

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

*Free
independent
weekly*



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The Brasstown Ringers have been a holiday staple around these parts for nearly 30 years. The group will once again be performing a schedule of Christmas music throughout the region in the month of December. Members hail from North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee and meet for practice every Thursday in Blairsville, Ga. For more on the Brasstown Ringers and their upcoming concert schedule see page 12 of the Gift Guide in this issue.

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Buy A Tree Change a Life at Crabtree General



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MMS begins fundraising for international trip

State budget finally passes; governor signs

After months of negotiations, on Thursday, Nov. 18, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a bipartisan compromise state budget proposal and Governor Roy Cooper promptly signed it into law. The budget provides raises for state employees and teachers, substantial infrastructure funding, statewide broadband expansion and much more.

“This budget is a result of a lot of hard work and collaboration from many folks,” stated Rep. Karl Gillespie.

Highlights of the budget include:

Salaries

- A 5% pay raise for state employees and teachers over the biennium.

- Implements \$15 per hour minimum wage for all non-certified public school personnel and community college staff.

- Provides \$2,800 bonuses to most teachers using federal funds.

- Provides bonuses for all state employees using federal funds: \$1,500 for state employees who make less than

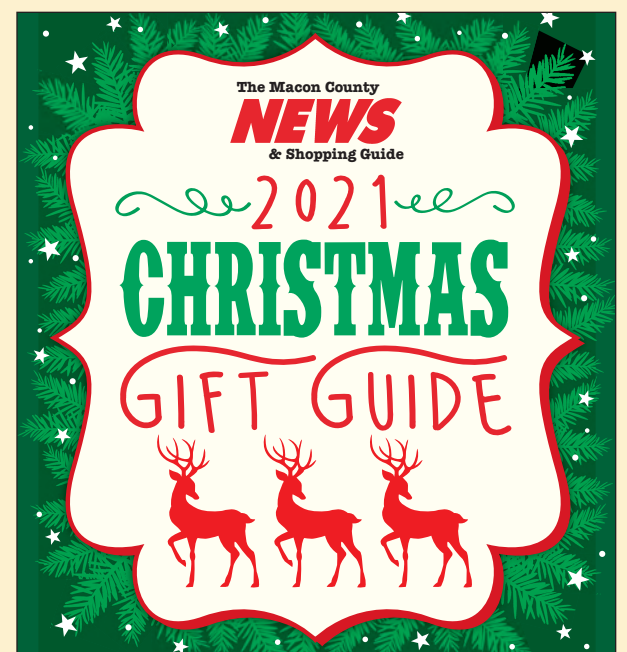


- \$75,000, and \$1,000 for state employees who make more than \$75,000.

- \$1,500 bonuses for law enforcement, correctional officers and staff, and 24-hour residential or treatment facility employees receive.

- \$100 million for a new state-funded teacher salary

See STATE BUDGET page 2



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STATE BUDGET Continued from page 1

supplement (1.7% increase) focused on low-wealth counties.

- 5% state and teacher retiree cost-of-living adjustment bonus over the biennium.
- New salary-based schedule for corrections, probation, and parole officers – resulting in average 7% salary increase for correctional officers and 17% raise for probation/parole officers.

Savings & Taxes

- Increases zero-tax bracket — the amount of income on which people pay no income tax — to \$25,500.
- Brings the “Rainy Day” savings fund to \$4.25 billion at the end of the biennium – the largest in state history.
- Cuts the personal income tax rate from 5.25% to 3.99%.
- Increases child tax deduction by \$500 per child.
- Allows businesses impacted by COVID-19 to deduct expenses paid by Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.
- Eliminates state income tax on military pensions.

Infrastructure

- \$1 billion to expand broadband across the State
- \$1.6 billion for water and sewer upgrades
- \$500 million grant program for small businesses affected by the pandemic

Agriculture

- Provides \$129 million in COVID-19 federal relief funds for food banks, and meat, swine, and dairy producers.
- Provides Forest Service with additional emergency re-

sponse equipment.

- Provides over \$8 million for Farmland Preservation.

Public Safety

- \$10 million for testing sexual assault evidence collection kits and eliminating the rape kit backlog.
- Nearly \$30 million to combat human trafficking and provide support services for victims.
- Provides vital new positions including additional assistant district attorneys, deputy clerks, child advocates, magistrates, and judges.
- \$140 million for local courthouse construction, renovations, and repairs.

Transportation

- \$346 million over the base budget for highway maintenance and highway preservation activities.
- Funds new inmate litter crew pilot project.
- \$12 million to municipalities for construction and maintenance of municipal roads and bridges
- \$3 million in federal funds for extended service at DMV Driver License offices.
- \$16 million over the biennium to the Global TransPark for a fuel storage facility and terminal renovations.
- Authorizes DMV to utilize online renewal for permits, licenses, and registrations.

“This is a historic budget that addresses the needs of all North Carolinians, stated Representative Gillespie. “Thanks to the legislature’s fiscal management, our state’s surplus allows us to invest in the right projects that propel our state forward.”

“This budget moves North Carolina forward in important ways,” said Cooper. “Funding for high speed internet, our

universities and community colleges, clean air and drinking water and desperately needed pay increases for teachers and state employees are all critical for our state to emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. I will continue to fight for progress where this budget falls short but believe that, on balance, it is an important step in the right direction.”

Sen. Corbin and Rep. Gillespie Secure Critical Improvements for Macon County

Sen. Kevin Corbin (R-Macon) and Rep. Karl Gillespie (R-Macon) secured critical improvements for Macon County in the compromise state budget approved by the General Assembly. Sen. Corbin said, “I am very happy with the passage of this budget. We were able to get more in this budget than has ever been included for Western North Carolina.”

In addition to supporting the sweeping tax cut and infrastructure plan, Corbin and Gillespie successfully advocated for \$1,100,000 for the expansion of SCC Macon Campus, \$50,000 for the SCC Fire Training Center, \$713,400 providing funding for the Nikwasi Town Cherokee Settlement, \$100,000 funding for purchase of a conservation and preservation easement at the Cherokee settlement of Watauga Town in Macon County, \$300,000 to Teen/Adult Challenge of the Smokies, \$175,000 to the Town of Franklin and \$100,000 to the Town of Highlands grants for water and sewer upgrades and \$121,574 for a local Health Department grant. In addition, Corbin and Gillespie were successful in once again securing an additional \$1,000,000 for Macon County Schools for “remote schools.” This is additional funding on top of the education budget for Macon County Schools.

Total allocation for Macon County is \$3,359,974.

Franklin's Annual Christmas Parade

Theme:

'A Season for Giving'

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021 • 3 PM

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Buy a Tree effort mission is to help children locally and globally

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The new lead pastor of Prentiss Church since March 2021, J.D. Woodside not only replaced Kevin Chapman in the pulpit, but also as a locally active participant in the Buy a Tree/Change a Life (BATCAL) initiative that Chapman – who left Franklin in February to pursue full-time ministry in Southeast Asia and China – was involved in for many years. Woodside expressed that it was God’s providence that he took the job at Prentiss Church, since his family has been so involved in BATCAL that they moved to Cambodia to work in the ministries that BATCAL supports.

BATCAL is an organization that helps children globally and locally. Each year the organization partners with churches around the country to raise funds through the sale of Christmas trees. Randy Stoudemire, local site director for BATCAL, organizes the delivery of trees to the lot next to Crabtree General Store in downtown Franklin. This year, 108 North Carolina Fraser firs have been ordered from Wishon Farms in Sparta to begin being sold the Friday after Thanksgiving, starting at 8:30 a.m.

“They have historically really sold out quickly,” said Woodside, noting that people can still support BATCAL even if they are not able to purchase one of the trees before they sell out.

Involved in full-time ministry for 20 years, Woodside explained that he and his family of four children, Jayden, Ava, Julian and Jensen, ages 9 through 16, and his wife, Angie, have



Pastor JD and Angie Woodside participate in the Village Christmas party in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Woodsides ministered in Cambodia until the pandemic hit when they were forced to return home to the states. They are currently pastors at Prentiss Church of God.

been involved in BATCAL since 2014.

“In 2019, we sold or gave away everything and moved to Cambodia and worked directly at Siem Reap, Cambodia, which is directly impacted by this organization. We were there from November 2019 until we had to respond to the pandemic and had to be repatriated back to the United States. But while we were there, we worked with the learning center and in Takaam village to teach English as a second language and assist at the two-year accredited institution. We were also involved in many feeding programs. We really got to see first-hand the results of Buy a



The Woodside children (L-R) Jensen, Ava, Jayden, and Julian at The Learning Center Graduation.

Tree/Change a Life. Absolutely amazing. We believe in that organization and what it does.”

What BATCAL does is to give away 100% of the sale of Christmas trees and any additional donations to international mission efforts [50%], such as those occurring in Cambodia, and to local children’s related needs [50%], such as last year’s special needs playground at South Macon Elementary School. Because of what was raised through BATCAL, a check for \$10,000 was presented to South Macon.

Although Woodside said he and his family “would still be there [Cambodia] if it hadn’t

been for the pandemic,” he said the door that God opened was a blessed surprise. “We are super blessed to be in Franklin and at Prentiss Church.”

Because of BATCAL, backpacks are also given to Macon County students in need, “but we will also look for other specific projects to help children locally,” said Woodside. “And we don’t want to just do a little bit, but make large contributions overseas and locally. We are hoping the amount that we raise increases annually. The real energy behind this is our corporate sponsors; they really help us to turn a wonderful profit. In order to do that annually, the goal is for

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The Village Christmas Outreach



JD with the Cambodian Team members

everything, like the trees, to be bought and paid for by sponsors before we start selling them.”

What Woodside and others involved in BATCAL have witnessed over the years is that people who learn about the efforts of the organization often either pay more (one person paid \$500) for their trees or purchase several trees to be given to underprivileged families. “It’s amazing how generous people can be,” said Woodside. “Generosity breeds more generosity.”

For more information about the local BATCAL effort, contact Prentiss Church or visit the BATSAL site at <http://buyatreechangealife.com>.



Kids playing soccer at the children’s home.



Children at the Learning Center sport Buy A Tree Change a Life t-shirts.

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Third graders at RGNS offer Thanksgiving facts

As the quick minds of Mr. Boone's third grade class at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School learned about non-fiction text and expository writing, students sharpened their newfound skills by researching assigned topics surrounding Thanksgiving.

From learning about the First Thanksgiving to researching the clothing worn or the evolution of pie, each student was responsible for summarizing non-fiction text, grouping ideas and identifying supporting details.

Each student then wrote, edited, and revised their articles.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

By Phoenix Nowack

We celebrate Thanksgiving every year on the fourth of Thursday of November to give thanks and gratitude.

The very First Thanksgiving was back in the autumn of 1621 when the pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts. The Wampanoag natives helped the pilgrims by teaching them to survive and how to grow crops and work the land to survive. In addition, an agreement was made to unite against any enemies that should attack their land and life.

To celebrate and honor their plentiful harvest and newfound friendship, Thanksgiving was started. Most historical images depict pilgrims wearing bucket hats and black and white attire for Thanksgiving, but actually, buckles didn't even come into fashion until much later. It is believed that pilgrims actually chose more colorful apparel without buckles to wear to the Thanksgiving festivals.

