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The Overlook Theatre Company presents "The Magical Lamp of Aladdin" Nov. 5 & 6, and 12 & 13 at 7 p.m. nightly at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. It's the story of a down-on-his-luck orphan who finds a magic lamp with a genie that has the power to grant him three wishes. Aladdin embarks on an adventure that will test his will and his moral character. For ticket information, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call 866.273-4615.

Photo by Betsey Gooder

Salain, Guffey new town board members

Brittney Lofthouse
 Contributing Writer



Rita Salain

A fraction of the registered voters within the Franklin city limits cast ballots in the 2021 municipal election, with less than 400 voters showing up to the polls despite more than 2,000 voters being registered. For the Highlands and Franklin municipal election combined, only 23.38 percent of registered voters — 886 of 3,789 — cast ballots to decide the next leaders of each municipality. More voters cast ballots in the Highlands race than did so in Franklin, even though Franklin has more than double the registered voters.

Jack Horton, who ran unopposed for the Franklin Mayor seat, was elected with 321 votes. The seat also received 22 write-in candidate votes.



Stacy Guffey

Town voters were able to select three out of five candidates for the Franklin Town Board seats. Newcomer Rita Salain was the top vote-getter with 268 votes. Incumbent David Culpepper was

See ELECTION page 5

Scott presides over his last council meeting

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

With a mix of the familiar mirth and seriousness that the Town of Franklin has come to recognize, Bob Scott presided over his last Town Council meeting as mayor. After eight years at the post, he will step down and retire in General Douglas MacArthur fashion, commenting, "like MacArthur, who said, 'Old soldiers never die, They simply fade away.'" At the close of the Nov. 1 Town Council meeting, the mayor was presented with a service recognition certificate by his "good friend" Jack Horton, vice mayor.

"I've never known a finer group of people than those who work for this town. And the media has always been fair and balanced," said Scott.

Horton, who ran unopposed for mayor in the Nov. 2 Municipal election will assume the duties of mayor at the next council meeting.

Also receiving a service recognition certificate was Council Member Dinah Mashburn as she also vacates her seat on the Town Council. She took over the seat for her husband,



At Monday's Town Council meeting, incoming mayor Jack Horton recognized Mayor Bob Scott for his eight years of service.

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New businesses coming soon to Franklin


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TOWN COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

Billy, who was appointed in 1992 to fill the unexpired seat of the late Mac Whitaker. Billy Mashburn was first sworn in on Aug. 3, 1992. He then ran for reelection and won in 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013, according to his wife.

“He was on the ballot for reelection in 2017 and won that after his passing,” Mashburn explained later. “He passed away on Nov. 1, 2017, prior to election day on Nov. 7, 2017, but won his seat for reelection after his death. At that time, six candidates were running for three seats. He came in third out of the six. It became the duty of the Town Council to appoint someone to fill his seat, and I was appointed to fill the vacancy. Billy won a seat for four years, but anytime someone is appointed, their unexpired term comes up again at the next regularly scheduled election. I served two years through the appointment and I ran unopposed at the next town election in 2019.”

Through tears at accepting the service recognition certificate, Dinah Mashburn said, “It has been an honor for me to have served these past four years for the Town of Franklin. I stepped up to serve on behalf of Billy and his dedicated service to the citizens of Franklin. There were times that I voted as he would; there were times I knew he wouldn't have agreed with my vote, but I always voted with the best interest of the citizens of Franklin and Macon County in mind.”

Mashburn listed her reasons for stepping down as having already fulfilled her obligation to serve and noting that she never in-

tended to make serving in town government as a career.

“There are great people running this time for election,” she added. “Whoever is elected will have the best interests of Franklin in mind and also for Macon County. I combine the town and county because even though the two are separate in their elections, we are all citizens of this great area. I won't say that I will not run again for public office, but for now I step down with a grateful heart for the time I have been



Dinah Mashburn, who is stepping down as a Town Council member, accepted a service recognition certificate from Mayor Bob Scott.

allowed to serve.”

Regarding business issues at the Nov. 1 meeting, Nathanael Moore, director/engineer for Town of Franklin Public Works began the Town Council meeting recognizing two Public Works' employees, Kyle Pocquette and Bobby Clubb, with a Town of Franklin Water Treatment Plant Award.

Conveyed Moore, “The N.C. Division of Water Resources has honored 64 water treatment plants for surpassing federal and state drinking water standards in 2020. The division's Public Water Supply Section awarded the facilities the prestigious N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award, which is part of a state effort to enhance the performance of existing surface water treatment facilities. Awards are given each year to water systems that demonstrate outstanding turbidity removal, a key test of drinking water quality. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness or haziness of water caused by individual particles that can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Microbes are microscopic particles that occur naturally but can include harmful bacteria and viruses. While all drinking water systems must meet strict state and federal drinking water standards, these systems met performance goals that are significantly more stringent than state and federal standards. In 2020,



Nathanael Moore, director/engineer for Town of Franklin Public Works began the Town Council meeting recognizing two Public Works' employees, Kyle Pocquette and Bobby Clubb, with a Town of Franklin Water Treatment Plant Award.

