Rice died while in the custody of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in 2019 and now more than two years later, her family has closure. The family of the Sylva woman who reportedly "died by suicide" in the Jackson County Detention Center filed suit in federal district court in March 2020 against members of the sheriff's department who handled her arrest and subsequent incarceration. In September the family settled the lawsuit, according to documents filed in federal court. After mediation and finalizing the terms of the settlement, the case was settled for \$725,000 and closed.

Rice was originally arrested by Ridge Parris with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for trespassing at her ex-husband's home in the Cashiers community and was facing several charges. Rice was transported by Patrol Lieutenant Stephen Watson with the sheriff's department to Harris Regional Hospital for evaluation and treatment of a hand injury sustained during the arrest and was then taken to the detention center.

Rice, 49, died on Jan. 18, 2019, after she was found hanging by a phone cord in the detention center Jan. 16 while waiting for the magistrate. The incident occurred outside of the camera ranges within the jail.

Members of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office called in the assistance of both the State Bureau of Investigation and District Attorney Ashley Welch to evaluate the incident, however, in July 2019, Welch announced that no criminal charges would result due to no "culpable negligence or omissions" by law enforcement, or evidence proving that any officer "failed to perform a duty of his or her office."

The lawsuit named a total of 12 parties as defendants in the suit. Sheriff Chip Hall is named in his official capacity, and Western Surety Company is named as surety for the

sheriff. Captain Patrick McCoy is named in both his individual and official capacities. Also named in both individual and official capacities were Detention Officers Kaitlyn Bradley, Kayla Elliott, Aniyah McMullen, Justin Nicholson, and Emily Couvillon, Shondra Collini, Mark Junaluska, Ridge Parris, and Stephen Watson.

The lawsuit claimed that due to previous encounters with Rice, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department had "considered her to be a risk of harm to other inmates such that she was segregated from other prisoners."

Due to these concerns, between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Rice was placed in the booking and bond room, however, the lawsuit alleged the holding room did not meet detention center standards as the room was not completely monitored via camera. Despite that classification, the lawsuit alleged the jail staff failed to properly monitor Rice while in their custody.

Magistrate Judge Albert Reagan granted a restraining order against Rice at 4 p.m. and on his court documents, noted that Rice had threatened suicide. JCSO Deputy Parris then had the final encounter with Rice at 6:15 p.m. to notify her of the charges she faced. No one within the detention center checked in on Rice again until 7:06 p.m. at which time Officer Couvillon reported to have found her without a pulse and with a telephone cord from a wall-mounted telephone wrapped around her neck.

The lawsuit was filed by Rice's sons, Matthew Dillard and Madison Rice, on behalf of Rice's estate, and was seeking a trial by jury, judgment greater than \$1 million on three separate claims, and an award of triple the damages under NCGS 162-55 and attorney's fees. However, the case was settled in court this week without a trial and was settled through mediation.

Jackson County Sheriff Chip Hall declined to comment.

Cowee Mountain fully opens, work to be finished in the Spring

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Motorists traveling across Cowee Mountain are able to utilize all four lanes of traffic for the first time since the fall of 2019.

The slide of U.S. 441 on Cowee Mountain has been stabilized but while the road is completely open for motorists, the project won't be finalized until the Spring when the remaining cracks visible on the surface will be repaired and sealed.

"Settlement of the reconstructed portion of the roadway is expected to cause some cracking in the pavement for some time as drainage continues from the horizontal drains that have been recently installed," said David Uchiyama, spokesperson for the NCDOT. "In the spring, pressure grouting

will begin early spring to fill any voids that are below the roadway, and then the final layer of asphalt will be placed to complete the project."

The first phase of the project included significant drainage repairs and excavating about 18,000 cubic yards of earth material to build a soil-nail wall and maintain traffic in the two-lane pattern.

This second phase of the repairs was similar to building one side of a pyramid, by starting with a buttress of large stone at the bottom and working up, then with small stone. It included adding about 123,000 tons of shot-rock to build the buttress — which is about 50 percent complete — and an additional 105,000 tons of smaller stone to build the embankment.

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My Lord

Thank You,
My Wife

Thank you, my Lord, for giving me my wonderful wife. The miracle of my life. To Joan, my special wife, for sixty-nine dreamy years, you have given me the love, devotion, kindness, and a life that only you could give. As the years pass, I fall more and more in love with you. You made me the man I am today, you gave me strength to face life, you gave me the life a man could only dream about having.

Joan, thank you. It's my privilege to shout to the world just how wonderful you are. Your loving me is my reward in life. You made my life like a living heaven. God Bless you, my darling wife. Let's grab sixty-nine years more. I'm ready, how about you, my love? Together forever.

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Ginseng harvest wraps up each December

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Area authors David Joy and Ron Rash have mentioned it in their writings, newspaper articles announce criminal activity relating to it, and at least one bluegrass song's lyrics reference it – “Ginseng Sullivan” by Norman Blake, includes the chorus lyric: A tote sack full of ginseng ...”

Ginseng is a local, natural commodity with numerous strings attached.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is a North Carolina native plant that is also found in many parts of the eastern United States as well as parts of Canada. However, according to Christine Bredenkamp, Macon County Extension director in the Horticulture and Community Development, Macon County harvesters of ginseng reap a significant annual crop. Last year, 389.29 “green” (fresh) pounds of the root were harvested and that translated to 194.89 “dry” pounds.

The Macon County Extension office on Oct. 28 offered a free Zoom informational workshop on ginseng, with such topics addressed as state regulations for growing and harvesting, present and historical uses, and comparisons of Asian and

and soil is loosened so as not to break off parts of the root. Ripened berries are returned to the soil, where the roots were dug up, to further stabilize the populations.

Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines if there is sufficient evidence to continue to allow exports to occur from any given state. This determination is based on a number of factors, including protective measures and regulations adopted by each state, as well as evidence of the status of wild populations in each state.

This year, the N.C. Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCACS) pronounced a “special notice” July 1, 2021: “The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are not issuing American ginseng harvest permits this year due to continued declines and low population levels observed through monitoring and surveys. Anyone removing wild ginseng plants or its parts on national forest lands without a permit may be fined up to \$5,000 or a 6-month sentence in federal prison, or both.”

Ongoing rules mandated by USFWS are:

– “Ginseng harvest is legal September 1 to December 31 with landowner permission only. No state permit is required to dig ginseng, only the landowner's permission.

– To collect ginseng from another's land, the collector must

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One of the signs a ginseng root is ready for harvest is when the plant presents berries. Ginseng sells for a much higher price if it is allowed to dry instead of selling it green.

American ginseng. Bredenkamp taught the Zoom workshop.

American ginseng, referred to as “green gold,” is similar to East Asian ginseng (*Panax ginseng*), which has been used medicinally for thousands of years. Thus, pointed out Ricky Teem, Macon County's only current licensed ginseng dealer, most dried ginseng is sold to Asian buyers, while the fresh stuff is purchased by interested parties within the United States.

Ginseng is sought after, especially in Asian countries, for its supposed mental and physical health properties: boosts energy, lowers blood sugar and cholesterol levels, reduces stress, promotes relaxation, treats diabetes, and more. Ginseng roots can fetch anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 per pound.

Team said there are “hundreds” of harvesters in the area, and he harvested most of his life. For the past 20 years he has been a ginseng dealer. Over-harvesting in Asia has resulted in an increase in American ginseng purchased over the last several years. However, American ginseng has been harvested locally for generations, all the way back to a time when Cherokee people mostly inhabited Western North Carolina. The root was referred to then as “sang.”

Harvesters begin harvesting ginseng on Sept. 1 and wrap up Dec. 31 by identifying the plants, often by evidence of ripened berries, and then by removing soil in about a 5-inch radius around the plant. The entire root and dirt clod is removed

have written permission from the landowner, dated and valid for no more than 180 days. The document must be on the collector's person when digging ginseng on that land.

– Ginseng may not be harvested on State lands and in National Parks.

– As of 2021, ginseng harvest permits will not be issued for North Carolina National Forests. Ginseng may not be harvested in National Forests.

– Only 5-year old or older plants may be collected. Five-year old plants are defined as having at least three prong (5-leaflet leaves) or, in the absence of leaves, having at least four discernible bud scars plus a bud on the neck (rhizome). Collectors should replant any ginseng seeds from collected plants in the place where the roots are dug.

– A ginseng dealer's permit is required for anyone who buys North Carolina ginseng roots, wild or cultivated, for resale, or who intends to sell roots out of state. The Plant Conservation Program issues the permits annually, starting in July.

– No permit is needed to grow ginseng to be harvested only for the roots. If intending to sell live plants, the grower needs a nursery certificate, issued by the local NCDA&CS Plant Protection Specialist.”