While President George Washington declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1761, it only began being celebrated annually in 1863 with help of President Abraham Lincoln. After that, it started to bring friends and family together once a year.

Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful and appreciative. At the first celebration the pilgrims and Native Americans ate foods such as duck, venison, cod, bread, pumpkins, and cranberries. Back in the day, feasting was mostly done with their hands.

In 1947, President Truman began the tradition of pardoning a turkey. This means that one turkey will be spared and not roasted as a part of the Thanksgiving feast. It will spend the rest of its days on a farm instead.

PILGRIM CLOTHING FOR THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

By Kennedy Garrett

I'm going to tell you some facts about clothing worn by pilgrims. The first thing is going to be about what women wore. They wore a shift. A shift was a long loose shirt with sleeves that reached to their ankles. They also wore an over shift.



Let's talk about what boys or men wore. They wore loose long sleeved knee length shirts and jacket with one row of buttons. They also wore suits and breeches. Men also wore wool stockings that came over their knees and tied with garters to keep them up. For shoes men wore leather shoes or boots. Girls also wore leather shoes.

Let's talk about what pilgrim children wore. When they were babies they wore a one piece gown with long sleeves. They also wore a pudding on their foreheads. A pudding is a padded roll. They also wore aprons to keep their gown clean.

HOW TO GROW CORN

By Harrison Green

There are several types of corn such as flint corn, Indian corn, and calico corn to name a few. Corn stalks can be 12 to 15 feet tall.

In the 1700s, corn was anything but sweet. Farmers learned if they harvest corn early, it would be sweeter. Farmers harvest corn at different times depending on what flavor they want. If the corn is milky under the husk, it is ready to pick.

Corn has changed so much over the years. Today, corn would not be able to grow by itself. To grow, farmers need the right place and it takes a lot of work. Farmers need an area that has a lot of sun and that is well drained soil. Corn needs to be planted after the last Spring frost.



BIRDS OF THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

By Van Hounsell

There are many birds associated with Thanksgiving other than just the turkey. While some species can no longer be found, history tells us they were part of the First Thanksgiving.

The Mayflower is a very old ship that brought the first settlers to America. With the people on the ship, there were also a few chickens on it in 1620. Many passengers got sick from the chickens on the ship.

We all know turkeys as a good old friend, but we also eat them and keep them on a farm. Turkeys can be pretty, but they are wild. Sometimes they can be vicious.

The Heath Hen was a strange bird in the 1600s but now they are extinct. They were super ugly. Scientists are unsure if they had talons or not. Some people said the Heath Hen looked half bunny, turkey, half fox, and half chicken. The Heath Hen has been extinct since the 1870s. Since it is now 2021, that was 172 years ago.

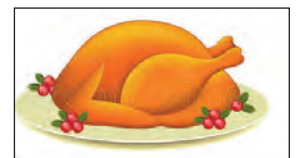
HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TURKEY

By Hudson Garner

Turkey is good in some people's opinion, But I Love it. And people love eating it on Thanksgiving.

No one knows for certain how the Thanksgiving Turkey became a tradition. Some people believe the tradition of eating turkey on Thanksgiving comes from the Queen of England.

The wild turkey is a native bird to America. Wild turkeys can fly. Turkeys can run up to 20 miles per hour. Because it is a native bird, historians believe the fowl talked about at the first Thanksgiving was Turkey



ALL ABOUT PIE

By Natalie Wood

Pie is a very popular dish at Thanksgiving. More than 35 percent of Americans have eaten pie for breakfast and 66 percent have even eaten it as a midnight snack.

Pumpkin Pie was first introduced to the holiday table at the pilgrims second Thanksgiving in 1623.

Some people think your favorite type of pie can tell a lot about your personality. If apple pie is your favorite, it means your personality is independent, realistic, and compassionate. If pecan pie is your favorite you are thoughtful and analytical.

Nearly one in four women believe that they make better pie, even better than your mom or grandma!

THE EVOLUTION OF GRAVY

By Rilyn Bilbrey

What is gravy, you ask? Well gravy is something that people put on their Thanksgiving meals and other food all year long.

Gravy was first made in the 19th Century. Philip Thorre had a patent for something close to what we think of as gravy back in 1882. That is the earliest record of gravy.

Today, gravy is made with grease, water, and starch. On Thanksgiving, people use the grease from the turkey to make the gravy.

In the 1960s, Life Magazine wrote about the proliferation of dry mix gravies for the first time.

I like to put gravy on my turkey and corn. What do you like to put gravy on? Whatever you think, it is probably delicious!

HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN RABUN COUNTY

By Ethan Rolader

In the 1760s some explorers came to the place people now known as Rabun County.

There were probably four Cherokee settlements that would later become Rabun County.

In the 18th century, the Cherokee population was very heavy. What we know as the Appalachian Mountains was sometimes called the Cherokee mountains. Archeologists have found evidence that Cherokee and their families lived throughout the southern Appalachian Mountains for at least 1,000 years before white settlers arrived.

What we know as Clayton today, was the point of five big Cherokee trails that connected the Cherokee to major points in the South like Charleston, South Carolina and Augusta, Georgia.

After Rabun County was officially formed, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830, which removed most Native Americans from their homes. By 1838, President Martin Van Buren sent General Winfield Scott and 7,000 soldiers to remove the rest of the Cherokee from in and around Rabun County.

WHY LEAVES CHANGE COLOR IN THE AUTUMN

By CeCe Weisser

As the weather gets cooler, some leaves begin to change colors. Leaves began to lose their chlorophyll which is how they start to change colors.

Plants take water from the ground through their roots as the days get shorter this signals trees that it is time to begin getting ready for winter.

The brown color of tree leaves are mostly found on oak trees. The brown color on tree leaves are made from wastes left in the leaves. The bright red and purple leaf colors are made when sugar is trapped in the leaves.

As the weather gets cooler some leaves begin to change colors and leaves begin to lose their chlorophyll which is how they start to change colors.



FIREARMS DURING THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

By Alice Haynie

Let's take a look at some of the most popular guns that used to have in the First Thanksgiving.

The Miquelet-lock was one weapon commonly used. Groups around the globe adopted the gun because it was a simple and reliable weapon. The Whellock was revolutionary in that offered much better weather protection than most other guns of the day, making it last longer and do a better job.

The first settlers needed to use guns to kill the turkey. Hunting is really important for Thanksgiving. My cousin and his dad go hunting on thanksgiving and they kill turkey sometimes and sometimes we go to the store to get it.

Turkey is the main meal on Thanksgiving. It is popular with mashed potatoes and gravy. You don't kill those things but they are a good side with turkey.

HOW APPLE CIDER IS MADE

By Zora Johnson-Owen

Apple cider can be served hot or cold. It really depends on how you like it. To make apple juice, the substance is heated before bottling.

The type of apple you use to make cider changes the flavor of the drink. If you're trying to make traditional apple cider, try Gala, Fuji, Cortland, Golden Delicious, or Red Delicious. If you would like a more tart cider, you can use Pink Lady, Braeburn, Jonathan, or McIntosh apples.

The most common spice use to make apple cider is cinnamon.

People drink apple cider around the holidays, especially on Thanksgiving.

ALL ABOUT MASHED POTATOES

By William Demmler

The mashed potato was made in the United Kingdom in 1747. Mashed potatoes can be served as a side dish. The most common companion to mashed potatoes is gravy.

In the United States the dish is associated with holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas or used as an ingredient for other dishes such as dumplings.

To make mashed potatoes, some people use a potato masher utensil. They can also be made using a mixer.

ALL ABOUT PUMPKINS

By Wiley Dilbeck

Pumpkins are gourds. Pumpkins can grow almost anywhere except Antarctica. When a honeybee flies into the flower to pollinate it, the flower will then grow into a pumpkin.

Almost all parts of a pumpkin are edible. The only piece of a pumpkin that you most certainly cannot eat is the stalk. Everything else you can chow down on. The skin, the seeds, and even the yellow flower on the vine are all edible. Pumpkins are full of vitamin A and potassium and they are also low fat.

In the early days, pumpkin pie looked a little different than it does today. Back then, pumpkin pie was made by hollowing out of pumpkins first and then filling the shells with milk, honey, and spices.

You can find plenty of pumpkin fields in the state of Illinois. Over 12,300 acres of pumpkins are harvested every year. The city of Morton, Illinois is said to be the pumpkin capital of the world.

A New Hampshire man named Steve Geddes took first place in 2018 for growing the largest pumpkin. It weighed 2,528 pounds and was the heaviest pumpkin on record.

Pumpkins can be used for decorations because it makes things look better around the holidays.



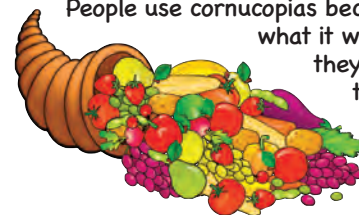
CORNUCOPIA: A THANKSGIVING TRADITION

By Mira Branden

The cornucopia is also known as the horn of plenty. The name comes from Latin and dates back to 1508. Abundance plenty as a symbol, cornucopia is typically depicted as a horn shaped receptacle overflowing with fruits, grains, and flowers.

There are a log of things inside a cornucopia such as corn, pumpkins, oranges and onions. There is often a log of food, but there can also be flowers and leaves.

People use cornucopias because they remind them of what it was like a long time ago and they look festive as a decoration item. The cornucopia is loved at Thanksgiving and is used on the dining room table.



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Holiday With Horses event for veterans families

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

One upcoming holiday event is available specifically for local veterans' families, and it involves all outdoor pursuits. Holiday With Horses is offered at the Special Liberty Project property in Macon County. The nonprofit organization encompasses 27 acres of hiking trails and a small farm that includes various equine breeds, but the property also adjoins the Nantahala National Forest.

On Dec. 4, from 1-4 p.m., at least 10 veterans' families will have an opportunity to participate in holiday-themed hiking- and equine-oriented activities. According to Jessica Merritt, a director of Special Liberty Project, additional dates may be added to the calendar in order to accommodate other veterans' families during the holidays – if there is enough local interest.

Merritt explained that participants will be exposed to the beauty of the area, miniature and full-size horses, as well as refreshments and a holiday craft-making opportunity. But the day's focus is on horses.

"We have found, from veterans and their families coming here, that just being around the horses presents a sense of calmness and increases self-awareness and self-confidence," said



Just being around horses changes participants' demeanor and has been proven to reduce stress.



Holiday With Horses, an event for local veterans and their families, will involve a hike, during which time "wishes" can be pinned to a tree as well as time spent grooming and photo opps with horses.

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Merritt. "Our program on a monthly basis has made a profound impact on participants. Just being around horses changes participants' demeanor and is an amazing experience to be a part of."

On that Saturday before time with horses, participants will embark on a "mindfulness" hike "while taking in the beauty and the fresh air" "explained Merritt. "Before we hike, I will ask them to find a rock along the path. With that rock, they will place it into the 'gratitude rock garden' at the top of the mountain. We talk about how the rock was already on the trail – already present – so they can relate that to something already in their life that they can be grateful for, such as love, children, a job, etc."

Talking about gratitude while hiking helps veterans and their families to concentrate on positives instead of negatives, insisted Merritt. "Our own family every night at dinner says out loud something they can be grateful for. We

have a discussion on having an attitude of gratitude, no matter what might have happened during the day," she said.