See TOWN COUNCIL page 4

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TOWN COUNCIL

Continued from page 2

nearly 2.5 million North Carolina residents were served by these award-winning plants.”

Nicole Hairston, with the Division of Water Resources and an Environmental Specialist 2 for Public Water Supply, explained that the awards are part of the Area Wide Optimization Program to recognize “people who work really hard at their jobs.”

“When it’s raining really hard outside or there is a hurricane coming this way, they don’t go home. They stay right there at their jobs. The Active Flow System in Franklin helps when we have so much rain, but [Public Works] employees still have to be there – and they don’t usually get recognized, so this award is important. They are important because we all need clean drinking water,” she said.

Justin Setser brought up the rezoning of 2.59 acres on Georgia Road from C2 to C3. No one spoke in opposition during public comment so the motion was passed.

In public session, Franklin resident Wanda Tallent brought to light safety issues on Womack and Tallent streets when residents and delivery personnel attempt to back out of the driveways.

“Womack Street has become a pass-through,” said Tallent, “with people driving too fast coming over the hills. I propose a three-way stop sign where Tallent Street and Womack Street intersect.”

She explained that although there is already one stop sign at this intersection, the three-way stop signs will provide time for traffic to slow and cars to back out of driveways without threat of being hit. Mayor Scott assured Tallent that the matter would be evaluated further and the Department of Transportation would be contacted.

Project Engineer 1 Anders Ike with JE Dunn Construction, the firm responsible for the building of the new hospital, provided an update.

“The hospital is on schedule and we have completed the exterior walls and all the roughing in . . .” Ike, who is also representing JE Dunn regarding the construction of Franklin’s skate park, updated the town in that regard.

“We have met to further plan for the park and we are establishing the nonprofit to get things set with all the trade partners who will be involved in the project,” he said. “Fundraising will be next and we welcome any groups or individuals who want to stand behind this project. We want to see this come to fruition.”

After Ike spoke, Town Manager Amie Owens presented two design work proposals for the skate park, one priced at \$14,995 and another priced at \$28,000. She pointed out that since \$15,000 is the approximate amount allocated by the Town of Franklin, she suggested a motion to approve the firm, Pillar Design Studios, that proposed the \$14,995 design plans. The motion was approved.

Owens also presented to the council her request for a portion of the monies provided to the Town of Franklin through the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Owens said she would like for Town of Franklin employees to receive bonuses to be paid out of the allotment as a thank you for their hard work and dedication during this past year-plus.

“The total that the Town of Franklin received from ARPA funds is \$1.3 million. There are 55 full-time employees and seven regular part-time employees who are eligible for a premium pay allotment. Full-time employees are eligible for 40 hours of vacation time. With the allocation of approximately \$73,000, there will be \$1.2 million remaining for use with ARPA



Franklin resident Wanda Tallent brought to light safety issues on Womack and Tallent streets during the public session at the Nov. 1 Town Council meeting.

eligible projects.”

She asked that the funds “be put into effect immediately.”

Commented Horton, “It seems a reasonable approach. We need to use some of this money to compensate employees.” He put Owens’ request to a motion and it was approved. The remaining ARPA funds will be used for Town infrastructure projects.

Upcoming: Veteran’s Day parade Thursday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 p.m.; Winter Wonderland, Saturday, Nov. 27, beginning at 5 p.m., with the Christmas Tree lighting at 7 p.m.; and the Christmas parade on Sunday, Nov. 28, at 3 p.m. The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

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ELECTION

Continued from page 1

re-elected to another term with 265 votes and tied with Stacy Guffey — securing Guffey’s seat on the Franklin board.

Although not elected to the board, candidate Frances Seay received 193 votes followed by JimBo Ledford with 81 votes.

Because Horton, who currently serves on the town board, was elected as mayor, his seat will now become vacant. The new Franklin board, which will be sworn into office in December, will be responsible for appointing someone to finish out the remainder of Horton’s term on the board.



David Culpepper

Just under 500 voters cast ballots for the Highlands municipal elections, which amounts to around 50% of eligible voters. While about 900 residents are registered to vote in Highlands, 490 cast ballots for the November Municipal election, which is actually a higher turnout rate than in years past.

Incumbent Mayor Pat Taylor was re-elected after receiving 343 votes to challenger Marc Hehn’s 145 votes. Hehn, who currently sits on the Highlands Town Commission, will be able to retain his seat on the town board as a commissioner. Two write-in candidates also appeared this election cycle. In large part, Highlands voters took advantage of early voting which gained 296 of the 490 total votes cast. 185 voters cast ballots on Election Day, which concluded at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2. The town of Highlands also received seven absentee ballots.

Highlands Town Commissioner incumbent Amy Patterson was re-elected along with former board member Eric Pierson with an overwhelming majority of votes. Voters were allowed to cast ballots for two of six candidates on the Highlands Board of Commissioners, with the top two vote-getters being elected to the board. Patterson garnered 261 votes and Pierson finished with 238 votes.