To become a ginseng dealer, individuals must fill out a permit application with the NCACS, pay a fee of between \$50 and \$500, depending on residency and criteria, and adhere to

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these stipulations: "I agree to maintain purchase records of all wild, wild-simulated, and cultivated ginseng roots that are purchased, use only the forms provided by the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, and complete forms accurately. I agree to make these records and the ginseng roots in my possession available for inspection by an authorized inspector of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. I understand that I am responsible for the actions of my agents. I agree to abide by state and federal laws and regulations regarding the collection and sale of ginseng. I further agree to submit all reporting forms monthly throughout the season for each month there is ginseng activity."

Teem has permission as a ginseng dealer. He said that although, "the climate affects the volume" of ginseng he gets from harvesters each year around this time, generally the amount of ginseng harvested is about the same year to year. And even though harvesters dig up the roots from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 annually, he – as a dealer – can purchase ginseng until March 30.

As wild ginseng gets increasingly hard to find, many North Carolinians grow their own, explained Bredenkamp. Ginseng may be cultivated in beds with artificial shade, producing larger crops much faster. "Woods grown" and "wild-simulated" ginseng is ginseng grown in-ground with little or no tending.

"Mostly the general public is interested in how to grow ginseng in their own woods," she said. "And the extension office has a great publication on how to grow woods-simulated ginseng, so this is what I've focused on sharing over the years in fall seminars."

For more information about ginseng, contact the Macon County Extension Director at 828-349-2046.

Trees earmarked for Cherokee Heritage Apple Trail

Apple trees grafted from the heirloom trees at Horne Creek Living Historical Farm's Southern Heritage Apple Orchard will soon be planted in the Barbara McRae Cherokee Heritage Apple Trail, being developed by the Nikwasi Initiative.

"We are very excited about this project," said Horne Creek site manager Lisa Turney. "Lee Calhoun, author of 'Old Southern Apples,' always maintained that Cherokee farmers became some of the most successful orchardists that there were. It is very gratifying for our orchard to have a connection to this project and aid in the restoration of an important aspect of Cherokee culture."

The Nikwasi Initiative was established in 2016 to protect, promote, interpret, and link Cherokee cultural and historic sites, such as the Noquisiyi and Cowee Indian mounds, along a Cherokee Cultural Corridor that stretches along the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina.

Among several projects planned, kiosks in the area will tell the Cherokee's history, while traditional skills will be showcased at a variety of venues. David Anderson, an Environmental horticulture specialist with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee is also working with the Nikwasi Initiative and at the Jesse Owle Dugan Native Plant and Greenhouse Facility to reintroduce trees, plants, and bushes that were important to their culture, including mulberry bushes, white oak trees, pawpaws and apple trees.

Historically, after apples were brought to this continent by

Europeans, the native people quickly started raising the fruit. According to researcher Barbara McRae, "Apple cultivation and breeding were very common around Noquisiyi, in the Town of Franklin." Although it is not widely known, the Cherokee were the first to develop an agricultural census.

Silas McDowell, a noted horticulturist and pomologist, was responsible for saving nine apple varieties of Cherokee origin: Cullasaga, Nickajack, Alarakee, Equinetely, Cullashee, Junaluska, Watauga, Tillequah, and Chestooah.

Today, three of those apple varieties – Junaluska, Cullasaga, and Nickajack – reside in the Southern Heritage Apple Orchard, with the first being perhaps the most famous. The Junaluska apple derives its name from Chief Junaluska, a Cherokee who fought alongside Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Years later, prior to leaving for Oklahoma, Junaluska steadfastly refused to sell his land to the government because his favorite

apple tree grew on it. Before agreeing to the sale, he received an additional \$50 in compensation.

The Nikwasi Initiative will use trees purchased from the Southern Heritage Apple Orchard to restore the famed Indian Chief's Orchard and plant trees in the Barbara McRae Cherokee Heritage Apple Trail. The trail will be located along the Little Tennessee River at the half-mile marker on the Macon County Greenway when entered from the Big Bear Pavilion.



Franklin's Annual Christmas Parade

Theme:
'A Season for Giving'

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



Clint Kendall

November is a great month because we have the opportunity to express gratitude and share Thanksgiving with others, hopefully in person this year with our families. In that spirit of gratitude, I encourage us all to try to remember everything that is positive in our lives.

It's easy to focus on the positive when it comes to considering Angel Medical Center (AMC) and all who contribute to its success. The AMC team has been working hard on providing excellent care and I am grateful for this team and all they do for our community. As we work toward building a new facility with all new equipment, I cannot help but think about what truly makes a hospital more than simply a brick-and-mortar facility. Houses are not homes without this, societies are not communities without this, and humans are not caring people without this — I'm talking about Heart, and not just the beating organ that keeps us alive, but the soul within us that allows us to care, act selflessly, and love others.

What makes Angel Medical Center special is the Heart that is placed into the care we provide. I am thankful for the “ser-

vant's heart” that each of our team members brings with them to work, each and every day. I am especially thankful for the continued resilience that this team has shown during the COVID battle. They have adapted again and again to changes in how we care for our patients, visitor limitations, and more. What makes Angel exceptional is that everyone here holds space in their hearts for each member of our community.

We make a choice daily to see and focus on the positive. During the last two years, we have been flooded with distressing images, news, words, and angry debates around the many pandemic-related twists and turns, and the list goes on. Take a moment to find a few things that you are grateful for and to see those positives clearly.

I myself have so much to be grateful for, including my family, good health, friends, my wonderful AMC work family, and this community, as well as simple things like our beautiful sunrises and the fall foliage that's currently providing us with quite a show. I also deeply appreciate the men and women in law enforcement who keep our community safe and the men and women in uniform keeping us free. I have to thank my family and our patients and community too — my son is teaching me to love deeper, my wife has provided unconditional support as we have started a new chapter in our lives, and our community members entrust me to continue to grow and provide care for their families, which is an awesome and humbling responsibility. Finally, thank you to those in our community who have chosen to support and nurture the hearts and work of our AMC team.

Everyone at AMC is grateful to care for you, and there is no better time than now to take care of yourself. I encourage you

to use all your insurance benefits for 2021 before they run out. You may not know that most insurance plans cover yearly exams and labs, as well as preventive screenings like mammograms, colonoscopies, and low-dose CT scans that test for early stage lung cancer. Prevention is always better than intervention. We are here for all your healthcare needs, including all-important preventive care, which many put off during the pandemic due to safety concerns. There are also charity care options available that you can learn about through the hospital if you're in need of them. Know that AMC remains one of the safest places you can be — we observe all COVID safety protocols and look forward to seeing you.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with time shared with loved ones, laughter, and thoughts of a bright future.

Clint Kendall, FACHE, MBA, MSN, BSN, RN, is Chief Executive Officer/Chief Nursing Officer of Angel Medical Center. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Nursing, and Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Carolina University. He has served as Chief Executive Officer of Andalusia Health, part of LifePoint Health. He oversaw the management and strategic planning for a 113-bed acute care facility there, and led Andalusia Physician Services as well, after serving in leadership roles at LifePoint facilities in Richlands, Va., and Henderson, N.C. He has also earned the Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) certification, and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), and the American Nurses Association (ANA).

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Sweet Caroline's Ice Cream Truck brings smiles

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce welcomes the cutest little ice cream truck in the region, Sweet Caroline's Mobile Ice Cream Truck, to the Franklin Chamber membership.

Owner Carla Whitley has added an excitement to Franklin that is hard to match with her music playing, adorably painted, mobile ice cream truck.

"I used to joke that my dream job would be to retire as a little old lady and hand out ice cream around town and just deliver smiles. For year's now I have joked about this, until a few months ago I thought "why not now?" Whitley said.

Whitley and her children moved to Franklin months earlier leaving an abusive situation, seeking refuge and starting over near family. "I absolutely love this town and am so thankful for how welcome I have felt." Whitley continued.

Sweet Caroline's Ice Cream Truck is available for weekday and weekend parties, festivals, business and neighborhood runs. Just call Carla at (828)526-6462 or message her on her facebook page to book an event.



Sweet Caroline's Ice Cream Truck is available for parties, festivals and neighborhood runs. Call (828)526-6462.

In addition to offering ice cream to squealing kids, Whitley wants Maggie, her ice cream truck, to be a place of refuge for anyone struggling in a bad home life situation.

"I want to be known for being a place men or women can come to find what resources are available to help get them into a safer home situation. Everyone deserves to feel safe. If you need help with a domestic abuse situation, please call the National Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)." said Whitley.

HOPE program tops \$593 million in rent and utility assistance awards

Since opening last fall, the N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program has awarded \$593.7 million in rent and utility assistance, with more than \$518 million already paid on behalf of families financially impacted by COVID-19. Of that amount, more than \$472 million has already been sent directly to landlords statewide, providing a substantial economic boost to rental property owners that have also been affected by the pandemic. The U.S. Department of Treasury currently ranks the HOPE Program as #3 in the nation for number of households served, while North Carolina overall ranks #6 for the spending of federal Emergency Rental Assistance money.