The hike will also include pinning onto a tree's copper wire a piece of paper on which participants write "a wish" for their lives.

"In the military, a pinning ceremony is very special," said Merritt. "We correlate that to an advancement in life – something they are yearning for. This is a first step in moving forward in a positive direction. When we've done it with widows, it's been very emotional ... a powerful experience."

Finally, the hike includes a stop at a forest "graveyard" to bury pieces of paper on which they can write "something that no longer serves them and something they want to let go of," said Merritt.

All throughout the hike "forest bathing" will be encouraged, meaning focusing on all the senses, such as evergreen tree smells, bird sounds, plant identification, and more.

The hike ends up at the farm with the horses. "We will have a mindful grooming session followed by a pony photo booth," said Merritt. "And then we will do nature-centric, holiday-related crafts, such as turning a horse shoe into a mini wreath."

Merritt added, "The holidays are really tough, especially for veterans and their families sometimes, and we get caught up on the pressures society puts on us. This event is a chance for participants to connect, with nature, with horses, but also reconnect and focus on what is most important. Equine therapy, and just time spent outdoors, is real and we have learned that it is so beneficial for veterans and their families."

Anyone interested in participating in Holiday With Horses can visit the Special Liberty Project website and sign up and/or email or call to learn more. The event is free to veterans and their families, but they must show proof of military service.



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N.C. to receive \$1B for broadband expansion

The \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law on Nov. 15 will bring close to \$1 billion in federal funding to help close the digital divide in North Carolina.

“The bipartisan infrastructure package is a huge investment in our country that will bring good-paying jobs and much-needed infrastructure modernization to North Carolina,” said Gov. Roy Cooper. “This bill will help ensure we emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever before by improving our roads, bridges, public transit systems, high speed internet networks, clean water and disaster preparedness.”

More than one million North Carolina residents lack access to a high-speed internet connection, cannot afford internet service, do not have an adequate device or do not have the digital skills needed to use the devices to work, learn, access telehealth and engage with the digital economy.

The IIJA will provide North Carolina:

- \$100 million in block funding, along with the state’s share of both \$4 billion in funding for high-cost areas and \$37 billion for last-mile infrastructure. These shares will be prioritized based on unserved areas, underserved areas and community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education;

- In addition, the state will receive or be able to compete for a portion of \$640 million for digital equity capacity planning and \$1.3 billion for digital equity grants;

- Access to a \$1 billion grant program for middle-mile infrastructure to help bring fiber – which allows for faster internet speeds – closer to rural communities; and

- Modifies, extends and renames the Federal Communications Commission’s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP), and reduces the monthly benefit to \$30 to help households afford access to high-speed internet service.

With these funds and the N.C. General Assembly’s appropriation of more than \$960 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds, the N.C. Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) seeks to raise the percentage of North Carolina households with high-speed internet subscriptions from 73% to 80% and raise the percentage of households with children with high-speed internet subscriptions from 81% to 100%. Additionally, NCDIT is striving to increase adoption rates to 80% across the following racial subgroups: Native American (currently 57%), Black (currently 64%), Latinx (currently 68%) and White (currently 76%).

“With this dedicated funding for broadband infrastructure and digital equity, NCDIT can make remarkable strides in equipping North Carolinians with affordable high-speed internet access, technology and skills so they can connect to essential digital resources,” said NCDIT Secretary and State Chief Information Officer James Weaver. “We are working with internet service providers and local municipalities and are encouraging public-private partnerships to ensure we deploy the best solutions to meet each community’s needs.”

About the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The EBBP provides support for broadband services and certain devices to help low-income households stay connected during the pandemic. More than 286,000 North Carolina households have already registered for the EBBP. Residents can learn if they qualify at getemergencybroadband.org. The new program, with nearly \$14 billion in funding, will be called the Affordable Connectivity Benefit. Those who qualified under the EBBP automatically will be enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Benefit.

Tips to fight holiday stress

While the holiday season can bring joy, it can also mean increased stress for many people. According to the American Psychological Association, nearly a quarter of Americans feel “extreme stress” during the holidays.

HopeWay – an accredited nonprofit mental health residential and day treatment center for adults – recommends ways to help cope with the holidays and combat stress and anxiety:

- Practice gratitude. Write down one thing each day that you are thankful for.

- Practice mindfulness. With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it is important to practice mindfulness and focus on the present moment.

- Acknowledge the multitude of feelings. It’s okay to have various feelings related to the holidays and to experience negative emotions. Learn from the emotion rather than using unnecessary energy to push it away or project it onto someone else.

- Make self-care a priority. Be intentional about taking care of yourself with proper nutrition, adequate sleep, exercise and meditation.

- Set boundaries and simplify. Don’t overextend yourself. Establish boundaries with your schedule and commitments. Take a pause. Remember to breathe.

- Be in nature. Put on your coat and get outside. It’s important to find time to get out to breathe fresh air. Not only does the sun provide Vitamin D, it is important to spend time in nature to reset and recharge.

“Stress can impact our physical and mental health, and can be compounded more during the holiday season,” said Dr. Alyson R. Kuroski-Mazzei, a triple-boarded psychiatrist who is HopeWay’s chief executive officer and chief medical officer. “It’s important to take time for self-care and recognize when stress arises. While difficulties are inevitable, it is vital to know how to effectively manage stress so it does not negatively impact daily functioning.”



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Letters to the Editor

Zonta creating awareness of gender violence

The members of Zonta Franklin want to join together with our community to create more awareness of violence against women during Sixteen Days of Activism, taking place worldwide from Nov. 25-Dec. 10. Women's rights activists have observed Nov. 25 as a day against gender-based violence since 1981. This date was elected to honor the Mirabel sisters, three political activist sisters from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo. On Feb. 7, 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/134 officially designating Nov. 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

While some residents of Macon County may be unaware, this is happening in our own back yards. We urge our friends and neighbors to be active participants in exposing this widespread abuse. Thirty percent of women worldwide who have been in a relationship report physical/sexual abuse by their partner. Thirty-four percent of female homicides in 2017 were committed by a former or current partner. Online, an incredible 73 percent of women experience cyber abuse. In the U.S., women are 27 times more likely to be abused online than men. For more facts about violence against women, go to zontasayno.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/get-the-facts.pdf.

Please go to our local Zonta website FranklinZontaNC.org for additional information about this issue and other facts about Zonta International.

Thank you from the Franklin Zonta Club.

Faith Giaquinto, Club Representative

Group raises \$9,000 for homeless veterans

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the citizens of Macon County and Franklin, N.C. I was not born in Franklin; however, I have lived here for several years, and I could not be prouder of a community. As the president of Franklin Presbyterian Men and an advocate for helping homeless veterans in the area, I want to offer my sincere appreciation to the residents and visitors of Franklin. You folks have proven once again your generosity and empathy for the less fortunate.

We have all been through difficult times recently with isolation and worrying periods of exposure to infection. The citizens of Franklin answered the call to help people in need.

Our small group of old guys is dedicated to gathering money to assist organizations that help homeless veterans in the area. We have several fund-raising efforts including hosting a kiosk at local festivals, church lunches and a container program during "Help Homeless Veterans Week."

We were unable to operate last year, and we got a late

start this year because of inaccessibility to others during the covid outbreak. As restraints were lifted, we, as a group were apprehensive regarding the ability of our local folks to help the homeless after a period of quarantine and in some cases joblessness. We should have known our fears were unfounded. The residents and visitors of Franklin exhibited kindness and unselfish efforts and your generosity surpassed everything we anticipated.

This year we were able to operate a booth at the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association festival, and again at PumpkinFest. Because of you folks, both were enormously successful. Additionally, thanks to the mayor and town council for proclaiming the second week in September "Help Homeless Veterans Week" to increase awareness of the need to aid our less fortunate veterans. We also want to express our gratitude to the 72 Franklin merchants who promoted our "On the Counter Container Program" during the proclamation week.

Again, we sincerely appreciate our friends, neighbors and residents backing. Because of your kindness, we will provide more than \$9,000 in assistance to provide shelter, job training and help to our homeless veterans.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our friends, neighbors and visitors.

Ned Kraft, president Franklin Presbyterian Men

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 Iotla Street, then follow the signs and directions from traffic assistants to proceed to the drive-thru food station. Individuals can remain in their vehicles for meal pick-up before exiting onto Harrison Avenue. Volunteers will work in a drive-through setup in front of the FPC Chapel at 26 Church Street. They 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.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

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 Franklinuptowngallery.com.

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

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

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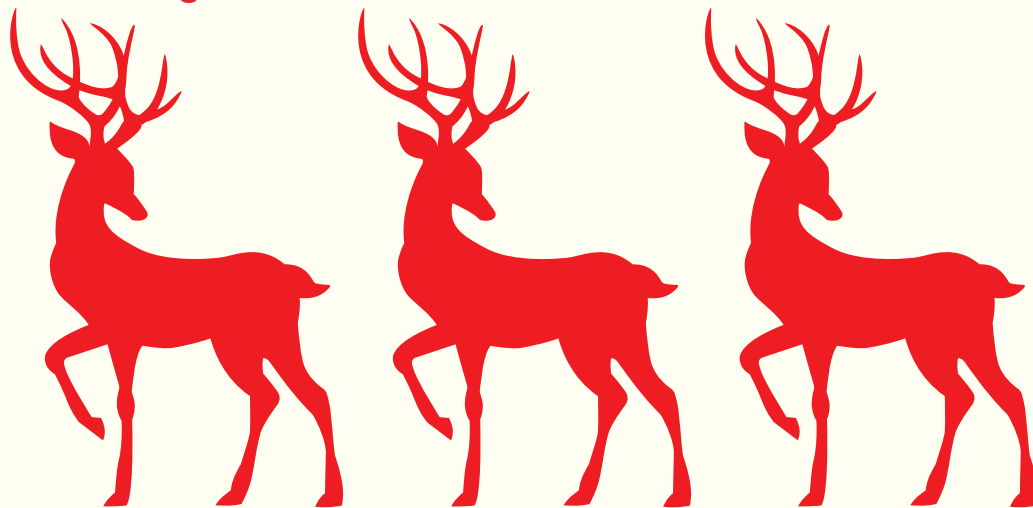
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Small business Saturday Nov. 27

Greg Thompson – Director NFIB

Small business is what keeps North Carolina's economy going. Big business seems to get most of the attention, but small business accounts for an astonishing 99.6% of all businesses in the state.

These independent businesses do a lot throughout the year to help their communities. They create jobs, sure, but they also sponsor our children's sports teams and give to local charities. They did everything they could during the pandemic to keep their workers and customers safe and still provide the goods and services their communities needed to get through.

We can repay them by shopping local on Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It was created as a response to another economic crisis, the Great Recession, a crisis that threatened to put many local businesses out of business.

Since then, Small Business Saturday has become one of the busiest shopping days of the year. Nationwide, people spent about \$19.8 billion at independent shops and restaurants last Small Business Saturday, according to American Express. That

amount was up a little from the year before – impressive, considering the precautions still in place a year ago.

I think the reason people continued to respond to local businesses is that they understood that small businesses aren't chain stores sitting on piles of cash. Without customers, their favorite boutiques or restaurants would have closed, and people didn't want to lose them.