While not elected to the board, challenger Thomas Craig received 139 votes, Pat Allen received 128 votes, Mary Bynum received 91 votes and Nicolaus McCall received 40 votes, and one write-in candidate for the town board was recorded.

Candidates will be sworn in ahead of the December board meeting.

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Mainspring Conservation Trust wins top preservation award

Mainspring Conservation Trust in Franklin has been named the 2021 winner of the Minnette C. Duffy Landscape Preservation Award presented annually by Preservation North Carolina. The award was presented to Mainspring Conservation Trust at Preservation North Carolina's virtual Annual Conference on Friday, Oct. 22. The recording of the awards ceremony can be viewed at www.PreservationNC.org.

The Minnette C. Duffy Landscape Preservation Award is the highest honor given for the preservation, restoration or maintenance of landscapes, gardens, streetscapes, or grounds related to historic structures. This award recognizes the importance of the landscape in the preservation of historic structures. First presented in 1987, the award is made possible by the family of the late Minnette Chapman Duffy of New Bern, whose leadership contributed to the reconstruction of Tryon Palace.

When it comes to holistic restoration of historic architectural structures and the surrounding landscape, Mainspring Conservation Trust of Franklin represents the total package. Their grassroots approach to the restoration of historic landscapes and sensitive ecosystems showcases their mission to address the big picture.

In 1995, a group of visionaries began meeting informally in Franklin to discuss the rapid pace of development in Western North Carolina. Over coffee, they discussed the impact that growth could have on the mountains, streams and farmlands. By 1997, the nonprofit that is now Mainspring Conservation Trust was formed.

With a modest budget and a strategic plan that encouraged thoughtful conservation within positive economic development, the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee took off. The nonprofit originally focused on promoting conservation and stewardship of private lands, first in the upper Little Tennessee Watershed, then expanding into the Tuckasegee and Hiwassee watersheds. In 2016, Land Trust for the Little Tennessee changed its name to Mainspring Conservation Trust to reflect what the organization had grown to be: the motivating force



for conservation, restoration and connection in the heart of the Southern Blue Ridge.

In 2013, Mainspring purchased the historic Vonnie West House and the old West's Mill Post Office in the heart of the Cowee-West's Mill Historic District, downhill from the Rickman General Store and historic Cowee School. Aunt Vonnie, as she was known, taught for 35 years in counties across the state, spending her lifetime strengthening communities. The house sold in 2015 through Preservation North Carolina to private buyers, who restored the property.

The preservation of a historic log cabin, the Morrison House represents another successful project and partnership with Preservation North Carolina. Built in 1832, it is the oldest standing structure in north Macon County. The soon-to-be preserved McCoy Cottage, situated along the banks of the Little Tennessee River, is one of the few remaining turn-of-the-century farmhouses still standing in the area.

Most recently, Mainspring and Preservation North Carolina partnered with the purpose to protect the historic character of the T.M. Rickman Store, located in the Cowee Community of



In 2013, Mainspring purchased the historic Vonnie West house in the Cowee West Mill District. The house sold in 2015 through Preservation North Carolina to private buyers who restored the property. Below, the McCoy cottage is on the list to be restored.



Macon County. Built in 1895, this structure operated as a personal residence and general store from 1925-1992. The Cowee-West's Mill Historic District was a diplomatic and commercial hub of the 18th-century Middle Town Cherokees. Preservation North Carolina is thrilled about their partnership with Mainspring on this property which will help to preserve Cowee's community history.

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Now listen my friends and you shall hear,
about someone that's especially dear.
On November 7th in the fall of '46,
Lillie Belle and Robert had child #2 in a family mix.

He was born and raised in our county of Macon,
and when this lad arrived, things got to 'shakin'!
He began his young days at Otto School,
where he promised to obey the Golden Rule.

With brothers to follow; and sisters galore,
could Alan really need anything more?
Robert Jr., the eldest, an educated scholar,
was always a hard act for Alan to follow.
Then came Sarah; a very skilled nurse,
followed by Carol and Verna; who are both well-versed.
Tony; the youngest, a jack-of-all-trades,
soon moved to Florida, and his fortune he made.

Alan graduated from high school back in 1965,
his teachers all knew; for greatness he would strive!
Those shy high school girls on the other hand,
knew that this lad would be in great demand.

He then married Brenda, the love of his life,
and she soon became his most wonderful wife.
With plans of a family of which there'd be three,
Michael, Chris, and Zack made up their family tree.

He began his career as a notorious school teacher,
with a dry sense of humor, he was a much beloved creature.
He thought he was blessed with the best students ever,
they were loads of fun and oh so clever!

Now, he was a coach of many basketball games,
which led through years of his glory and fame.
Yes, over time, championships he did win,
thanks to his team of Lee, Cal, Greg, Brian, Eric and Ben.