"As a landlord, I am truly grateful for the HOPE Program rental assistance," wrote one Scotland County respondent. "This program has eased a lot of financial burden off of the tenant and the landlord," A Bladen County landlord added, "This program provided me an opportunity to catch up on back expenses and, hopefully, give the renter a chance to get their finances in order."

To date, landlords have referred 6,846 tenants to the HOPE Program. Landlords may submit tenant names and contact information through the website or by contacting the HOPE Call Center at 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467). A program specialist will then follow up with the tenant to help start the application process.

The HOPE Program is still accepting applications for rent and utility bill assistance from renters in 88 North Carolina counties. Applicants can apply online at HOPE.NC.gov or call 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467). The call center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both English- and Spanish-speaking representatives are available to assist callers. To learn more, visit HOPE.NC.gov.

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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House returned to work on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. Prior to the 7 p.m. session, I attended a caucus meeting with my colleagues to discuss the week's schedule.

During Monday night's session, we seated newly-appointed Member, Representative Donnie Loftis. Representative Loftis fills the vacant seat of former Representative Dana Bumgardner, who passed away last month after a courageous battle with cancer.

No votes were conducted during Monday evening's session.

On Tuesday, the committee room was open from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to permit legislators the opportunity to draw legislative maps.

Session reconvened at 1 p.m. and we considered the following bill:

– HB976, House Redistricting Plan 2021/HBK-14, an act to realign North Carolina House of Representatives districts following the return of the 2020 federal decennial census. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 67-49.

The House reconvened Wednesday morning to consider numerous bills, including:

– SB311, No Waiting Period Under LGERS/VFDF Grant, would prohibit employers from imposing a waiting period on employees who are eligible for membership in the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS). It would also update the Volunteer Fire Department Fund (VFDF) grant matching requirements. The bill passed unanimously, 110-0.

– HB404, Pending CCS: Ltd. Immunity for PSAP/TC for S.L. 2021-171, would provide that public safety answering points (PSAP) and their employees and agents and employees of law enforcement agencies who are certified by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission are liable for damages in a civil action for wanton or willful misconduct. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 107-3.

Wednesday afternoon I met with my colleagues for a caucus meeting. The House Redistricting Committee met at 3 p.m., and voted on SB740, Congressional Redistricting Plan 2021/CST-13. The bill passed committee and was added to Thursday's House calendar.

The House reconvened Thursday at 11 a.m., to consider various legislation, including:

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Grateful for community support during time of crisis

Six months ago our house burnt down. My wife, dog and I escaped with only the clothes we were wearing. As shocking as the event was, what softened our disaster was the support our neighbors gave us. Clothes, food and money, never have I experienced such generosity in my entire life. We wish to thank the amazing firefighters who saved our garage and one car from the conflagration. One of the couples living near us fed and housed us for two weeks while we waited for alternate accommodations. Laughing with them every evening was so comforting to us as we faced this profound loss. We especially want to thank the Red Cross and the people at the Farm Bureau Insurance Company for their immediate support and follow-through on all of our physical needs. Moving 10 years ago to this Macon County community has been one of the best decisions of our lives.

Sincerely,

Ron Bishop – Otto, N.C.

GOP has sacrificed credibility; lost its moral compass

In a most fitting letter alluding to former President Trump, Kathy Whitley correctly ponders the Republican Party's conspicuous inability to "find a more stable person to run for president" (MCN 11/4/21).

The former president's ever-expanding record of misdeeds will be debated ad infinitum as will the GOP's refusal, not only to revolt against such dishonorable behavior, but to enthusiastically embrace it.

Whitley accurately identified several of Trump's reprehensible behaviors, many well known prior to the 2016 election which (now fully actualized) have undermined our Constitution, becoming daily reminders of the deterioration of American democracy.

Oh for the revival of Paul Harvey's "the rest of the story." Is there anyone in the United States who truly believes that not one member of the Republican Party is qualified and capable of leading this country?

Actually there are at least two. One is Adam Kinzinger (R-16th/IL), a 43-year-old six-term Congressman, also a Colonel in the Army National Guard with 20 years service. He serves on the House Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs committees.

Another is Anthony Gonzalez (R-16th-OH), a 37-year-old two-term Congressman who serves on the Financial Services and the Science, Space and Technology committees.

Of major concern to the GOP, both these young men have a natural inclination to tell the truth, not a popular attribute in today's Republican Party. In fact, truth telling is likely to get you cast out of the Party, banished in a hail of blistering

condemnations from the Count of Mar-a-Lago himself and death threats from his devotees. These two young men were obviously well-raised so no one should be surprised when they yield to the temptation to tell the truth.

It occurs to me that the Republican Party isn't looking for anyone "more stable" or "better" than Donald Trump to run for president. Republican leaders believe defending Trump's lies is the path to power even though not one of them actually believes any of the lies they feverishly uphold. They're simply dancing like marionettes to the tune of voters who do believe them.

As an adherent to the Republican Party for approximately 60 years I feel qualified to express the opinion that the GOP has sacrificed its credibility and lost its moral compass, taking revenge on any member courageous enough to speak the truth about January 6th, insisting those who stormed the Capitol are patriots, not insurrectionists. History will not be kind to those congressional Republicans who have played along in order to keep their jobs.

Donald Trump proved to the world he is willing to undermine the Constitution, defy any law, violate any oath to overturn an election he clearly lost. He will destroy American democracy and destabilize the global community to serve his own interests. State election committees across the nation are reshaping their laws in order to serve this spiteful man who is irrefutably untethered from reality and unfettered by morality.

We know exactly what Trump and the GOP are going to do. What are you going to do?

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com



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Individual health decisions should not be mandated

I have been reading and researching whether or not to receive the vaccine and found the following obituary online. This is a message from Mike, who passed away after being vaccinated. No one, especially the government should be able to mandate health decisions for individuals.

Michael "Mike" Anthony Granata – (Feb. 21, 1965 - Nov. 01, 2021)

Michael, a longtime resident of Gilroy, passed away on Nov. 1, 2021. Never a kinder more gentle man did I know than my husband, Michael. For those who knew Mike, you know that he was a good and honest man. He was kind, considerate, and always polite.

Mike was adamant that people know what happened to him that caused his early and unexpected death. Message from Mike: "Many nurses and non-nursing staff begged me and my wife to get the truth out to the public about the Covid-19 vaccines because the truth of deaths from the vaccine was being hidden within the medical profession. I promised I would get the message out. So, here is my message: I was afraid of getting the vaccine for fear that I might die. At the insistence of my doctor, I gave in to pressure to get vaccinated. On Aug. 17, I received the Moderna vaccine and starting feeling ill three days later. I never recovered but continued to get worse. I developed multisystem inflammation and multisystem failure that medical professionals could not stop. My muscles disappeared as if to disintegrate. I was in ICU for several weeks and stabbed with needles up to 24 times a day for those several weeks, while also receiving six or seven IVs at the same time (continuously). It was constant torture that I cannot describe. I was no longer treated as a human with feelings and a life. I was nothing more than a covid vaccine human guinea pig and the doctors excited to participate in my fascinating progression unto death. If you want to know more, please ask my wife. I wished I would have never gotten vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated, don't do it unless you are ready to suffer and die."

Mike did not deserve the pain and suffering he endured. He was a good man and deserved better.

M. L Egan – Franklin, N.C.

GILLESPIE

Continued from page 10

– SB183, Ignition Interlock/Variation changes, would do the following: • Amend certain driving privilege restrictions. • Allow an individual who owns multiple vehicles to designate certain vehicles for operation with an ignition interlock system. • Expand the current waiver for undue financial hardship to equip a vehicle with a required ignition interlock system. • Create a study focused on expanded uses and supervision of ignition interlock systems. SB183 passed unanimously, 112-0.

– SB739, Senate Redistricting Plan 2021/SBK-7, would realign the districts of the North Carolina State Senate following the return of the 2020 federal decennial census. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 65-49.

– SB740, Congressional Redistricting Plan 2021/CST-13, would realign the congressional districts following the return of the 2020 federal decennial census. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 65-49.

The North Carolina House held no-vote sessions for the week of Nov. 8-12. Budget negotiations with the Governor are ongoing.

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Tonight is the Highlands Town Board meeting at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field. The meeting will begin at 7 pm with public comment as the first item on the agenda. The meeting can also be accessed on YouTube by way of the town website.

A public hearing for annexation of the Ellis property that is contiguous to the Ravenel subdivision was scheduled for this meeting. It has again been postponed until December's meeting.