Small businesses, whether they're a retailer or a restaurant, offer things you can't find at the chains. Plus, when you shop or dine small, you stand a good chance of dealing directly with the owner, someone who'll do whatever they can to turn you into a regular customer.

Small businesses hold our communities together and are owned by our friends and neighbors. What's more, American Express estimates that 67 cents of every dollar spent at a small business remains in the community.

By shopping locally, we can help our communities not only recover but also grow.

Gregg Thompson is the North Carolina director of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization.



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Christmas parade Sunday, Nov. 28

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 parade will commence 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 social-distance. 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 and end at the Franklin Flea Market.

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



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Winter Wonderland kicks off the holiday season in Franklin

The Town of Franklin will officially welcome the holidays during Winter Wonderland a two-night event held in downtown Franklin on consecutive Saturdays, Nov. 27, and Dec. 4, from 5 to 8 each evening.

"This event is has become a favorite part of holiday traditions for both visitors and locals alike," said Mayor Bob Scott. "Our staff has put together a great event that truly celebrates the spirit of the season."



The first night of Winter Wonderland will include the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. followed by a merchant sponsored candlelight service.

Saturday, Nov. 27, is also Small Business Saturday. This initiative, headed by American Express, shifts the focus from Black Friday and Cyber Monday to supporting small, local businesses. The Town of Franklin is proud to again be a Neighborhood Champion of Small Business Saturday.

"Much like last year, the downtown holiday décor will be enhanced this year with many different photo opportunities," said Town Manager Amie Owens. "These holiday decorations are sure to brighten your holidays and can be enjoyed until a few days after the New



Year."

Both nights of Winter Wonderland will feature free carriage rides in elegant carriages.

Downtown merchants will also be



open late offering great shopping and plenty of great gift ideas for the holidays.

Of course, no holiday celebration would be complete without a visit from the Jolly Ole Elf himself, Santa Claus! Santa will be out on the streets and visiting merchants spreading holiday cheer from 5 to 8 p.m. both nights of Winter Wonderland.

As a reminder, Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic both nights of Winter Wonderland with parking along Main Street closing at 4:30 p.m. The detour will be clearly marked. Plenty of free parking is located throughout the downtown area.

"The Town of Franklin has worked hard to create an event that celebrates not only the holidays but the spirit of our small town. This is a great family event, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces and visitors from all over the area here in Franklin, N.C., for Winter Wonderland on Saturdays, Nov. 27, and Dec. 4," said Mayor Scott.

Winter Wonderland is sponsored by the Town of Franklin. For additional information, visit www.TownofFranklinNC.com or call (828) 524-2516. You can also follow along on Facebook @FranklinNCEvents.

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Hard Candy Christmas on for 2021

The 34th Annual Hard Candy Christmas Arts and Crafts Show for 2021 is on for this year for Friday, Nov. 26 and Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day at the Western Carolina University Ramsey Center in Cullowhee.

This event features authentic crafts from the hands of 90 regional artisans and artists. Customers come to purchase original arts and crafts at great prices. The mountain greenery wreaths from the Awe Natural booth and live Christmas carols from Ronnie Evans's guitar provide plenty of Christmas Spirit.

Macon County's own Sandy Stanley DeNiar is the show's featured artist with her unique style of painted treasures.

DeNiar grew up in Franklin down the street from show producer Doris Hunter. DeNiar visited the Hunters everyday to see what art project Hunter was doing while she was



Sandy DeNiar of Franklin is the featured artist at the 34th Annual Hard Candy Christmas Craft Show set for Nov. 26, 27 at WCU's Ramsey Center.

mom to three little toddlers. During this time, Hunter decided to paint a nature scene on the only bathroom wall

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"Painting is a passion of mine that I dreamed of when I was young," said DeNiar. "My neighbor, Doris Hunter painted her bathroom wall with beautiful day lilies. I was so excited to tell my Mom that I wanted to be an artist when I grew up.

"I first started painting things for church, and later I began painting on recycled things as well as new. God has blessed my hobby and I love sharing it with others."

Exhibitors from Macon County are:

- Beverly Borchardt - Quilted Wall hangings
- Debra S. Carroll - Wreaths
- Debbie Fouts - Pebble Art
- Fays Jackson Henry - Fine Jewelry
- Mark and Susan Kennedy - Quilted Purses /Photography
- Roy Owenby - Novels and Nina's Dolls
- Carl Winter - Wood Turnings
- Steve Waldroop - Woodworking
- David Pruitt - Little White Churches -
- Silvia Pruitt - Quilted Framed Pictures,



Artist David Pruitt is an exhibitor from Franklin who specializes in wooden structures.

fine sewing.

- Dennis and Bonnie Wallace - Holiday Décor
- Randy Johnson - Randy's Funky Art
- Ryan Karcher - Aerial Photography

For more information about the show, visit www.mountainArtisans.net

Admission is \$5 for adults. Children under 12 free. Masks are required. Free parking and concessions are available.

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Gift drive organized for nursing home residents for second year

A community service project that started during the COVID19 pandemic is gearing up for a second year. Amanda Shaw, owner of Macon Rental along with Jamaica Taylor launched a gift drive for area nursing homes in 2020 to address a need at Grandview Manor. After working together to brainstorm, the duo, along with two others, Summer Kelly and Laura Beth Tallent decided to host a donation drive to bring holiday cheer to area nursing home residents.

Last year, with the help of individuals and businesses around Macon County, holiday gifts were provided in droves for care packages for nursing home residents. All together the community came together to provide 210 care packages for the residents of the Franklin House, Grandview Manor, and Macon Valley Nursing Center in Macon County as well as the Hermitage in Sylva and this year, the group hope to serve all those facilities once again.

"During the pandemic the thing that brought joy to us was being able to spread a little happiness," said Shaw. "We all

agreed that this project was a way to bring smiles to our elders in the community."

This year, the students at Union Academy have volunteered to help fill the care packages, and will be donating their time to providing holiday cheer for the community.

Those interested in helping are invited to donate small, fun holiday items and candy such as lip balm, hair care items, lotions, cards, large print game books, non-slip socks and treats.

"Don't forget we share with both men and women," said Shaw. "Think of things your parents, grands, and great grands might like. If you would like to donate

money, we can do that through PayPal and Venmo. That money will be used to do a bulk order from Dodge Packaging and Amazon."

Drop off items at Macon Rental Company or contact Jamaica Taylor, Summer Kelly or Amanda Shaw to arrange a pick up. The deadline for donations is Dec. 9 to allow time to package the gifts.

Submitted by Brittney Lofthouse



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Christmas Calendar of Events

FRANKLIN

November 25

Community Thanksgiving Meal, 12 noon to 2 p.m., will be offered as take-out meals in a curbside pickup in front of the First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. No dine-in service, beverages or utensils. Cars should enter Church Street from Iotla Street and exit onto Harrison Avenue. Reservations not required.

Cold Turkey 5K & Little Turkeys Fun Run (all ages). Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. or sign up at RunSignup; Little Turkeys Fun Run Walk begins at 9 a.m.; Cold Turkey 5K begins at 9:30 a.m. Tassee Shelter, 877 Ulco Drive, Franklin. For info, call (828)421-7637.

November 27

Small Business Saturday was created to encourage people to shop at small, independent businesses. The idea was to encourage people to support the local businesses that support their communities throughout the year.



Make sure to bring your gift list and shop for presents with at Cowee School studios and at the Balsam Bee Store.

Winter Wonderland in downtown Franklin, 5 to 8 p.m. Roving Santa, free carriage rides, merchants open late, and more!

December 9

David Phelps: It Must be Christmas, 7 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866)273-4615.

December 17

Merry Christmas Darling: Carpenters' Christmas 7 p.m., at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1028 Georgia Road Franklin. The Carpenters' Christmas is a concert show celebrating one of the most successful recording acts of all time with their classic Christmas repertoire and a full complement of their biggest hits.

For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866)273-4615.



Winter Wonderland in downtown Franklin, 5 to 8 p.m. Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. Roving Santa, free carriage rides, merchants open late, and more!

November 28

Christmas Parade in downtown Franklin begins at 3 p.m. Procession will begin at Town Hall, turn left onto Porter Street, then left on Palmer Street and proceed to Highlands Road, ending at the flea market.

After parade hangout at First United Methodist Church Memorial Hall with cookies and hot chocolate.

December 4

Cowee Christmas at Historic Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin. Music, food and fun for the whole family. Holiday Make and Take Crafts for Kids, Grandma's Kitchen, holiday swag making, Santa Claus and more.



December 19

Christmas with the Isaacs, 3 p.m. Celebrate the traditional and sacred sounds



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from their family to yours. For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866)273-4615.

December 21

Join the Overlook Theatre Company at 7 p.m. at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts as they celebrate with stories, songs and holiday memories in this annual gathering of Christmas cheer. Sing along with traditional favorites and enjoy new, modern renditions of classic Christmas tunes- all in a beautiful setting of thousands of sparkling lights, a giant glittering Christmas tree, and a few spectacular surprises. For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866)273-4615.

HIGHLANDS/ CASHIERS

November 26 & 27

Cashiers Festival of Trees is a family-friendly event during Thanksgiving weekend where guests bid on decorated trees and holiday décor, enjoy a wide variety of holiday performances, create personalized children's crafts, celebrate literacy on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Storytime Stage, and shop one-of-a-kind gifts. Benefits the Summit Charter School Foundation and local nonprofits.

November 27

Tree Lighting & Santa in Highlands 6 to 8 p.m., 108 Main Street. Presented by Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

December 4

Highlands Christmas Parade Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Presented by Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Cashiers Christmas Parade at 3 p.m. Theme is "Santa's Favorite Christmas Characters." Post parade party at the Village Green's Commons Hall with Santa & Mrs. Claus, refreshments and treats. The one-mile parade route starts on Highway 107 South and heads North towards the Cashiers Crossroads, then turns left on US Hwy 64 heading West and ends at the intersection of Frank Allen Road at the Cashiers Glenville Volunteer Fire Department.

JACKSON COUNTY

November 26-27

34th Annual Hard Candy Christmas Art and Crafts Show, 10 - 5 p.m., WCU Ramsey Center, Cullowhee. Featuring authentic crafts from the hands of 100+ regional Artisans. Additional information at mountainartisans.net. Adult admission, \$5.

December 3 & 4, 10 & 11

Dillsboro Lights and Luminaries A Mountain Tradition for nearly 40 years. Join in the spirit and the splendor as the entire town is aglow with candles, 5 to 9 p.m., nightly. Free parking. Shopkeepers hold "Open House" and serve coffee, warm cider, hot chocolate and home baked goodies and stay open late to ac-



commodate holiday shoppers. <https://www.visitdillsboro.org>. Contact Town of Dillsboro for more information: 828-586-1439

December 5

Sylva Christmas Parade, 3 to 4 p.m. The parade will start at the Sylva Fire Department and will proceed on West Main Street and finish at Mark Watson Park.

December 10 & 11

The Asheville Ballet will present "The Nutcracker" 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Performance Hall of the Bardo Arts Center at WCU.

December 17

Holiday Fireworks 7:30 to 8 p.m. Can be viewed from downtown Sylva. Presented by Jackson County Parks & Rec and Jackson County Chamber.