His retirement came after 32 years,
he seemed a bit down in the dump.
He needed to find some little something,
to help him get over this hump.

Now lots of things have passed Alan's way,
and lots of things have filled his day.
With Brenda's memories to cherish, more than a few,
he decided to look for wife number 2.

He traveled this land, from east coast to west,
to find a good woman, he needed the best.
So in the spring of 2012,
another adventure he did delve.
He searched and he hunted, never giving up hope,
and finally realized he must marry a Shope!

And, now 6 grandchildren, 5 boys and 1 girl,
have brought joy and pleasure, and sure "rocked his world"!
Yes, Dustin, our oldest; Collin and Ryan soon to follow,
along came Miss Lily, our only granddaughter.
Andrew, our ball player, is next in line,
and last but not least; Tucker, who is oh so fine!

And where can his friends find Alan now?
Why, sittin' by his pond - no sweat on that brow!

Yes, Alan's a rascal, of that there's no doubt,
but he makes me laugh, day in and day out.
He's always the same; he doesn't pretend,
to be something he's not - he's been my best friend!



*Happy 75th Birthday, Alan
I Love You, Gail
November 7, 2021*

New business developments moving into Macon County

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Franklin’s future Chick-Fil-A is starting to take shape as walls have been erected for the popular fast food chain. Chick-Fil-A won’t be the only thing located in the retail development as Aspen Dental, ALDI grocery store, and a full Starbucks have all been confirmed for the proposed plaza.

The town of Franklin received an email from Aspen Dental for its new plans for an office in Franklin last week. In addition to the Aspen Dental, development plans will include a 2,500 square foot Starbucks with drive thru and a 20,666 square foot grocery store. While the grocery store was not named on Aspen Dental’s plans submitted to the town of Franklin, Aldi’s has signed a lease with Hendon-Tiller, the developer building the plaza. The lease is on file at the Macon County Register of Deeds office. The “Coming Soon” sign on the property also names both Aspen Dental and Aldi.

According to the company’s “About” section online, “Aspen Dental practices are committed to treating patients with the compassion and respect they deserve. The company believes in providing comprehensive care that addresses both short- and long-term dental care needs, and promise to provide an honest, judgment-free environment where it all comes down to great care.”

The future Franklin location for ALDI is part of the company expansion efforts that were launched in early 2021. Considered the “Grocery Value Leader,” ALDI continues coast-to-coast expansion with new stores, its 26th regional headquarters and

distribution center and expanded eCommerce offerings. The retailer announced in February that it will open approximately 100 new locations nationwide in 2021.

ALDI is one of America’s fastest growing retailers, serving millions of customers across the country each month. With more than 2,000 stores across 37 states, ALDI is on track to become the third-largest grocery retailer by store count by the end of 2022.

ALDI is different from many larger grocery chains in that customers bag their own groceries and the stores are much smaller, and the selection is limited. Typically, the store is only open during peak hours to save on labor costs. The stores are deliberately plain and small because they are designed to reduce overhead costs and pass what they save onto the customers.

The development plans will also include a full-service Starbucks that will include a drive-thru option.

In addition to the development of the plaza near Chick-Fil-A, Marshalls Department Store confirmed last month they, too, will soon be opening a Franklin location. While the timeline and location for the store is still unknown, company representatives said additional details will be released soon.

Marshalls is an American chain of off-price department stores owned by TJX Companies. Marshalls has more than 1,000 American stores, including larger stores named Marshalls Mega Store, covering 42 states and Puerto Rico, and 61 stores in Canada. Marshalls is one of the largest U.S. off-price family apparel and home fashion retailer, along with its sister company, TJ Maxx.

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Since the Franklin Town Council approved a rezoning designation for the Siler Road property near the roundabout at Walmart, a sign has gone up listing the businesses slated to be built on the rezoned parcel. ALDI and Aspen Dental will join the Chick-fil-A currently under construction.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

BBB: Beware of Medicare and ACA scams during special enrollment period

The coronavirus pandemic left many Americans unemployed — and uninsured. To give people a chance to sign up for health care coverage, the U.S. federal government has opened Medicare.gov from October 15, 2021 – December 7, 2021. Healthcare.gov is open from November 1, 2021 to January 15, 2021. Unfortunately, scammers often see open enrollments as a chance to trick people out of money and personal information.

How the Scam Works

Anytime the government has an open enrollment, people understandably have questions and concerns. Scammers take advantage of this opportunity to confuse and mislead victims.

BBB.org/ScamTracker gets many reports about scammers claiming to be a government representative who can help you navigate your Medicare or Affordable Care Act options. Scammers claim to be a “health care benefits advocate” or a similar title. These scammers allege they can enroll you in a better program than what you currently have. This new plan is cheaper, and you can keep all the same services. To get started, all you need to do is provide some personal information, such as your Medicare ID number. Of course, the call is a scam, and sharing personal information will open you up to identity theft.