Commissioner Hehn has asked that the board discuss the 2005 Stormwater Master Plan. Previous boards implemented major portions of the plans such as the filtering system that is under Founders Park. Commissioner Hehn is also requesting a reasonable accommodation for the printing of documents. A previous board decided to go paperless in the handling of board business over a decade ago. The board will review the current policy and his request.

The board will also go into closed session to review and approve previous closed session minutes and to discuss confidentiality protocols. Our attorneys reviewing the STR issue and pending lawsuit will also brief the board. I anticipate the town board holding a joint workshop meeting with the planning board very soon. This meeting will be open to the public, but no public comment will be taken. Public response and comment will follow at subsequent meetings.

Paving contractors should be rapping up the paving of Upper and Lower Lake Roads. Those two roads were the last in the scheduled town roads to be paved this year. The town maintains a list of roads that will be paved in the future. The priority list may be adjusted from year to year, based on the deterioration of certain roads especially over a harsh winter period. For the past several years the board has implemented a vigorous town street paving program. That program will continue for several years.

I want to congratulate the folks involved in putting on the Highlands Food and Wind Festival that took place this past weekend. It was well organized and had a tremendous response. There are some issues that the town will review with the organizers of the event in order to make improvements. We now look forward to the holiday festivities, the town lighting at Founders Park and the Christmas Parade.

On Monday night I represented the town in the Highlands ABC Store check distribution ceremony. Each year the ABC board distributes store profits to town departments and nonprofit groups. This year the total distribution was \$75,000. The police department, the recreation department and the general operation of the town received almost \$54,000. As I have said in the past, if you consume alcohol, purchase it here at our ABC store. These profits made in Highlands stay in Highlands.

I want to thank the ABC employees and ABC board members for the work and effort that they have put into the operation of the store. There has been a steady growth in sales and profits over the past several years..

Community career expo this Saturday at Harrah's

The inaugural Mountain Community Career and Resource Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort Conference Center, 777 Casino Drive, Cherokee, NC.

Over 25 regional employers representing hospitality and tourism, technology, health care, manufacturing and professional services will showcase their career opportunities and many will conduct on-the-spot hiring. Job seekers are encouraged to bring copies of their resume and dress to impress. Anyone needing a new resume or updates to an existing one are encouraged to contact their local NCWorks Career Center to work with a career advisor. Interview and elevator pitch preparation are also available.

Additionally, community resource organizations covering seven Western North Carolina counties will be on hand to provide information on their services.

Multiple door prizes will be awarded during the expo.

Face coverings are encouraged but optional for vendors and attendees regardless of vaccination status.

The event is presented by the NCWorks Career Centers in Macon, Jackson, Swain, Haywood and Tri-County NCWorks Career Centers and is sponsored through the generosity of Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

Additional information on the Career and Resource Expo and NCWorks Career Center services may be obtained by calling the Sylva career center, 828-586-4063 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), or the Bryson City career center, 828-488-2149 (Tuesday, Thursday), sending an e-mail to ncworks.8500@ncommerce.com or visiting www.ncworks.gov.




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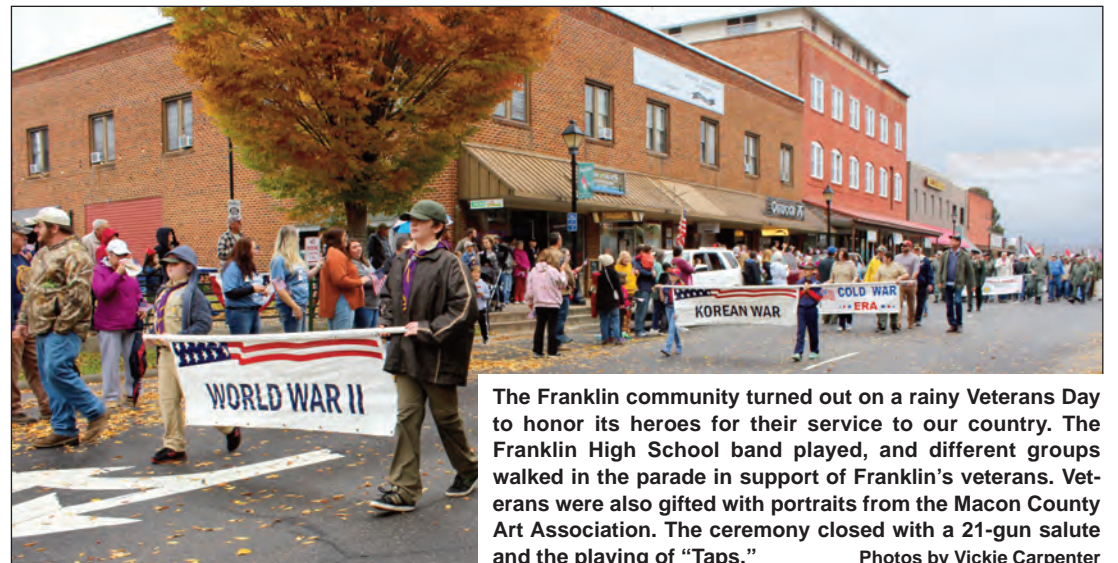


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Town of Franklin community honors its heroes on Veterans Day



The Franklin community turned out on a rainy Veterans Day to honor its heroes for their service to our country. The Franklin High School band played, and different groups walked in the parade in support of Franklin's veterans. Veterans were also gifted with portraits from the Macon County Art Association. The ceremony closed with a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps." Photos by Vickie Carpenter





O-6 Captain Betsey Jenkins Bird served in the U.S. navy for 25 years. Cheryl Binnall painted her portrait.



Third Class Petty HM3 William Louis Trapani served almost nine years in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman. Carol Conti painted his portrait.



Airman 2nd Class Daniel Burnley Raiford served in the Air Force. Artist Kathy Ratcliff painted his portrait.



SSG E6 Arthur Davis Sapin served in the U.S. Army. Jean Blackmer painted his portrait.



CSM Tom Wanson served in both the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army Reserve. Kit Terry was the artist who painted his portrait.



LTC R. Scott Eichelberger served in the U.S. Army. Margie Kellam painted his portrait.



E6 William H. Richards Jr. served in the U.S. Navy. Pat Menneger was the artist who painted his portrait.

Photos by Vickie Carpenter



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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 October 29 - November 12. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 29

Anthony Michael Brown, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to cause serious injury with intent to kill, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to cause serious injury and assault inflicting serious injury with minor present. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Samuel Wahnetha, was charged with failure to appear. No bond was set.

John Hoyt Atkinson, was issued a child support enforcement contempt.

November 1

Joshua William Fagg, was charged with assault on a female, injury to personal property, common law robbery and flee/elude arrest. No bond was set.

November 2

Joshua Edly Gregory, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. Costin Jiglaun made the arrest.

Greg Lyle, was charged with domestic violence protection order violation and assault on a female. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Michael Shannon Gibson, was charged with failure to appear.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with possession of heroin. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

November 3

William Clinton Holt, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

Ronald Scott Jones Jr., was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

Willie Eldon Watts, was charged with assault on a female. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

Kathy Fay Nicole Atchison, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Dakota Charles Mathis, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

Joshua Ryan Wiggin, was charged with failure to appear. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

November 5

Andrew Joseph Cook, was charged with child abuse. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Tiegsha Shay Franklin, was charged with assault on individual with a disability. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Chelsea Briana Heaton, was issued warrant for arrest for fugitive. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Andrea Lynn Smilack, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

November 6

Edwin Alexis Moya, was charged with driving while impaired. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

November 7

Nadya Elise Rogers, was charged with assault and battery, common law robbery, breaking and entering a motor vehicle and possession of stolen goods/property. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Andrew Harold Williamson, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

November 8

Raymond Biddle, was charged with failure to appear. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Holly Michelle Breedlove, was issued child support enforcement contempt. Sergeant Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

November 9

Robert Angus McDonald, was charged with failure to appear. Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

David Donovan Bruan, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, trespass of real property and destruction/damage/vandalism of property. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Gary Michael Passmore, was charged with interfere with electric monitor device. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Sean Taylor Hall, was charged with probation violation. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

Richard Dewayne Swafford, was charged with flee/elude arrest, reckless driving, resist/obstruct and delay law enforcement officer, possession of firearm by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine, fugitive affidavit for armed robbery, home invasion and aggravated assault. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

November 11

Nicholas Matthew Hennequin, was charged with all other offenses. Emileigh E. Sands made the arrest.

November 12

Roberto Tovar Rojas, was charged with violation of domestic violence protection order. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Timothy Allen Wells, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

November 5

Tony Dustin Bateman, 31, was charged with first degree trespass, second degree trespass, intoxicated and disruptive in public and communicating threats. A \$3,000 bond was set.