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Brasstown Ringers ready for concert season with 'Sounds Like Christmas'

The Brasstown Ringers community handbell ensemble will kick off their holiday concert season, "Sounds Like Christmas" with a performance at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, at Oak Forest United Methodist Church in Hayesville. Additional concerts are scheduled as follows:



Members of the Brasstown Ringers hail from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

– Saturday, Dec. 4, 7 pm – Hope Lutheran Church, Elijah, Ga.

– Sunday, Dec 5, 5 p.m. – First United Methodist Church, Copperhill, Tenn.

– Friday, Dec 10, 7 p.m. – First United Methodist Church, Franklin.

– Saturday, Dec 11, 7 p.m. – First United Methodist Church, Blue Ridge, Ga.

– Sunday, Dec 12, 5 p.m. - Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church, Young Harris, Ga.

Brasstown Ringers was initially started in 1992 by Pat Meinecke, who retired as director and in 2019, passed her baton to Linda Sterrett from Franklin. Ringing five octaves of Schulmerich bells and six octaves

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Happy Thanksgiving from the staff at The Macon County News

of Malmark chimes, these advanced ringers from across Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, come together for practice every Thursday evening in Blairsville, Ga. This year's concert series is dedicated to Henry Meinecke, late husband of Pat and former choir member. He shared his love of music and dedication to beautiful handbell music with all he met.

Members include:

From Georgia: Jason Brunner, Liza Lawrence, Tom and Jackie Volk; from North Carolina, Danny Ferreira, Sheila Gregory, Steve Holcomb, Theresa Ramsey, Jackie Reed, Anne Rice, Sharon Ruffner, Mark Schickedantz, Kathy Tant, Linda Sterrett (director); and from Tennessee, Lonney and Brett McDonald.

In addition to spring and winter performances, the choir has toured Europe, gone on multiple handbell retreats, and performed at the Biltmore House as well as other venues throughout Western North Carolina,

northeast Georgia and southeast Tennessee. The "Sounds Like Christmas" concert will showcase the beauty and depth of handbell music and spotlight various ringing techniques. The program's variety of pieces featuring traditional carols, and pop favorites is sure to bring holiday cheer.



Because this is an indoor event, we respectfully request that the CDC guidelines be followed for everyone's safety, comfort and enjoyment. Also, Pure Water Technology of the Tri-State Area LLC, a distributor for

AERUS Electrolux Air Filters, will donate the use of seven air purifiers at each concert venue. These air purifiers reduce and eliminate bacteria and viruses in the air to add an additional level of air quality.

For details about upcoming handbell workshops or to schedule a performance, contact Linda Sterrett after a concert or at lkmsterrett@gmail.com.

Deck the halls we bought a Rebel,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

'Tis the season to be driving,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Don we now our brand New Compass,
Fa la la la la, la la la la, la la la la

Troll the curves in our Durango,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the Blazing Helleat Charger,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Follow me in my new Wrangler,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away the Gladiator,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Hail the new Grand Wagoneer,
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Sing we joyus, as we travel
Fa la la la la, la la la la,
la la la la









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Balsam Bee and Cowee Christmas back on track for 2021 celebration

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

Last year's pandemic problems put a halt to most public holiday activities, including Cowee Christmas and Balsam Bee. This year, the senses can once again be delighted by the overwhelming scent of Fraser firs and northern balsam at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center on Dec. 4. Built in 1943 of local stone on the site of a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp, the Cowee School for seven decades educated area youth, but currently the historic structure is an arts and heritage center that not only houses museums, offices, and studios but hosts traditional, annual events as well.

At the free-to-attend Cowee Christmas and the Balsam Bee, participants from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. can not only visit and shop with artisan tenants and vendors, but also purchase fresh northern balsam and Fraser fir-filled pillows, ornaments, and swags, with sales directly benefitting Cowee School.

Each year, the fragrant pillows feature unique designs. This year two de-

signs are by local artist Dennis Deitz, and some of the designs feature the Cherokee language since the Cowee area was once a prominent Cherokee village.

"We have a team of supporters who work together to make this happen," said Claire Suminski, an organizer. "We've been cutting down old damaged trees or recycling used Christmas trees, sifting, drying ... and artwork design, printing, sewing, stuffing, for the pillows. We mix Fraser fir with northern balsam for a deeply aromatic and fresh smell."

Some of the exhibitors and craftspeople on display Dec. 4 are:

Cowee Textiles – weaving, needle felting and hats by Teresa Bouchonnet

Jon Houglum Fine Art & Painting Studio – oil landscapes and painting lessons

The Mountaineer – handcrafted woodworking, leatherworking, and soaps

Cowee Pottery School – wheel-thrown and hand-built studio pottery and classes

Alarka Expeditions – outdoor excursions and cultural events

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Jamy Beth Suminski teaches young children how to make Christmas swags at a Cowee Christmas in years past.

Cynthia Kinard Portrait Legacies – oil and watercolor paintings and portraits

In addition, the Women’s History Trail will have festive homemade cookies available as well as hot drinks. And, from 12 to 3 p.m. are such children’s crafts and activities as evergreen

swag making, face painting with Mary Bennett (sponsored by Arts Council of Macon County), cookie decorating with Grandma’s Kitchen, bag sewing with Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, and tree decoration making with

See COWEE page 16

Rusted Arrow Market

Farm House - Shabby Chic - Antiques

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COWEE From page 15

volunteers of the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County.

From 12-3 p.m., will also by live local music by local musicians Wyatt Duvall, The White Sisters, Lady and

by the Cowee Fire Department and Wayne English and his "old-time" truck.

Added Suminski, "In a time when people feel a little down because of Covid, it will be great to be able to see shoppers pick up one the pillows, breath in the scent of Fraser fir and northern balsam, and get a big smile



For every Balsam Bee, new designs decorate the Fraser fir and northern balsam-filled pillows.

the Tramps, and Richard Tichich.

People who attend Cowee Christmas and the Balsam Bee can plan to take holiday photos at a Franklin Fire Department Antique Engine, offered

on his or her face."

For more information about these events, contact Suminski at claire@dometrics.com, or visit www.coweeschool.org.

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Brighten up your winter with gifts of Spring blooms for the holiday

Melinda Myers – Guest columnist

Give the gift of spring this winter to gardeners and non-gardeners alike. A pot of tulips, daffodils or other spring flowering bulbs is sure to brighten a dreary winter day and elevate the recipient's mood.

Spring flowering bulbs need 12 to 15 weeks of temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering. This happens naturally in areas with cold winters. Bulbs are planted in the fall, receive the chill they need, and add welcome color to the spring garden.

Those in warmer climates, typically zones 8, 9 and 10, need a different approach. In those areas, low chill bulbs that don't need as long a cold period or pre-cooled bulbs are grown. The pre-cooled bulbs also sold as pre-chilled, have received the needed cold period and can be grown like annuals.

No matter where you garden, spring flowering bulbs can be chilled in a spare refrigerator. Keep bulbs away from apples and pears. These fruits give off ethylene gas, a natural hormone that does not harm people, but can hasten ripening and interfere with flowering when bulbs are stored in the same refrigerator compartment. Check the pots occasion-

ally and water when needed to keep the soil slightly moist, but not soggy wet.

Some friends and family may appreciate a DIY bulb forcing kit as their gift. Spring flowering bulbs, potting mix, and a container with drainage holes are all that is needed. Provide directions for assembly, suggestions for providing the cold treatment if needed and proper care.

Others may prefer a gift that requires minimal care like Gardener's Supply Company's Months of Bloom. Order once and these pre-planted bulb gardens are delivered to the recipient monthly for 3, 6 or 12 months. Just water when the potting mix starts to dry and enjoy watching the spring flowering bulbs sprout, grow and flower.

Keep spring flowering bulb gardens in a cool, bright location to extend their bloom time. Once the plants are done blooming, you can add them to the compost pile.



Give a gift of Months of Bloom, pre-planted bulbs to brighten up the recipient's home during the winter months or all year long.

Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply Company

For those that prefer to enjoy them a second season and beyond, provide some post-flowering care. Remove the faded flowers and move the container to

a sunny window. Keep watering thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to prevent root rot and apply a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

Once the leaves turn yellow and die or the soil in the garden warms and the danger of frost has passed, you can move them into the garden. Tulips and hyacinths perform best in sunny areas with well-drained soils. These two bulbs tend to flourish for a year or two and then produce few or no flowers. Keep that in mind as you plan for the future.

Daffodils and grape hyacinths will grow in sun or shade and a variety of soil types. These tend to be long lived as they grow and spread over time.

It may be two years before you have flowers but it's a great way to extend the enjoyment of a holiday gift.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Annual Festival of Lights & Luminaires in Dillsboro December 3 & 4 and 10 & 11

On this, the 36th Festival of Lights and Luminaire's, everyone is invited to the historic town of Dillsboro to experience the spirit of Christmas. On the first

Friday and Saturday of Dec., 3 & 4, and the second Friday and Saturday, 10 & 11, from 5 to 9 p.m., there will be more than 2500 white lights adorning the historic buildings, and the flickering flames of luminaries softening the shadows of the streets. Excitement will abound as the merchants of Dillsboro open their doors and hearts to the community.

Each night shops will stay open way into the night providing free-refreshments, musicians and singers performing in individual shops. The sound of hooves will echo through the night with



old-fashioned horse and buggy rides (tips much appreciated). Children can share their wishes with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Santa's Workshop in Dillsboro's Town Hall. With retail shops offering a variety of quality arts and crafts, unique gifts, clothing, gourmet foods and wine, and specialty Christmas items, the festival also provides a unique holiday shopping experience.

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- The Mountaineer — Handcrafted Woodworking, Leatherworking and soaps
- Cowee Pottery School — Wheel-thrown and Hand-built Studio Pottery & Classes
- Alarka Expeditions — Outdoor Excursions & Cultural Events
- Down Memory Lane Toy Museum — Extensive toy collection that spans decades
- Cynthia Kinard Portrait Legacies — Oil & Watercolor Paintings and Portraits
- Women's History Trail festive homemade cookies and hot drinks

12-3 Free Children's Crafts and Activities:

- Evergreen swag making and decorating
- Face painting with Mary Bennett sponsored by Arts Council of Macon County
- Cookie decorating with Grandma's Kitchen
- Sew a little bag with Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild
- Make tree decorations with Folk Heritage Association of Macon County

12-3 Enjoy live local music by local musicians:

- Wyatt Duvall/The White Sisters/ Lady and the Tramps/Richard Tichich

Photo Opportunities: Franklin Fire Department Antique Engine, Cowee Fire Department and Wayne English and his old-time cars

New this year at Cowee School: Don't miss "A Cowee Nutcracker" December 17-19! For Tickets, DanceArtsNC@gmail.com

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Entertainment the first weekend includes Twelfth Fret on Friday, Dec. 3, from 6-8 p.m., and Anna Victoria on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 6-8 p.m. Entertainment for the second weekend will feature the award-winning Mathew Dickerson on the Dulcimer for both nights on Dec. 10 & 11.

Free parking and shuttle transportation for the event will be available at Monteith Park each night of the festival. Come on out, bring your sweetheart, bring the family, stroll among the lights illuminating this mountain village and start your holiday full of good cheer. Sing along with carolers, take the children to see Santa Claus at Dillsboro's

Town Hall, and have some hot chocolate or hot cider. All the restaurants will be open late, so come for an early family meal and then join in the festivities.