In another common scam, callers try to frighten — rather than assist — victims with their health care plans. In this case, scammers claim that your Medicare will be discontinued if you didn't re-enroll. Fortunately, this “Medicare advisor” can fix the situation — if you share personal information with them.

Watch out for similar scams this fall. Healthcare.gov does provide legitimate help with figuring out which plan is right for you. These people — sometimes called Navigators or Assisters — are not allowed to charge for their help. If someone asks you for payment, it's a scam. You will also need to contact them. They will not call you out of the blue.

Tips to Avoid Open Enrollment Scams

Selecting a health insurance plan can be challenging and complex. Be on the lookout for common red flags.

- Be wary of anyone who contacts you unsolicited. People representing Medicare or ACA plans don't contact you by phone, email, or in person unless you are already enrolled. Be especially cautious of threatening calls that require quick action or immediate payment.

- Decline promotional gifts in exchange for personal information. Keep a healthy level of skepticism any time a broker offers you free gifts, health screenings, or other special deals. Never sign up with a broker who offers you an expensive “sign-up gift” in exchange for providing your Medicare ID number or other personally identifiable information.

- Beware of dishonest brokers who offer “free health screenings.” Some brokers offer this to weed out people who are less healthy. This is called “cherry picking” and is against the Medicare rules.

- Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan information, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

- Hang up and go to official websites. You can enroll or re-enroll in Medicare at Medicare.gov or in a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov.

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News from the Legislature

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



Karl Gillespie

The House held no-vote sessions Oct. 18-19, 2021. The House reconvened for a voting session on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021 and considered numerous bills, including:

– HB264, Emergency Powers Accountability Act, would create a definition of "concurrence of the Council of State" under the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, which would clarify how the Governor is to seek such a concurrence when exercising certain authorities and would require the Governor to seek concurrence of the Council of State in additional instances. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 65-45.

– SB66, Regulate Use of Deer Secretions for Hunting, would disapprove an amendment to a rule prohibiting the use of deer secretions for the purposes of hunting, adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), and direct WRC to readopt the amendment consistent with certain guidelines for harvesting, collecting, and disease testing. I voted in favor and the bill passed 104-6.

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

– SB329, Building Code Mod./Permit Exemption Amount Mod., would modify exemptions from building permit and professional seal requirements applicable to certain construction projects, and would increase the permit exemption threshold for single family residences and farm building projects to \$20K and expand this exemption to commercial building projects. I voted in favor and the bill passed, 67-38.

No-vote sessions were held on Thursday and Friday.

The North Carolina House held a no-vote session on Monday, Oct. 25, 2021. Public comment sessions for redistricting were held throughout the state on Monday and Tuesday. The committee room in the Legislative Office Building remained open all week for legislators to continue working on map proposals.

On Tuesday, I attended a caucus with my colleagues prior to the start of session. The House reconvened at 1 p.m. However, the legislation that was originally scheduled for a vote was removed from the calendar and referred to the Rules Committee for further consideration.

The remainder of the week were non-voting sessions.

Letters to the Editor

Hoping for a sheriff who will do community policing

I would like to address the coming election for a new sheriff for Macon County. I especially want to ask, who are all the candidates and what are their goals if they become sheriff. Are they going to echo the past sheriff and continue his efforts to be DEA agents instead of doing Community Policing? I was told 12 years ago when I moved to Franklin, that the sheriff's department does not practice Community Policing. That has become evident over time. Granted, he has done a great job as a DEA agency.

Some examples of my concerns are as follows: I remember an encounter with a couple of sheriff's deputies in the Hot Spot having coffee. They looked like they were getting ready to have a SWAT encounter. Both dressed in black combat gear. I asked the one young, tall deputy if they ever have stopped a person for not signaling a turn. (A practice I have commented on before about the failure of sheriff's deputies to use their signal lights). The deputy looked at me and then turned and walked away. I lived in Otto for the first three years here; I never once saw a sheriff's vehicle anywhere in the Coweeta Church Road area. Rabbit Creek Road and Ferguson Road where the new bridge is, this is a drag strip every weekend, just check out the rubber strip on the pavement. On a recent occasion while having lunch at the Motor Grill, I notice a very smart looking deputy sergeant in the next booth. He looked great and the uniform I did not recognize. As he left I asked him, "What department was he from?" his answer shocked me for he said he was with the Macon County Sheriff's office. The blue surge uniform looked great but not what we see out there with the deputies patrolling. Why are all the deputies you see out there dressed in combat gear instead of the regular uniform?

As a person who has had a close relation with law enforcement most of my life, I notice the good and the bad of policing. I sincerely hope that a new sheriff will give less attention to the DEA's responsibilities and more time with Community Policing.

What are the duties of a county sheriff according to North Carolina statutes? A sheriff manages his or her deputies, who are usually uniformed officers who patrol and maintain order in the community. The sheriff monitors and directs deputies as they perform the following duties: Investigate complaints; Emergency responses; patrolling the county; monitoring traffic safety; resolve disputes; arresting suspects; criminal investigation; and executing warrants. The sheriff is also responsible for managerial and clerical office duties, which may include filling out paperwork on warrants and complaints, reviewing patrol logs, overseeing hiring and training of deputies; managing the county jail, and writing and distributing the budget. The sheriff also may be responsible for or a least take part in, public forums on policy matters, as well as community out-

reach programs.