November 9

Nathan Roy White, 35, was charged with larceny. A \$600 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

November 4

James Hill Rose, 56, of Mantis Dr., was charged with maintaining a dwelling, possession with intent to manufacture sell/deliver, possession of a schedule VI controlled substance and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Ashley Mae Frady, 25, of Mantis Dr., was charged with possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver and maintaining a dwelling. An unsecured bond was set.

Christopher Nathan Stephens, 35, of Luis Cove Rd., Whittier, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

November 5

Earland Rebel McKay, 42, of Block House Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to register address. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Charles Ray McCall, 33, of Old Mill Rd., Tuckaseegee, was

charged with simple assault. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

David Christain Brown, 29, of Davis Hill Dr., Canton, was charged with flee to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, resisting a public officer and breaking and entering with intent to terrorize. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

November 6

Alexandria Jade Jackson, 29, of Sydneys Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for obtaining property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Cody Douglas Woodard, 27, of Swayney Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and failure to appear for injury to personal property. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

November 8

Robert Dylan Thomas, 24, of Ensley St., was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Michael William Rauch, 60, of Black Wolf Ridge Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for simple assault. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

James Alvin Murphy, 46, of Able Wolfe, Cherokee, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

November 9

Shawn Robert Beloin, 43, of Hacienda Lane, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses, felony larceny and possession of a firearm by a felon. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

William Seth Wade, 34, of Jellison Ct., Raleigh, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

November 10

Mary Catherine Harp, 52, of Union Hill Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Ashley Lynn Page, 24, of Old Chimney Rock Rd., Hendersonville, was charged with failure to appear for hit and run, failure to report accident and reckless driving. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Savannah Kay Huskey, 20, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen goods and larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Boris Pesikan, 32, of Fairway Oaks, Lawrenceville, Ga., was charged with trafficking and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$100,000 was set.

Jason Dean Millsaps, 37, of Sycamore Dr., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, injury to property, possession of a stolen firearm and possession of stolen property. A secured bond of \$22,000 was set.

November 11

Keith Edward Reece, 53, of Spalding Rd., was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

Travis Sylvester Smith, 47, of Rainbo Dr., was charged with trespass of real property, simple assault, communicating threats and assault by pointing a gun. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Christina Elaine Conner, 32, of Nicole Arms Rd., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

November 12

Collin Jasiah Mills, 27, of Allen St., Spartanburg, S.C., was charged with failure to appear for operate no insurance, driving with license revoked not impaired revocation and obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$1,250 was set.

Ellen Marie Clark Owen, 32, of River Bluff Rd., Brevard, was charged with failure to appear for shoplifting concealment of goods, misdemeanor larceny and second degree trespass. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will meet on Thursday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Jackson County NAACP Branch #54AB Meeting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. online. They will be making plans for Martin Luther King Day, 2022. All are welcome to attend. Email jcnacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online.

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 hand off packaged plates of turkey, the traditional fixings and a slice of pumpkin pie. Dinners will not include utensils or beverages and no advance reservations are needed. Participants are asked to stagger their arrival times during the two-hour serving period to minimize traffic congestion and to reduce wait times. 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 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 T M 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 For more information, visit Franklinoptowngallery.com.

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

Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday at 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., Thursday, noon at St.

Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting www.aawnc80.org. or to speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday Service will be held on Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m. Associate Pastor, Evan Jensen, will continue the message on the series on Genesis. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828) 369-7977.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. will share with on "The Little Soul & the Sun?" The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

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.

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

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For more information, please contact Times Square Properties – 828-200-7019

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

W	E	N	S	I	T	S	I	D	E
O	M	I	T	S	D	O	E	R	E
R	A	D	I	I	A	C	H	E	S
G	O	O	S	W	I	S	H	B	O
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R	E	S	T	O	R	E	I	L	L
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O	B	I	L	C	E	U	M	I	D
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Holiday Angels can make Christmas special

Christmas is the magical season of giving and what better way to invest in your community than sponsoring a family or individual in need? Holiday Angels is a resource at Macon Program for Progress that helps facilitate the giving and support of community partners to provide for families during the Christmas holidays. Last year the Holiday Angels project provided services to more than 350 eligible clients.

Macon Program for Progress will be accepting sponsor applications through Nov. 19. This will allow enough time to pair all the applicants with sponsors, and to have enough time for shopping, pick up and deliveries before the holidays.

Holiday Angels is self-supporting and operates with donations and sponsorships. All sponsors should receive their clients' information regarding their needs by the first week of December. Sponsors can then shop, wrap, and deliver gifts, arrange to take their sponsored children shopping, or bring their wrapped gifts to MPP Administrative Offices no later than Monday, Dec. 13, so the families may be contacted on your behalf. Holiday Angels accepts tax-deductible donations.

Checks should be made payable to MPP Holiday Angels. Monetary donations are expended for the Holiday Angels project and utilized toward food gift cards, gifts, and toys for children and families who are not yet matched with a sponsor.

Macon Program for Progress will be accepting family/individual Holiday Angel applications through Nov. 30. Applicants must be low-income adults 65 and older, special needs adults on disability, veterans, or low-income families of children birth through age 18 years old. Eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty guidelines and applicants must provide valid proof of all household income; incomplete applications will not be processed.

For questions or to inquire about sponsorship, contact Felicia Roberts at froberts@mppnhc.org

Sponsor and client applications will be available at MPP main offices, located at 82 East Orchard View Lane, behind Lowes of Franklin. Office hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday or visit MPP's Facebook page.

Deadline for Christmas parade entries is Nov. 24

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce announces plans are underway for this year's Annual Christmas Parade which will officially ring in the holiday season. The celebration will be held Sunday, Nov. 28, beginning at 3 p.m. This year's theme is "A Season for Giving."

This year's parade will be held with a number of safety precautions in place due to the continuation of Covid-19. The extended route will continue onto Highlands Road so that spectators can spread out. No walkers will be allowed and no items may be handed out including candy, coupons, etc.

"These precautions are in place for the safety of our community" said Franklin Chamber's Executive Director Linda Harbuck.

Entries will line up along Church Street behind the Courthouse. The route will begin by pulling out on the top of Town Hill beside Town Hall. The route will proceed down Main Street turning left at the Lazy Hiker Brewing Company onto Porter Street. Then turn left onto Palmer Street. The route will turn onto Highlands Road extending the route to enable social distancing. The route will end at the Franklin Flea Market.

As noted above, due to safety concerns, candy will NOT be passed out this year. In addition, all horses must wear a manure bag/horse diaper.

Registration is required and entry forms can be picked up and returned to the Chamber office located at 98 Hyatt Road. Deadline for entry is Wednesday, Nov. 24, by 5 p.m. Please note the Chamber will be closed for Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 & 26.

For additional information, contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce by calling (828)524-3161.

North Carolina Byways Guidebook available

The newest edition of the North Carolina Scenic Byways guide is now available.

The fifth edition of the Scenic Byways Guidebook is available for free download at NCDOT's scenic byways webpage. People interested in a hard copy can request one from the North Carolina Byways Program by mail. People can also visit the North Carolina Byways webpage to download a digital copy.

The Scenic Byways program was created in the 1994 to allow motorists to experience a bit of North Carolina's history, geography and scenery while raising awareness for the protection and preservation of these areas. To help preserve the roads' intrinsic qualities, designated



routes do not allow for new billboards to be erected along them. North Carolina has 62 scenic byways. Four of those byways are recognized by the Federal Highway Administration as national scenic byways. The Blue Ridge Parkway, which is included in the guidebook, is a recognized All-American Road but is managed by the National Park Service.

The last edition of the scenic byways guidebook was released in 2008. Since then, 11 new byways and several extensions have been added.

For more information on the Scenic Byways Program, or to request a Scenic Byways Guidebook, visit ncdot.gov/scenic.

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Countryside holds annual Toys for Tots Cruise In



Countryside Chevrolet held its annual Toys for Tots Cruise In drive Saturday, Nov. 13. Car enthusiasts brought by their favorite hot rods, vintage and unique cars, street rods and motorcycles to display. An auction was held in the afternoon to raise funds for the Toys for Tots. Organizers were pleased with the turnout with 100 cars registering for the cruise-in, 13 large boxes of toys collected and \$1,000 in cash raised for Toys for Tots. Photos by Betsey Gooder



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Nov. 22 last day to drop off OCC shoeboxes

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, many families and children are expressing gratitude by giving back to children in need around the world. For those who are including Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts as part of their holiday, more than 4,000 drop-off sites are now open.

Most recommended items to pack in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox:

- School supplies – chalkboards with chalk, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, scissors, backpacks

- Toys – sports balls (with pump if needed), dolls, stuffed animals, play cars

- Make-your-own crafts – add your personal touch

- Non-liquid hygiene items – bar soap, toothbrush, washcloths. Do not send toothpaste.