Dillsboro is located in the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina at the intersection of US Hwys. 19/74 and 441. The town is 45 minutes west of Asheville and just 20 minutes from Franklin, Cherokee and Bryson City. For more information, call the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-962-1911 or visit www.mountainlovers.com. To learn more about new happenings, go to <https://www.facebook.com/DillsboroNC>.

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MMS students begin fundraising for 2022 International travel opportunity

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Both Bryan Wilkinson, a second-year STEM teacher at Macon Middle School (MMS), and Chris Bell, an eight-year history teacher at MMS, have traveled extensively. After many discussions, the two educators determined that area students would benefit from an opportunity to travel in Europe.

A native of England, Wilkinson said, “Some students have never traveled out of the local area. An opportunity for students to see and experience a different culture is invaluable. Chris and I would like to see students get a sense of what’s out there.”

Scheduled for June 2022 is an eight-day trip to London, England, and Paris, France. A student-trip-specific travel agency formulated the packed travel itinerary, and any Macon County 7th and 8th graders and parental guardians, as well as high schoolers, can sign up for the trip.

“We plan on doing everything there is to do in those cities as it relates to aspects of history and art and more,” said Wilkinson.

“We plan to visit historical sites like the Tower of London and the House of Parliament, and also go places like the Louvre,” said Bell.

Since the sign-up deadline is Jan. 2, 2022, fundraising has already begun. The trip’s all-inclusive cost is \$3,950 per person.

“While that may seem like a lot of money,” said Bell, “these kids’ lives will be changed in the areas of art, history, literature, technology, and science.”

“Financially, we have to do a lot of fundraising to do,” said Wilkinson, “and we believe that some people in the community, as well as families, will want to support these students’ chance to actually travel and see and experience things for themselves, instead of just seeing things on television. When you set your mind to something collaboratively, you can raise the money. We can all be in this together. We want to provide an annual learning opportunity like this for Macon County students to look forward to for many years to come.”

Bell, who graduated from Franklin High School in 2008, said student international travel efforts in the past have been “sporadic” and mostly limited to a specific class or school-related organization. “Hopefully, this will become an important annual trip for local students to look forward to and plan for.”

Asserted Wilkinson, “We know it is ambitious to organize a trip like this, but we want to create a memorable experience for the students that will tie into their studies – a trip they can benefit from for years to come, whether it helps make them aware of employment opportunities or just gives them a better understanding of the world.”

A few local organizations and businesses have expressed interest in supporting students who plan to travel. So far, Macon County Art Association has agreed definitively to make a scholarship donation. Also, Wilkinson and Bell noted that the holidays present an opportunity for extended and immediate family members to donate to a student’s trip expenses



Bryan Wilkinson, a second-year STEM teacher at Macon Middle School (MMS), and Chris Bell, an eight-year history teacher at MMS, are planning a 2022 educational trip to benefit students in Franklin.

– instead of purchasing a gift for him or her.

Students or guardians can contact Wilkinson at gareth.wilkinson@macon.k12.nc.us or Bell at chris.bell@macon.k12.nc.us for more information about the details of the 2022 trip,

or to sign up.

Wilkinson has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for the trip. Visit GoFundMe and search for Macon Middle Europe Trip to donate.

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RGNS celebrates 20 years of Cirque program

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School celebrated the 20-year anniversary of its Cirque program with Cirque Desperadas on the Rearden Stage, Oct. 28-30.

This thrilling, Wild West adventure followed the tale of Cactus Rose (Amara Scott of Otto) and her quest to save her hometown. Along the way, Cactus Rose meets Calamity Jane (Jennica Ullrich of Knoxville, TN), Etta Place (Sarah Katherine Brenner of Franklin), Annie Oakley (Morgan Mescher of Otto), Mary Fields (Diane Akpovwa of Abuja, Nigeria), Belle Starr (Katherine Tench of Clarkesville, Ga.), and Eleanor Dumont (Genevieve Maddox of Clarkesville) who help her fight for her town. The story was based on "The Magnificent Seven," and the main characters were based on real outlaw women.

Cirque Desperadas featured awe-inspiring Cirque acts on the Lyra, aerial silks, Spanish Web, and more. There were also many dance performances, choreographed fight scenes, and live music in the show.

Prior to the show, the Middle School Cirque students performed outside of the Arts & Technology Building. Using the school's new outdoor Cirque rig, Middle School students showcased their skills on the silks, trapeze, and Lyra, while also providing pre-show entertainment in the form of dances and

skits. STEAM students also created Western-themed games for audience members to play before the show.

"The Cirque program at Rabun Gap has grown and evolved over the last two decades into a truly unique experience," said director Sean Lakey, who leads the arts department at Rabun Gap. "The



Sarah Katherine Brenner of Franklin performs on the Spanish Web.



Genevieve Maddox of Franklin as Eleanor Dumont



Morgan Mescher of Otto as Annie Oakley

students have an incredible amount of ownership and pride in the program, and it is one of the cornerstone memories of Rabun Gap for so many. The sheer amount of effort, creativity, problem-solving, and athleticism that the students pour into this program year after year is a constant source of inspiration."

The annual Cirque performance is a Rabun Gap tradition that dates back to 2001. Each year, Upper School students perform an original show that draws in audiences from across the region. Cirque Desperadas had nearly sold-out shows on Friday and Saturday nights.

"We are incredibly proud of our Cirque program," said Head of School Jeff Miles. "Rabun Gap is one of the only schools in the country with a Cirque program, and our students continue to amaze me with their talents on stage and behind the scenes."

Around 100 Rabun Gap students were involved in the show this year, both on stage, in the orchestra, behind the scenes, and in the preshow performances and preparations.



Elizabeth Brenner of Franklin and Dustin Anderson of Hiwassee, Ga.



Amara Scott of Otto prepares to take a bow after her performance as Cactus Rose

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Nonah crafts continues as a community activities opportunity

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

An Aug. 4, 1948, article in what was then “The Franklin Press and the Highlands Maconian” lauded the efforts of Nonah Crafts as “flourishing” in Macon County. The article read: “Under the guiding hand and loving care of its ‘director’ Mrs. Carl Slagle [who learned to weave at Penland School] ... the main purpose of this interesting project is to provide the women on farms and in isolated sections of the county with an income, and to teach them to become proficient in the native art of carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving.”

Two women in the Cartoogechaye community, where Louise Slagle resided and where there is a road named for her husband, Carl Slagle, have re-instated the multi-decade concept of Nonah Crafts as an opportunity for people to learn crafts and make goods that can be sold, used personally, or given as gifts.

“We simply hope to keep the tradition going,” said Kathy Tinsley, who – along with Krista Skrede – began offering various workshops in October under the Nonah Crafts name.

“We migrated toward one another because we love to make things,” said Skrede of Tinsley. “We do a lot of felting together and Kathy is a weaver; she also coordinates activities at Nonah Weaving, which is next to the Craft House where we offer the Nonah Crafts workshops.”

Tinsley and Skrede met through family members, as neighbors, and because of shared interests. Carl and Louise Slagle were Tinsley’s grandparents. Skrede, who has a degree in art education and has been teaching since 1994, currently teaches at Mountain Discovery Charter School in Bryson City.

Although Tinsley is retired from teaching biology at Franklin High School, she is “very involved in the community and in arts and crafts,” pointed out Skrede.

Carolina Arts magazine, in 1999, explained how Nonah Crafts originally came to fruition. “It began in 1947 through the efforts of Rufus Morgan, brother of Lucy Morgan, founder of Penland School in Penland, N.C. Lucy Morgan established the Penland Weavers in 1923, which has since grown into a renowned craft school. Rev. Rufus Morgan founded Nonah Crafts Center on the same premise, providing looms and traditional weaving skills for local women. ... A small apple shed was converted into a weaving cabin, and given the name “Nonah” from the Cherokee name for the hemlock tree, still growing there in abundance.”

The original Nonah Crafts’ group of the 1940s made bags, baby blankets, pillow covers, coverlets, and more. The goal then and now is to learn crafting skills that can be applied for a lifetime as well as passed on to



Kathy Tinsley and Krista Skrede began offering various workshops in October under the Nonah Crafts name, a tradition in Franklin and especially the Cartoogechaye community.

future generations.

Instrumental in the success of Nonah Crafts for many years was Sally Kesler, who was a long-time member, organist, gardener, and landscaper of St. John’s Episcopal

The Franklin Press. The obituary reads: “She went on to the Penland School of Crafts, led both by her interest in weaving and by Helen Freas, a professor on campus, and the niece of Lucy Morgan, founder of Penland School



Sally Kesler, who died in 2019, seated with Kathy Tinsley and Marcia McGarity, was for many years the main impetus behind Nonah Crafts. It is her home, owned by St. John’s Episcopal Church, that houses current workshops for Nonah Crafts.

Church. Skrede explained that Kesler actually lived in the Craft House on Carl Slagle Road where she had a silk screens’ studio.

Kesler, who died in 2019 at her home in the Cartoogechaye Community of Macon County, received her BA in Fine Art from Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University) in 1948,” according to the Nov. 21, 2019, edition of

of Craft. ... Subsequently, she re-located to North Carolina to the Franklin area to teach crafts and support the work of the Rev. Rufus Morgan in his vision for a community health center and craft education center. ... She continued her work of teaching crafts, particularly weaving, and for well over 50 years welcomed weavers each week to learn the craft. ... Her commitment to the Nonah

Craft Center led to its acceptance into the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild as an Education Center in 1955.”

“When she passed, we put forth a petition to the vestry at St. John’s, because they own the property, to continue offering craft activities there,” said Skrede. “We pay a small rent for the building.”

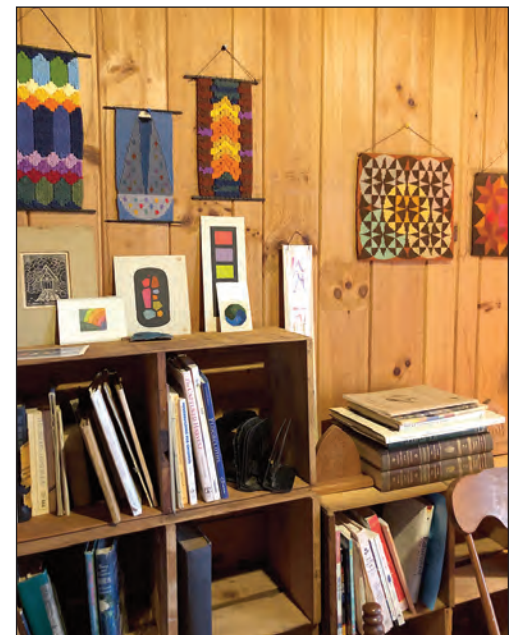
Offered Tinsley, “We not only teach crafts but work on our own projects at Craft House. Sally really wanted craft teaching to go on there. The only time crafts and weaving stopped for the first time since the 1940s was last year during the COVID-19 quarantine.

“Because these buildings have been in the community for about 70 years ... I like knowing they are being used for creativity. I just like the fact that the lights are kept on and people are continuing to take classes.”

The Nantahala Hiking Club utilizes the space underneath the craft house.