As a matter of interest, here is the DEA Mission Statements short definition: The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances etc, etc.

I do plan on attending any public forums that I hope may be planned for the candidates. I do have some questions for some of the candidates.

Gary Puckett – Franklin, N.C.

Surely a more stable person could be found

It seems the Republican Party could find a more stable person to run for president. Between his growing hatred for China and the Jan. 6 insurrection, he has become deranged. He is the first U.S. president to refuse to abide by the peaceful transfer of power, was making it clear he was capable of anything. He throws such tantrums and spittle spewing, reality denying, whose mental state is a daily public display. Such a person should not be allowed near to have control of the nuclear button, as he had to be stopped by Gen. Mark Milley. Surely the GoP can find a more stable person.

Trump has taken such command over Congress, there not going to pass any bill unless Trump tells them to. One congressman had to hire a police escort to get his family to the airport. During his time of president, Dr. Fauci was threatened to the point, he had to hire security for his whole family. Trump really needs mental help. Another Hitler. Surley the GoP can find better.

Kathy Whitley – Franklin, N.C.

Perhaps humankind isn't up to self-governing

I've been giving much thought recently to what the framers had in mind when contemplating the creation of their new country. It wasn't as if they were in totally unexplored territory. Civilizations had come and gone; some had succeeded, others failed. Did the framers really not have even an inkling of a premonition that a future leader would try to overthrow his own government, or what to do if one did try?

I appreciate more and more the question asked of Benjamin Franklin by a Philadelphia hostess, Mrs. Eliza Powel, after the Constitutional Convention: "What manner of government have you (you meaning the government of delegates) bequeathed us, Mr. Franklin?" We're now obliged to value and ponder seriously, his answer: "A republic, Madam, if you can keep it." It seems the framers surmised more than we have learned.

See LETTERS page 11

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NEWS
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LETTERS Continued from page 10

We've been lulled into believing we live in a functioning democracy, well-managed by "representative" government, guided by a system of "checks and balances," and safely protected by enforceable common sense laws and principles. That may have been true (or at least more true) at one time but today's reality does not reflect (as William Blackstone would say) "the embodiment of the moral sentiments of the people."

James Madison wrote about the complications of democracies in the Federalist papers. Many of his revelations stand out. For example: "Pure democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths."

Neither the Articles of Confederation nor the Constitution seem to establish democracies directly. Under the Articles, Congress is chosen by state legislatures. Under the Constitution, our leaders are elected or are chosen by elected officials. Giving the framers the benefit of the doubt, I'd like to believe they had the best interests of the people in mind when the Constitution was conceived. On the other hand, they might have been every bit as devious, corrupt and self-serving as many of our politicians are today. It has crossed my mind that humankind simply isn't up to self-governing.

So... what would the founders say if they were alive

today? What would James Madison say to a president who obstructed Congress, violated his oath of office and betrayed the public trust? What would John Adams say to a president who undermined the Constitution and believed himself above the law? What would Alexander Hamilton say to a president who abused the power of his office, spread lies and disinformation, and poisoned our politics? And what would George Washington say to a president who incited a deadly attack on his own Capitol in a last ditch effort to overturn a free and fair election he lost?

One thing's certain. The men who mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor would not stick their heads in the sand as so many Americans are doing today.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

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

What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor**



Patrick Taylor

Let me recap some ideas I presented in the recent mayoral campaign. They form my vision of Highlands.

Since we started this journey together eight years ago, many things in Highlands have changed. One thing has not. The willingness of the citizens, the community, the town staff, and especially the town board to continue to come together to accomplish many good and positive things. Working together is a cornerstone of this community and one I hope lasts far into the future.

Like many other unique communities, we face challenges. As Highlanders we have confidence in the future and know we can step forward to preserve what is so special about this unique place we call home.

All of us treasure and value this one-of-a-kind ecology and environment. Residents have embraced the teachings of such scientists as Thomas Harbison and Bob Zahner and have supported the important work of the Highlands Biological Station and the Land Trust in preserving the ecosystem. Along with many of you, I am committed to preserving this unique community, its character, its people and to keep it a special place to live, work and experience the best life has to offer.

As Highlanders, we have always embraced progress and community engagement starting over a century ago with the Highlands Improvement Association. Even then, people recognized what a special place this was and sought to preserve it. We have long been a retreat that has attracted individuals with creative talent and community spirit. As we continue to embrace this spirit we will make progress toward maintaining a sustainable, vibrant economy. Sustainability and progress are not mutually exclusive and we can, and must, maintain a balance between the two.