- Clothing accessories – tops, shoes, socks, hair bows, gloves, scarves

- Small musical instrument – harmonica, recorder

- A personal note from your family – if you include your name and address it's possible that the child could write you back.

- A Small Sewing Kit – This can actually become an income for a family

- A Small Toolkit – include nails, hammer, screws, screwdriver. Just leave out the saws.

- Clothesline and Clothespins

- Small brain games like puzzle books, wooden puzzle games, or etch-a-sketch toys

- Small radio with extra batteries

Items that should not be included in your shoebox

- Used or damaged items
- War-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures
- Chocolate or food, including candy – due to customs regulations
- Seeds
- Liquids or lotions – these can spill and get all over the other items
- Medications or vitamins
- Breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers
- Aerosol cans
- Drugs and Alcohol

Shoebox gifts may be dropped off now during National Collection Week, Nov. 15 – 22. The locations and hours for sites in Macon County are the following:

Holly Springs Baptist Church

Coordinator: June Trull
 (828) 524-5564
 366 Holly Springs Church Road
 Thu, Nov. 18: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 4 - 6 p.m.
 Fri, Nov. 19: 3 - 8 p.m.
 Sat, Nov. 20: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Sun, Nov. 21: 1 - 6 p.m.
 Mon, Nov. 22: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Highlands

Coordinators: Sergio Barranco, Angelica Garcia
 (828) 508-7466 or (828) 508-2695
 220 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741
 Thu, Nov. 18: 1 - 5 p.m.
 Fri, Nov. 19: 1 - 5 p.m.
 Sat, Nov. 20: 12 - 5 p.m.
 Sun, Nov. 21: 1 - 5 p.m.
 Mon, Nov. 22: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts to children worldwide for nearly three decades. This season, there's still time for individuals, families, and groups to transform empty shoeboxes into fun gifts. The project of Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage.



Charles Ricky 'Queenie' Queen

Charles Ricky "Queenie" Queen, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Nov. 8, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late Charles "Bill" and Margaret Tallent Queen. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Lyla Maxson.

He was a member of Iotla Baptist Church. He enjoyed life and loved to sing, hunt, fish and play softball.

He is survived by his companion, Karen Bloem; his children, Shauna Maxson (Kenny) and Katy Pennington (Jon); siblings, Rhonda Queen (Todd) and Donna Mathis (Buddy); and three grandchildren, Wesley, Isaac, and Reese all of Franklin.

A service was held Saturday, Nov. 13, at Macon Funeral Home. Rev Steve Reeves officiated. Burial followed at Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bobby Raby, Dwayne Tallent, Boone Brabson, Dave Kinsland, Cody Brabson, Billy Handley, Greg Kinsland, and Ennis Franks.

Honorary pallbearers were Mike Fouts, Jim Fouts, Russell Raby, Luke Keener, Scotty Keener, Reggie Perry, Ray Brabson and Steven "Lum" Owen.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Camo Ministry at Pine Grove Baptist Church 7454 Highlands Rd. Franklin, NC 28734. The Camo Ministry provides a hunting experience to youth and young adults with special needs. If donating by check, please make checks payable to the church with notation for Camo Ministry.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Charles Ricky Queen

Rebecca Lynn Bencomo

Rebecca Lynn Williamson Bencomo, 65, passed away on Nov. 9, 2021. No public services are scheduled.

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

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



Rebecca Lynn Bencomo

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Deaths & Funerals

William Alan Peterson

William Alan Peterson, 78, of Franklin, N.C., was welcomed into his heavenly home on Nov. 10, 2021.

He dedicated his life to prayer and worship and serving Jesus Christ. He was a member of Prentiss Church where he led the Prayer Ministry Team. Having a deep love for his Lord and Savior, he enjoyed studying God's word and growing deeper in his faith.

He never met a stranger and fiercely loved his family. He fought the good fight with honesty and integrity and finished the race, faithful to the Lord. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by Pamela, his loving wife of 56 years; a daughter, Susan Peterson; and son, David Peterson (Christy); sisters, Karen Sawyer (Quent) and Sherri Dube (Richard); grandchildren, Christopher, Evan, Brittany, Jessica, Caleb and Landon; and beloved labrador, Buddy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to "Buy a Tree. Change a Life" [https://prentisschurch.com/buy-a-tree-change-a-life] or "Teen Challenge." [https://mtcots.com]

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 1 to 2 p.m., at Prentiss Church with Celebration of life beginning at 2 p.m.

Rev. JD Woodside will officiate.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Doris Ann Haggard

Doris Ann Haggard, 70, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Clarkesville, Ga., she was the daughter of the late Calvin and Marcella McMahan Wikle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded by a daughter, Cathy Jo Wood; brother, Paul Wikle; and a grandchild, Katie Marie Wood.

She loved working puzzles, coloring and going to flea markets; but the thing she cherished most was spending time with her family and watching her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Melvin Wood; children, Brian Edward Haggard (Amanda) of Franklin, Christopher James Haggard (Diana) of Otto, N.C., Jason Travis Haggard of Franklin, Jessica Scruggs (Darin) of Franklin, Melvin Wood Jr. (Michelle) of Sylva, N.C., Ray Wood (Dee) of Franklin, Kirsty Dills (Andrew) of Franklin, Justin Haggard (Natasha) of Franklin, and Whitney Haggard of Waynesville, N.C.; siblings, Janie Powers of Tennessee, Sandy Cox of Tennessee, Olin Wikle of Tennessee, Johnny Wikle of Florida, Dean Allen of Tennessee, Karen Harness of Tennessee and Mark Wikle of Tennessee; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Kenneth Carver will officiate. The family will receive friends from 1 ill 2 p.m., prior to the service.

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

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



William Alan Peterson



Doris Ann Haggard

Jeffrey Wade Parker

Jeffrey Wade Parker, 59, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Nov. 1, 2021.

He was born in Lakeland, Fla., to Dennis Arnold and Glenda Lowe Parker. He was a Navy veteran and work in Applied Network Infrastructure & System and enjoyed working with computers.

He is survived by his parents, Dennis, and Glenda Parker.

No local services are planned.

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



Jeffrey Wade Parker

Sherry Elaine Mitchell Ham

Sherry Elaine Mitchell Ham, 74, of Prairie Grove, Ark., passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021, after a period of declining health.

Born in Greenville, Ala., she was the daughter of the late Bernice and Viola Smith Mitchell. She worked as a ministry director for the North American Mission Board for many years. In her spare time, she enjoyed writing, reading, and traveling.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Thomas Daniel Ham; son, Jeff Ham (Shannon) of Ventura, Calif.; stepdaughter, DeAnna Medlock (Tracey) of Fayetteville, Ark.; sister, Jean Reed (Phil) of Lakeland, Fla.; three grandchildren, Hudson and Harper Ham, Matthew Hawkins and one great-grandson, Allen Hawkins.

A memorial service will be held at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Franklin, N.C., on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. Rev. Donnie Seagle will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Sherry Elaine Ham

Mildred Morris Gregory

On Monday evening, Nov. 8, 2021, Mildred Morris Gregory, 84, of Franklin, N.C., moved to her Heavenly home. She was a godly woman who loved the Lord and her family and set an example for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that will lead them all of their lives.

She was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina on Aug. 19, 1937, to the late Andrew Earl Morris and Agnes Morris. She was lovingly married for 67 years to Milles A. Gregory.

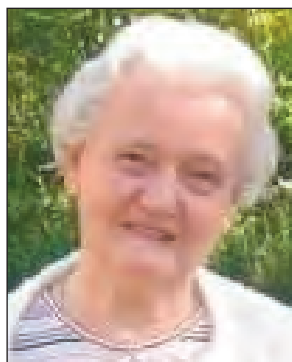
She loved her Savior, the Lord Jesus, with all her heart, and she loved God's Word. Though she was a humble, gentle woman, she was nonetheless a powerful prayer warrior, and only Heaven knows what a wonderful and eternal impact all her many years of faithful praying have had on her family, her friends, and the world at large.

She is survived by her daughter, Brenda Angel, and husband Larry; daughter, Regina Bell and husband Jim; grandchildren, Jeremy Angel and wife Jennifer and Kimberly Green and husband Mark; and four great-grandchildren, Phillip Angel, Hannah Angel, Hope Green, and Harrison Green.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the Food Pantry at Prentiss Church: PO Box 1713, Franklin, NC 28744.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.



Mildred Morris Gregory

Bruce Albert Britton

Bruce Albert Britton, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at his home, with some of his loving family present.