Regarding Kesler, the 1999 Carolina Arts publication elaborated, “Under Sally Kesler’s guidance, the members of the cooperative revive old weaving patterns and invent new ones, experimenting with yarns and colors.”

“There were always looms around my homes and I would weave with Sally in the summers,” said Tinsley. “I also learned to rag rugs, runners, placements, and more. That’s my focus. I was interested as a young age. Sally was our 4H leader and did crafts with us when I was little; that segued into



Some of Kesler’s crafts are still on display including woven items and screen prints.

weaving with her when I was a teenager. So I guess I have always been interested in art and traditional crafts since I was very young.”

Tinsley and Skrede both knew Kesler, and the friends live within a five-minute walk from the Craft House. “Since many people in the community were involved in visiting Sally at the Craft House and even

were involved in Nonah Crafts, we decided to resurrect the name because of the weaving group next door and we felt that Sally would want that.”

Eventually, the Craft House will have a sign out front designating it as such and as the location for Nonah Crafts’ workshop, but some aspect of the signage will also include a tribute to Kesler.

“She was just such a steward of hand crafts in this area,” said Tinsley, adding, “She wanted craft making to be a part of establishing community, and I think that’s what it’s doing – still. The workshop we had in October brought people together to laugh and talk. We had a great time ... refreshments. It was very informal and we are able to spread out in the space. Doing crafts is not just a hobby; it’s therapy. And we live such isolated lives that it’s a thrill to get to know people in the area and for them to get to know one another in a way that they may not have if we did not do crafts together.”

The first workshop for the revived Nonah Crafts was a dried flower wreath workshop for which both Tinsley and Skrede grew and dried the flowers.

“We feel like it’s important for people to



A screen print of St. Johns Episcopal Church.

and children that can be used as decorations and/or gifts. On Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. is a holiday/winter wreath-making workshop; there is a cost for supplies and the class is limited to 10 people. Two ornament making workshops take place Dec. 11, from 2-4 p.m. (for children grades 3-8), and Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m. (for adults). These workshops also entail a cost for supplies and is limited to 10 people.

However, there will be various workshops offered all year-round, including seasonal theme-oriented workshops for Valentine’s Day and Easter. Tinsley said that she and Skrede have discussed opportunities to teach wool felt crafts and print making as well.

“As much as I can make people realize how important it is to use our creative minds on a regular basis – that’s my passion,” Skrede. “It’s important for people and children to learn craft skills that they can do at home, not just at workshops. We will have kids’ camps during the summer to give kids a chance to learn creativity.”

Not connected with Nonah Crafts but using the same Nonah name to convey the tradition is Nonah Weavers, which meets next door to the Craft House at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays on Carl Slagle Road. For more information about Nonah Crafts’



A pictorial history is on display showing the evolution of the craft house through the years.

have a place to learn to make things ... an opportunity to create.”

Currently, with the holidays coming up, the two women decided to offer crafts for adults

workshops, email nonahcrafthouse@gmail.com. A Facebook page also provides information: Nonah Craft House.

Our Paw

In loving memory of our Paw,
~James L Teem~

My first memory of you,
Is lying by your side,
Looking at a book,
In the sweet summer time.

Reading us a story,
From the pictures that you'd see,
“Little Black Sambo”,
Is what it would always be.

Apples on the porch swing,
Combread and onions,
Fishing from the river bank,
When we were little young'ns.

We'd run through the woods,
On the trail to your house,
You'd always be outside,
With snuff in your mouth.

Old Spice after-shave,
A clean, slick face,
Your back as brown as toast,
Every hair combed in place.

You would grab us by the arms,
To pull the “blars” out.
It made you laugh all over,
To hear us give a shout.

Tommy Toes, Mush-melon,
A button-down shirt,
A cup of coffee, black,
Your tractor in the dirt.

Riding in your truck,
A bullet in the bank,
Skiing on your boat,
Camping at the Lake.

Resting in your chair,
A spit-cup by your side,
Your field full of goats,
A Volkswagen ride.

You loved to tell a joke,
And would talk to anyone,
You'd pick beans from the garden,
And black berries in the sun.

You'd call us “Son”, “Sis”, and “Pet”,
And tell us not to quarrel.
You'd climb a tree to top it out,
And you liked to eat fresh squirrel.

Horse-shoe, Comhole,
Westems on TV,
A nap after lunch,
A coon from a tree.

Sitting on the church pew,
Headstands in the yard,
Checkers on the porch,
A hand of Rummy cards.

We thank you for, the man you were,
And the life that you were given,
As we thank God for Jesus Christ,
And that through Him, we are forgiven.

The hope that comes through Him alone,
Through His love, mercy, and grace,
Will help us live our lives each day,
As we know you have met Jesus, face-to-face.

There will never be another,
Like you, our dear “Paw”,
We love you still, with all our hearts,
And are thankful for it all.

(I love you Paw, by Nina, October 13, 2021)



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NASCAR irons out dates, times and venues for 2022

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

NASCAR has announced the 2022 schedules for both the NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, slates that feature exciting – and significant – adjustments for race fans.

For the first time since 2000, a NASCAR national series will return to the twists and turns of Portland International Raceway when the Xfinity Series heads to the Pacific Northwest on June 4. The 1.964-mile road course hosted the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series for a brief stint in 1999 and 2000 – the only visits by a NASCAR national series in the track's long history.

Similarly, the Camping World Truck Series will renew its beating and banging brand of racing when it returns to the .686-mile Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis for the first time since 2011. The July 29 event will serve as the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Playoffs opener and offer drivers the first chance to clinch a spot in the Round of 8. The event is part of a jam-packed weekend of racing in the city of Indianapolis, as the NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Cup Series will race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

In addition, the Camping World Truck Series will visit a pair of new road courses in 2022. The series will return to wine country's Sonoma Raceway for the first time since 1998, joining the Cup Series for a weekend doubleheader (June 11). Then, after trips to Knoxville Raceway (June 18) and Nashville Superspeedway (June 24) for the second consecutive year, the Camping World Truck Series will debut at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on July 9 – a track that hosted the NASCAR Xfinity Series on an annual basis from 2013 – 2021.

"For the NASCAR Xfinity Series and Camping World Truck Series, we loved the idea of being able to deliver new road courses to both schedules and a short track for the Camping World Trucks while still returning to our traditional venues and the new tracks we introduced in 2021," said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR senior vice president of strategy and innovation. "Not only do these changes continue to deliver on what our fans are asking for, but we feel they will create even more drama and intensity as drivers battle to win championships at Phoenix Raceway in November."

Texas Motor Speedway will kick off Playoff festivities in the NASCAR Xfinity Series (Sept. 24). The cutoff races in the Xfinity Series will mirror the Cup Series as the Charlotte Roval (Oct. 8) and Martinsville (Oct. 29) are set to pare the field from 12 to 8 to 4.

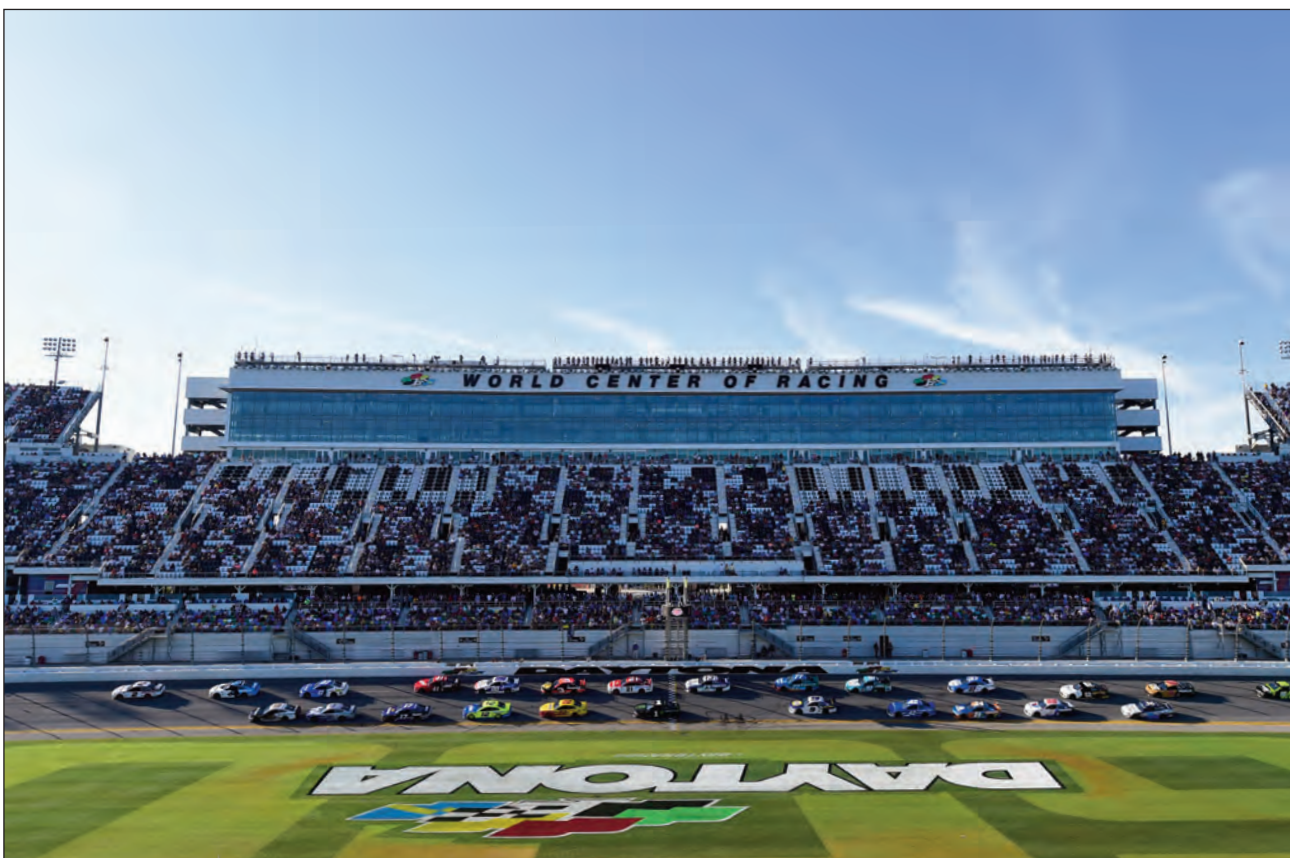
In the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, Kansas Speedway (Sept. 9) and Homestead-Miami Speedway (Oct. 22) will trim the Playoffs field.

Once again, both series will open the season on consecutive days at the 'World Center of Racing,' Daytona International Speedway. The Camping World Truck Series gets underway on Feb. 18, with the Xfinity Series kicking off its season on Feb. 19. As announced earlier in the year, all three NASCAR national series seasons will culminate with NASCAR Championship Weekend at Phoenix Raceway Nov. 4 – 6.

A total of 15 tripleheader weekends will make up the 2022 schedule.

NASCAR announces start times and networks for 2022 season

NASCAR, FOX Sports and NBC Sports jointly announced 2022 race start times and networks for the NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series seasons.



Daytona's World Center of Racing is usually one of the first venues of the season. The weekend of February 17-20 will host the NASCAR Cup Series, the XFINITY race and Camping World Truck series. The Daytona 500 will air on FOX, Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2:30 p.m.