Over the many years we have accomplished amazing things for such a small community. Highlanders have built roads, a sustainable grid with water, sewer and electricity, created a school, a library, a hospital, and founded churches and non-profit institutions that help thousands every year. And now, we have a world class fiber network. For me, all of these accomplishments have made Highlands one of the best possible places to live and visit.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic about our future and how we will meet the challenges and embrace new opportunities. As mayor, I will continue to stay on duty, keep an open door, and communicate with members of the community. I will continue to write this weekly column, do the Ask the Mayor radio show and hold community coffees. I will also explore new ways to interact with the citizenry.

These past eight years have been a wonderful trip and tremendous honor for me. I am confident that we can continue to work together for sustainable progress for the future of Highlands. There still remains much work to be done. The STR issues and the adoption of the Highlands Comprehensive Community Plan are two immediate challenges. I know the town board will work with the community to make decisions for the overall public good.

NC HOPE pays out \$461 million in rent, utilities

The N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program marked its Oct. 15 one-year anniversary with more than a half-billion dollars in pandemic relief funds awarded to North Carolina landlords and utility companies on behalf of vulnerable families. In total, HOPE has awarded \$520.2 million to 135,213 families with more than \$461 million of that amount already paid to landlords and utility providers across the state. The HOPE Program continues to rank #2 in the nation for number of households served, while North Carolina overall ranks #6 for spending of federal Emergency Rental Assistance money. The HOPE Program supports housing stability during the pandemic by preventing evictions and utility service disconnections.

"In its first year, the HOPE Program has helped more than 135,000 North Carolina families stay safe and warm in their homes during the pandemic," said Governor Roy Cooper. "HOPE will continue to pay landlords and utility companies to keep low-income renters in their homes with the lights on as we recover in the months ahead."

In addition to supporting safe housing during the pan-

demic, the HOPE Program has provided an economic boost to landlords who experienced financial setbacks due to COVID-19. During the second phase of HOPE that began May 17, the program has mailed checks to 30,727 landlords and more than 5,500 landlords have contacted HOPE to refer tenants. The program continues to accept landlord referrals

of tenants struggling to pay rent due to the pandemic. Landlords may submit tenant names and contact information through the HOPE Program website or by contacting the HOPE Call Center at 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467). A program

specialist will then follow up with the tenant to help start the application process.

HOPE is still accepting applications for rent and utility bill assistance from low-income renters in 88 counties. Applicants can apply online at HOPE.NC.gov or call 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both English- and Spanish-speaking representatives are available to assist callers.

The HOPE Program is managed by the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the Department of Public Safety. To learn more, visit HOPE.NC.gov.



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Franklin's Main Street Merchants invited trick-or-treaters young and not-so-young downtown on Saturday afternoon dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes. Merchants handed out candy from 4 to 6 p.m. to both the gorgeous and the ghoulish.

Photos by Betsey Gooder and Brittney Lofthouse



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Local sources reported 2,000 trick or treaters on Bidwell Street in downtown Franklin on Halloween. The good-natured homeowners made sure the ghouls and goblins felt right at home.



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests Oct. 21 - 31. Suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

October 21

William Jason Woodard, was charged with assault on a female. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Jeffery Michael Miller, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, receive stolen goods and possession of stolen goods. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

October 22

Derek Gene Camp, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Ian Thomas Spies, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

October 23

Regina Leigh Sanders, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

October 24

Tomas Flores, was charged with driving while impaired.

Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

October 27

Carlos Alfredo Garcia-Hernandez, was charged with driving while impaired. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

Krystin Lynn Zinkand, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jiglau made the arrest.

Bailey Brooke Harrell, was charged with failure to appear for a felony. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Avery Allison Bates, was charged with flee/elude arrest. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Kraig Allen Lackey, was charged with failure to appear for a felony. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

Monique Laverne Smith, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

October 28

Chelsea Brianna Pruett, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of stolen goods/property.

Joey Lee Chambers, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to sell/deliver a counterfeit controlled substance. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

October 29

Samuel Wahnetha, was charged with failure to appear.

John Hoyt Arkinson, was charged with child support enforcement contempt.

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

Franklin Police Department

October 21

Dustin Wayne Waldroop, 36, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. A \$2,500 bond was set.

October 23

Matthew Owen Carpenter, 33, was issued a warrant for arrest on a female/false imprisonment/threats. No bond was set.

October 24

Michala Cheyene Taylor, 21, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay and possession of drug paraphernalia.

October 26

Robert Drew Houston, 43, was charged with resisting an officer and second degree trespass. A \$600 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

October 25

Christopher Tyler Weaver, 18, of Safe Haven Ridge, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Jessica Myraah McCoy, 27, of Longview Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. No bond was set.

Barbara Heather Leeann Luker, 37, of Luker Branch Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor child abuse and possession of a controlled substance on jail premises. A secured bond was set.

Rashonda Lashae Bradley, 34, of Burchfield Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond was set.

Kayleigh Morgan Hamrick, 22, of Citadel Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with aggravated assault. No bond was set.