Born in Canada, he was the son of the late Walter S. and Kathleen Mearsbeck Britton. He enjoyed traveling, woodworking, carpentry, computers, fishing, being outdoors, photography, Nascar, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He loved spending time with his family; and was especially proud to let everyone know that he has two sets of twins as grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Susan Jane Roberts Britton; three children, Jonathan Britton of Franklin, Nicholas Britton of Florida, and Amanda Jane Bunn (Thomas) of Brooksville, Fla.; one sister, Brenda Shearer; and one brother, Donald J. Britton, both of Ontario, Canada; eight grandchildren, twins, Jonathan and Bailey Britton, Brendan Britton, Donovan Britton, Kyle Bunn, twins, Lily and Ella Bunn, and Cole Bunn.


A celebration of life will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to American Heart Association: American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association, 10 Glenlake Pkwy NE South Tower Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30328; or Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Bruce Albert Britton



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NASCAR and Champion's Week Return to Nashville

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

As the 2021 season comes to an end, NASCAR prepares for a return to Nashville from Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 to host its annual Champion's Week celebration.

The NASCAR Awards held on Dec. 2 at the Music City Center will formally crown this season's champions, as fellow drivers, industry luminaries and celebrities descend upon the heart of downtown Nashville for the first time in two years to celebrate a memorable 2021 season.

In addition to the Cup Series Champion, NASCAR will honor the Xfinity Series and Camping World Truck Series champions in the largest Awards Show to date. In addition, the champions of the ARCA Menards Series, ARCA Menards Series East, ARCA Menards Series West, and NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, as well as the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series national champion, have been invited to the NASCAR national series events in Nashville to celebrate their titles.

In addition to the Awards, the streets of Nashville will once again host the "Burnouts on Broadway presented by DoorDash" on Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 6:30-8 p.m. CT, an event where all drivers will look to leave their mark – literally – on lower Broadway under the neon-lit streets.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to return to Nashville to celebrate the champions of our sport," said Pete Jung, SVP, Chief Marketing Officer at NASCAR. "Although we weren't able to celebrate in person in Nashville last year, we saw the city's energy and passion for motorsports on full display when we came to Nashville Superspeedway earlier this year. Nashville welcomed us with open arms in 2019 and we're looking forward to another unforgettable Champion's Week in Music City."

The formal postseason Awards is a tradition that stretches back to 1981, when the event was held in New York City. It relocated to Las Vegas in 2009 and then called Nashville its home for the first time in 2019.

For more information on Champion's Week, including a more detailed schedule and more, visit www.nascar.com/championsweek.

NASCAR's Steve Phelps says the sport is building on encouraging resurgence

AVONDALE, Ariz. – NASCAR president Steve Phelps stuck to his guns.

In his first state-of-the-sport press conference after taking office in 2018, Phelps acknowledged that NASCAR racing faced significant headwinds but proclaimed, "I do believe as we head into 2019 that our best days are ahead."

The 2021 season has given Phelps no reason to retract that statement, and the promise of 2022, with the introduction of the Next Gen car for the NASCAR Cup Series, only serves to enhance the optimism.

"The first time I had the opportunity to do this was in 2018 in Miami," Phelps said Friday at Phoenix Raceway during his fourth end-of-season session with reporters. At that particular point, the sport was going through some challenges, some headwinds, right? Those were real. I think we felt that.

"I remember using the phrase that our best days are ahead. I'm not sure everyone in this room or folks around the country, (or the) world, believed that to be true. I did. I think the results that we have seen are more than encouraging. I'm very proud of them, right?"

"It really took an industry coming together in order to make that happen. It took race teams, our broadcast partners, our sponsors, tracks that we own or tracks that we don't own, that all came together to create an opportunity for our sport to grow, which is exactly what's happening."

Emblematic of that growth is the continuity of NASCAR's



This year's NASCAR Champion's Week celebration will be held Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tenn., to formally crown this season's champions.

presence on television, a reflection of the sanctioning body's agility in completing a full 36-race 2020 NASCAR Cup Series schedule despite the complications of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are the most stable sport on television since 2018," Phelps asserted. "No other sport—none—can match what NASCAR has done from a stability standpoint with our ratings. If you consider our share numbers since 2019 in our Cup Series, it's up 18 percent, which is hard to do at this point. It's just hard.

"Then you look at our ratings for Xfinity and our Camping World Truck Series, they're up double-digits. The share in both of those series is up 25 percent to 30 percent. We are having a moment as a sport. It's important that we keep it going, which is exactly what we're going to do."

Growth in attendance, fueled by imaginative scheduling, has paralleled the increase in television share. Phelps said every NASCAR-owned track, with the exception of Darlington, showed an increase in per-event attendance over 2019—and Darlington added a race in 2021.

Notable, too, were road course additions to the schedule at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, and Road America in Elkhart Lake Wis.

"I think the schedule variation is critical for the success of this sport," Phelps said. "I think you saw really strong results from schedule variation, whether you're talking about COTA, you're talking about Road America, you're talking about even format changes like Bristol Dirt, which might as well have been a new venue.

"Ben Kennedy (senior vice president of strategy and innovation) and the team put together the most aggressive schedule we've had in 50 years. I think it worked. Attendance was fantastic at all the new venues. The racing was good at all the new venues.

"As we look to the schedule in 2022, going to the L.A. Coliseum to kick off our debut with our Next Gen car as a proof point, frankly, to we're going to be bold in what we're doing, whether it's the schedule or the car—all of it—we're going to take calculated risks."

Though NASCAR is still addressing steering and heating issues with the Next Gen car in advance of its debut in the Feb. 6 Clash at the Coliseum, the car is on course for its inaugural race. Currently, there are no problems with the supply chain for the components.

"What I would say is that this car has been tested, run, (with)

more collaboration than any other new car in the history of this sport," Phelps said. "Not even close. The Gen-6 car that came out, we ran a test in January before we raced it at Bristol for the first time.

"I am confident, and we check all the time on supply chain issues. As of now, there are no issues. We'll continue to monitor that because it's important. If you've got 30 major components to the car, (and) you only have 29 of them, you have a problem. Until the car is on the race track, we'll continue to give it all the attention that it deserves, which is a lot.

"With respect to issues with the car that we're working through, right now it's really down to two things that we see, which is steering, which you guys have talked about, and getting that right. The other is the heat in the car. We've got some solves for that that the drivers I believe are feeling more satisfied with."

Phelps also indicated that NASCAR is having conversations with new manufacturers about entering the sport. One prevalent rumor has Dodge returning to competition.

"There are some discussions that are going on with other OEMs, new OEMs, that would come into the sport," Phelps acknowledged. "Our three existing OEMs are happy about that. Our race teams are happy about that. We're happy about that. It's been widely rumored that Dodge is one of those or closest. I won't confirm or deny that.

"It is important. We've made no bones about the fact that we want to have a new OEM in our sport. I think we got delayed with the pandemic. With that said, we are an attractive place, I believe, for OEMs to come into the sport. Now is an important opportunity for them to do that because of the Next Gen car.

"I also believe the fact that the sport is growing and has a relevance that it hasn't had in decades is causing some real interest from other OEMs.

NASCAR Announces Competition Format for the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Nov. 9, 2021) – NASCAR has announced the qualifying elements and race format for the first-ever Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum, the unprecedented 150-lap main event highlighting two days of racing action at the iconic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday, Feb. 5 and Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

On Saturday, NASCAR Cup Series competitors will take to the track for practice sessions prior to single car qualifying runs to determine the starting order for the four scheduled heat races.

The field will be open to 40 entrants.

On Sunday, on-track action will begin at 5 p.m. ET on FOX, with four 25-lap heat races consisting of 10 cars each. Below is a breakdown on how the heat races will be filled out:

- The top four fastest qualifiers from Saturday's single vehicle qualifying session will be on the pole for each heat race, while cars that qualified fifth through eight will make up the other half of the front row in each heat.

- The remainder of each field will be filled out using this methodology (Ex. – heat one will be made up cars with qualifying positions of one, five, nine, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37).

- The top four finishers (16 total cars) from each heat race automatically advance through

to the Busch Light Clash (8 p.m. ET, FS1), with the winner of heat one winning the pole and the heat two winner earning the outside pole.

- The winners of heats three and four will fill out the second row, with the remaining order of these 16 cars being determined in the same manner.

The remaining six finishing positions from each heat (24 total cars) that did not advance will continue through to one of two 50-lap Last Chance Qualifying races. Below is a breakdown on how the Last Chance Qualifiers will be filled out:

- The starting order for these two events will be determined based on finishing positions in the heat races.

- Those that did not advance from heats one and three will make up the first Last Chance Qualifying race while the second race will be made of up those from heats two and four.

- The fifth-place finishers from heats one and two will be on



The first-ever Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum, the unprecedented 150-lap main event highlighting two days of racing action will be held at the iconic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday, Feb. 5 and Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

the pole in their respective Last Chance Qualifying races. The fifth-place finishers from heats three and four will be on the outside pole.