Nineteen total NASCAR Cup Series races will air on FOX and NBC throughout the season. This marks the first time since 2009 in which more Cup Series points events will air on broadcast than cable. Ten of those will air on FOX, including the DAYTONA 500 (Sunday, Feb. 20, 2:30 p.m. ET) and eight of the next nine points events to start the season. Bristol Dirt will air in primetime (Sunday, Apr. 17, 7 p.m. ET) on Easter, while Talladega (Sunday, Apr. 24, 3 p.m. ET) and the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway (Sunday, May 29, 6 p.m. ET) round out the races airing on broadcast during the FOX portion of the NASCAR Cup Series season.

"Working with the broadcast partners, tracks, teams and industry stakeholders, we will be able to deliver the best racing in the world to an even broader audience in 2022," said Brian Herbst, NASCAR Senior Vice President of Media and Productions. "Based on data and fan feedback from the past several years, shifting afternoon start times back allows more of our fans – whether at home or at the track – to take in NASCAR racing on Sundays. In addition, airing the most Cup Series races on broadcast in more than a decade is consistent with our strategy of distributing our content to as many fans as possible during key moments in the season."

The remaining nine broadcast races will air on NBC, one more than 2021, including the kickoff of the NBC Sports portion of the season when the NASCAR Cup Series visits Nashville Superspeedway on Sunday, June 26 at 5 p.m. ET. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course (Sunday, July 31, 2:30 p.m. ET) and regular season-ending tilt at Daytona International Speedway (Saturday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m. ET) will be the other regular season races airing on the network. Finally, the final six playoff races will air on NBC beginning with Talladega on Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. ET and culminating with the crowning of a champion at Phoenix Raceway on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. ET.

Additionally, five NASCAR Xfinity Series races will air live on broadcast in 2022. FOX will be home to the high-speed action from Talladega Superspeedway (Saturday, Apr. 23, 4 p.m. ET) while NBC will carry the Xfinity Series four times, including three playoff races: the Indianapolis Motor

Speedway road course (Saturday, July 30, 3:30 p.m. ET), the Charlotte Roval (Saturday, Oct. 8, 3 p.m. ET), Las Vegas Motor Speedway (Saturday, Oct. 15, 3 p.m. ET) and Martinsville Speedway (Saturday, Oct. 29, 3 p.m. ET).

As previously announced, USA Network will be the new home for 26 NBC Sports cable races in the NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series in 2022. NASCAR will debut on USA, which is available in approximately five million more homes than NBCSN, when the Xfinity Series hits the track at Nashville Superspeedway on Saturday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. ET. The NASCAR Cup Series will make its USA Network debut on Sunday, July 3, at 3:00 p.m. ET from Road America.

All 23 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series will air on FS1 in 2022, 16 of them in primetime, highlighted by the playoffs opener at new track Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis on Friday, July 29, at 9 p.m. ET and the season finale at Phoenix Raceway on Friday, Nov. 4 at 8 p.m. ET.

Life-long NASCAR Fan Wins 11th Annual Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – The NASCAR Foundation announced Louisville, KY native Jeff Harmon as the winner of the 11th annual presentation of the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award during a live-streamed announcement on NASCAR's YouTube channel today. As the award winner, Harmon secured \$100,000 from The NASCAR Foundation to Down Syndrome of Louisville.

"I'm so excited and humbled to win this award", said Jeff Harmon when he first received the news. "The other three finalists were all deserving as well, I'm blessed, what an honor. The \$100,000 will go a long way in helping Down Syndrome of Louisville grow and expand to help even more kids. Thank you to The NASCAR Foundation and all who voted!"

Harmon, who has served, supported, and uplifted Down Syndrome of Louisville and the surrounding communities for 18 years, earned the most online votes from a pool of volunteers, including: Erin Collins of the Dallas Hearing Foundation, Jaeleen Davis of Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan,

2022 NASCAR CUP SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Race / Track	Network	Start Time (ET)
Sunday, February 6	Clash (L.A. Memorial Coliseum)	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 17	Duel at Daytona	FS1	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 20	DAYTONA 500	FOX	2:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 27	Auto Club	FOX	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 6	Las Vegas	FOX	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 13	Phoenix	FOX	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 20	Atlanta	FOX	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 27	COTA	FOX	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	Richmond	FOX	3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	Martinsville	FS1	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 17	Bristol Dirt	FOX	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 24	Talladega	FOX	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 1	Dover	FS1	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 8	Darlington	FS1	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 15	Kansas	FS1	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 22	NASCAR All-Star Race (Texas)	FS1	8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 29	Charlotte	FOX	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 5	World Wide Technology Raceway	FS1	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 12	Sonoma	FS1	4:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 26	Nashville Superspeedway	NBC	5:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 3	Road America	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 10	Atlanta	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 17	New Hampshire	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 24	Pocono	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 31	Indianapolis Road Course	NBC	2:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 7	Michigan	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 14	Richmond	USA	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 21	Watkins Glen	USA	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 27	Daytona	NBC	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 4	Darlington	USA	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 11	Kansas	USA	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 17	Bristol	USA	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25	Texas	USA	3:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 2	Talladega	NBC	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 9	Charlotte Roval	NBC	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 16	Las Vegas	NBC	2:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 23	Homestead-Miami	NBC	2:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 30	Martinsville	NBC	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 6	Phoenix	NBC	3:00 p.m.

2022 NASCAR XFINITY SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Race / Track	
Saturday, February 19		Daytona
Saturday, February 26		Auto Club
Saturday, March 5		Las Vegas
Saturday, March 12		Phoenix
Saturday, March 19		Atlanta
Saturday, March 26		COTA
Saturday, April 2		Richmond
Friday, April 8		Martinsville
Saturday, April 23		Talladega
Saturday, April 30		Dover
Saturday, May 7		Darlington
Saturday, May 21		Texas
Saturday, May 28		Charlotte
Saturday, June 4		Portland International Raceway
Saturday, June 25		Nashville Superspeedway
Saturday, July 2		Road America
Saturday, July 9		Atlanta
Saturday, July 16		New Hampshire
Saturday, July 23		Pocono
Saturday, July 30		Indianapolis Road Course
Saturday, August 6	Michigan	
Saturday, August 20	Watkins Glen	
Friday, August 26	Daytona	
Saturday, September 3	Darlington	
Saturday, September 10	Kansas	
Friday, September 16	Bristol	
Saturday, September 24	Texas	
Saturday, October 1	Talladega	
Saturday, October 8	Charlotte Roval	
Saturday, October 15	Las Vegas	
Saturday, October 22	Homestead-Miami	
Saturday, October 29	Martinsville	
Saturday, November 5	Phoenix	

2022 NASCAR CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES SCHEDULE

Date	Race / Track
Friday, February 18	Daytona
Friday, March 4	Las Vegas
Saturday, March 19	Atlanta
Saturday, March 26	COTA
Thursday, April 7	Martinsville
Saturday, April 16	Bristol Dirt
Friday, May 6	Darlington
Saturday, May 14	Kansas
Friday, May 20	Texas
Friday, May 27	Charlotte
Saturday, June 4	World Wide Technology Raceway
Saturday, June 11	Sonoma
Saturday, June 18	Knoxville
Friday, June 24	Nashville Superspeedway
Saturday, July 9	Mid-Ohio

and Beverly Hodson of Richie McFarland Children’s Center, all of whom have impacted a combined number of 6,330 kids through their continual service. Each of these organizations has each earned a \$25,000 donation from The NASCAR Foundation in recognition of their nominated volunteers’ achievements.

“We’re very proud to present this award to Jeff Harmon, he has been doing extraordinary work for Down Syndrome of Louisville and exemplifies the values of Betty Jane France,” said Mike Helton, The NASCAR Foundation Chairman. “Our fans had a tough decision because all four are passionate people who devote hours of their time to help their respective organizations. We’re delighted to present this recognition to Jeff to honor the work he’s doing in the Louisville community.”

Throughout the 11 years of its existence, the Betty Jane France Award has highlighted 44 different individuals who have served and uplifted children in their local communities. The NASCAR Foundation, through this program, has acknowledged 622 years of combined service from these community heroes who have touched at least 374,763 chil-

dren’s lives overall.

Harmon began his tenure volunteering for the Down Syndrome of Louisville (DSL) 18 years ago, when his son, Justin, was born with Down Syndrome. Serving in the capacity of coach and fundraiser, he logs around 20 hours per month with the organization. The organization serves as a support system for local families and individuals that have dealt with Down Syndrome.

Harmon and the DSL plan to use the \$100,000 cash prize to help implement modern playground equipment and sensory room renovations, as well as launching satellite campuses to further support the Down Syndrome community.

Aside from his service, Harmon has been a committed life-long fan of NASCAR, with his all-time favorite driver being Darrell Waltrip. The racing fan grew up racing modified stock cars with his family and friends, and now gets to share his love of the sport with his own family and children.

To learn more about The NASCAR Foundation’s programs, including the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award and Speediatrics Children’s Fund, please visit NASCAR-foundation.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: LANGUAGES

ACROSS

1. Lacking imagination
6. Afflict
9. Bob of boxing world
13. From then on
14. Ornamental pond dweller
15. Not asleep
16. Cuzco valley people
17. Overnight lodging
18. 5th of 7 canonical hours
19. *Brothers Grimm language
21. *Language considered to have most words
23. Man's tasseled hat
24. Cross to bear
25. Retriever's word, for short
28. Person, place or thing
30. Like a bow or a racket
35. Pale ____ beverage, pl.
37. It has multiple limbs
39. Mister in Madrid
40. Spare in a trunk
41. Manuscript changes
43. Romantic occurrence
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Russian mountain range
47. Curved molding
48. HNO3 acid
50. Egyptian goddess of fertility
52. Rub the wrong way
53. CISC alternative
55. Cry of horror, in comics
57. *First language spoken in outer space
61. *Once considered the language of diplomacy
64. Like old cracker
65. What acrimony and acrobat have in common

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72						73				74				



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67. Get ready to drive, on a golf course
69. It's often rewarded with a medal in military
70. Sturgeon yield
71. Backyards separator?
72. "That was close!"
73. "C'____ la vie!"
74. "Silas Marner" novelist

DOWN

1. Pressure unit
2. A year in a trunk
3. It's sometimes enough
4. Cozy accessory
5. Unquestioning ones
6. Similar
7. H+, e.g.
8. Flax-derived fabric

9. Deserter's acronym
10. Indian princess
11. Luau instrument, pl.
12. Mosquito net, e.g.
15. Teenagers' emotions
20. Nitrogen, in the olden days
22. *Greek N, pl.
24. Relating to dreams
25. *"Veni, vidi, vici" language
26. "My wife can vouch for me", e.g.
27. Prince's "Raspberry"
29. *Pakistani language
31. Make over
32. Eel in a sushi restaurant
33. Annotator

34. *Hellenic language
36. Popular way to cook tuna
38. *Greek H, pl.
42. More like a fox
45. Quaggier
49. Langley, VA org.
51. Be full of anger
54. Rabbit trap
56. Land on patellas
57. Invitation acronym
58. One of Four Corners states
59. Price reduction
60. Snail-like
61. Guitar part
62. Ghana monetary unit
63. Designer Boss
66. Trigonometry abbr.
68. Favorite one



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