- This pattern will continue to fill out 12 cars in each event.
- The top three finishers (six total cars) from both Last Chance Qualifying races will advance to the Busch Light Clash, filling out positions 17 - 22 of the 23 available positions.

The final spot in the Busch Light Clash is reserved for the driver who finished the highest in the 2021 points standings who does not transfer on finishing position in the heat races or Last Chance Qualifying races.

All other drivers will be eliminated from competition for the remainder of the event weekend.

“There has already been an enormous amount of buzz around next year’s Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum, and we feel that this race format and the accompanying programming throughout the entire weekend will only build on that already established momentum,” said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR senior vice president of strategy and innovation. “The unprecedented nature of this event, coupled with the fact that our sport will be in the spotlight in the middle of downtown Los Angeles, makes this a can’t miss event when we get our 2022 season underway next February.”

“I’ve had the chance to drive on the track through iRacing and make some laps in the NextGen car at Bowman-Gray on a similar layout, and there’s no doubt that this race is going to be awesome,” said Clint Bowyer, longtime former NASCAR Cup Series driver and current FOX Sports analyst. “The different qualifying events and format for the Clash are only going to add to what will be an unforgettable weekend. This is definitely a race you’re not going to want to miss!”



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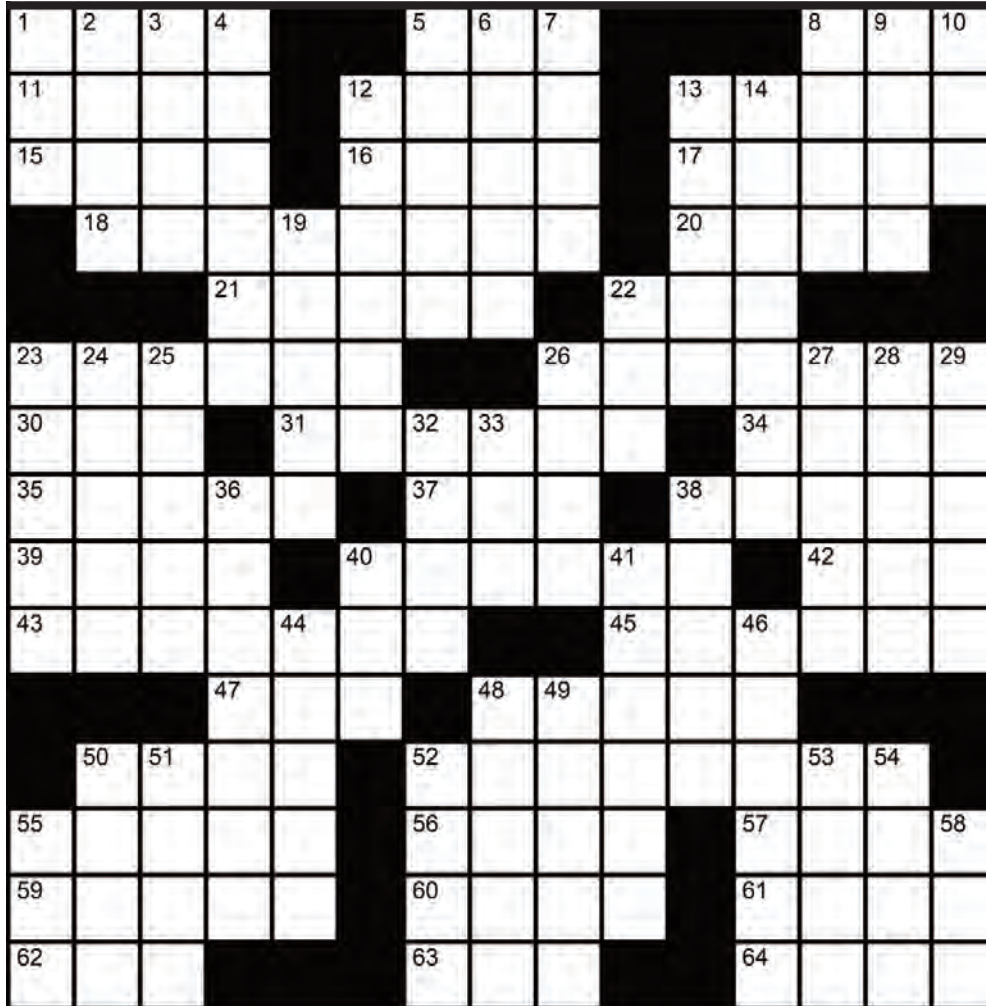
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15. Homer's "The Odyssey", e.g.
16. *Grandpa or Grandma, often
17. Moolah or dough
18. *Pilgrim's colony
20. Allah's cleric
21. Arranges into categories
22. Chance's genre
23. **"Plains, Trains and Automobiles" star
26. Woven containers
30. Kimono sash
31. Aristotle's school
34. Part of ideal
35. Hurricane feature, pl.
37. Comedian Schumer
38. Teen worry
39. Side of a ruler
40. Left over
42. *When will the guests be here?, acr.
43. Rejuvenate
45. Expression of agreement (2 words)
47. *What Turkey Trot participants did
48. Outdoor entertainment area
50. Messy substances
52. *It makes Thanksgiving wishes come true?
55. Half of diameter, pl.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 56. Flu symptom 57. Accompanies relief 59. Leaves out 60. More than a talker? 61. Isaac's firstborn 62. Skin cyst 63. "____ my party, and I'll cry if I want too..." 64. Confederate or Union, e.g. <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compass dir. 2. Arctic native 3. Go yachting 4. Become enclosed in a cyst 5. Freshwater fish 6. Hop-drying kilns 7. *Pumpkin pie at the first | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving, e.g. 8. Sea World's performer 9. "Cheers" regular 10. Top seed 12. Like a rosebush 13. Spy name 14. *Kind of squash 19. Toils 22. Truck brand motto: "Guts. Glory. ____" 23. Lawn trimmer 24. Toe the line 25. Designs on lemur's tail 26. Purchases 27. #39 Across, pl. 28. T in Ferrari TR 29. Thai restaurant chicken staple 32. Elder's support 33. Flightless bird | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 36. *Thanksgiving football game host city since 1934 38. Impromptu 40. Big coffee holder 41. Choice word 44. Desert mirage 46. Makes less tight 48. Lace loop 49. "Angela's _____," memoir 50. *Raiders vs. Cowboys, e.g. 51. Scandinavian war god 52. Dry riverbed 53. Not final or absolute 54. Exclamation of surprise, archaic 55. Propel your boat! 58. Color wheel feature |
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SERV-PRO SANITIZES OUR ENTIRE DEALERSHIP USING EPA APPROVED HOSPITAL GRADE CLEANING SOLUTIONS ADHERING TO CDC GUIDELINES

NEW SILVERADOS

FROM \$37,900



NEW TRAILBLAZERS

FROM \$24,000



NEW EQUINOXS

FROM \$24,900



PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

2020 GMC SIERRA 1500



Crew cab, 4x4, 6.2 LT V8, AT4 Package with sunroof, heated/cooled memory leather seats, 14" heads up display. 1 local owner with 15,790 miles!!

2021 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD



Off-road V6, automatic, power windows, locks, mirrors, seat, tilt, cruise, alloys and so much more and ONLY 5,000 miles!!

2018 ACURA RDX



Heated leather seats, power sunroof, rear a/c, Full Power Package and ONLY 14,599 original miles on this flawless SUV!!

2020 CHEVROLET 2500



Crew cab, 4x4, custom, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, tilt, cruise, spray-in bedliner and ONLY 20,955 miles!!

2021 CHEVROLET TAHOE Z71



4x4, fully loaded including leather heated seats, panoramic sunroof, power liftgate, remote start, 2nd row captain's chairs, 1 local owner.

2013 GMC SIERRA 3500



Dually 4x4 diesel with every conceivable option, including heated/cooled memory leather seats, sunroof, DVD players, ONLY 40,798 original miles!! None nicer!!

2016 CHEVROLET IMPALA LTZ



Equipped the way you expect with leather, sunroof, navigation, memory heated/cooled leather seats. No apologies on this one with UNDER 20K miles!!

2019 COLORADO ZR2



4x4, 3.6 LT V6 with 8 spd. automatic transmission. One of the most capable off-road machines available. Fully loaded with leather, navigation, heated seats and ONLY 6,700 miles!!

2015 CHEVROLET CORVETTE



Coupe, true American muscle on this 3 LT. with glass top, leather, navigation with ONLY 15,749 true miles!!

2019 RAM 1500



Crew cab, 4x4, 5.7 LT. hemi, automatic transmission, Big Horn edition with power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, keyless and so much more and ONLY 17,292 miles!!



YOUR HOMETOWN DEALER

FIND NEW ROADS



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