Brandon James Mathis, 31, of Triangle Rd., Tuckaseegee, was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

October 26

Keith Edward Reece, 53, of North Country Club Dr., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Alyssa Chanteal Robinson, 24, of Tall Oaks Dr., was charged with failure to appear for obtain property by false pretense/possession of stolen goods. A secured bond was set.

Dennis Woodrow Shelton, 63, of Frosty Ridge Rd., was charged with conspire to obtain property by false pretenses. No bond was set.

Travis Keith Mathis, 44, of Jonquil Dr., was charged with conspire to obtain property by false pretense. No bond was set.

October 27

Trudy Louise Taylor, 28, of Tooni Branch, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for identity theft, misdemeanor larceny, simple assault and misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond was set.

Tyler Dillion Washington, 27, of Lucille Beck Lane, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for conspiracy to obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond was set.

Cody Shay Brady, 42, of Shoal Creek Rd., Cherokee, was charged with identity theft and false pretense. A secured bond was set.

October 28

Kiplan David Arnette, 57, of Herman Johnson Loop, Roan Mountain, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond was set.

October 29

Amber Carrol-Leigh Bradley, 31, of Old #4 Rd., Cherokee, was charged with felony probation violation. A secured bond was set.

Casey Wayne McKeehan, 39, of Governors Island Rd., Bryson City, was charged with failure to appear for driving while license revoked. A secured bond was set.

Alyssa Plummer Cline, 32, of Addie Littlejohn Dr., Cherokee, was charged with fail to work after pay, possession of stolen goods and obtaining property by false pretenses. A secured bond was set.

October 30

Austin Xavier Narvaez, 20, of Patriot Dr., was charged with failure to appear for consume alcohol by 19/20 year old, unsafe tires, drive after consuming under 21 and driving while impaired. A secured bond was set.

October 31

Michael David Touger, 37, of Retirement Lane, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond was set.

William Joseph Conner, 30, of Cullowhee, was charged with parole violations. A secured bond was set.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Coweeta Baptist Church Free Coat and Clothes Giveaway will be held on Thursday, Nov. 4, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Great choices in coats and clothes and shoes.

Cullasaja Community Thanksgiving Meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m., at the community center. Thanksgiving meal will be served. Bring a covered dish and a neighbor with you. Macon County Sheriff candidate Clay Bryson will be the special guest.

American Legion Macon Post 108 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 will meet for a light dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 7 p.m., at the Post Home located at 614 W, Main St. All members and military veterans are encouraged to attend as the membership renewal drive is in full swing, so come and bring a friend.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 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.

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

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

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

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

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Library the Macon County Public Library is displaying a pictorial and written history of the organization through the end of the year. The li-

brary is located at 148 Siler Farm Rd., in Franklin.

Thursday Painters meets 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 Franklinfootgaller.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. Frank Mares will share with us on "Past Life Regression." The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant in Heritage Hollow.

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue in downtown Franklin; senior pastor is Rev. David Beam. For more information, call (828)524-3010 or visit us at http://www.firstumcfranklin.org

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

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

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

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

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

Olive Hill Church Services are held on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Pastor is Keith McWhite. The church is located at 2389 Olive Hill Road.

Lifespring Community Church is holding Sunday services beginning at 10 a.m. with social distancing observed. Brian Lamb in the pastor. The church is located at the intersection of Cheek Road and Addington Bridge Road.

Tellico Baptist Church is now having in-person Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. inside the church building with Rev. L. E. Angel. Everyone is welcome.

West Franklin Church services are held on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church is located on Sloan Rd. next to the Forest Service Office.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

PREP	REP	ENS	AL	EE	AL	EE	AL	EE
AUGUR	LION	MARK	MARK	MARK	MARK	MARK	MARK	MARK
PLACE	ARIVA	ETUI	ETUI	ETUI	ETUI	ETUI	ETUI	ETUI
SCOT	REDVIN	INES	INES	INES	INES	INES	INES	INES
LAB	SALMI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI
STEL	LAR	YACHTS	YACHTS	YACHTS	YACHTS	YACHTS	YACHTS	YACHTS
ORCA	NAV	SM	SM	SM	SM	SM	SM	SM
TERM	EK	USURP	USURP	USURP	USURP	USURP	USURP	USURP
ONE	TARFON	YOGA	YOGA	YOGA	YOGA	YOGA	YOGA	YOGA
KIT	KAT	LINE	LINE	LINE	LINE	LINE	LINE	LINE
CHOK	DOKE	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO
SINS	SKERS	LSAT	LSAT	LSAT	LSAT	LSAT	LSAT	LSAT
WHD	ACTS	ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE
AVONE	DANE	FENNY	FENNY	FENNY	FENNY	FENNY	FENNY	FENNY
LOAM	HAM	HAV	HAV	HAV	HAV	HAV	HAV	HAV

Macon County author Collier recognized with NYC Big Book Award

Macon County author Monica Collier has been awarded the NYC Big Book Award for her newest book released Oct. 5. "Pink: A Christmas Romance" was a winner in the Christian Fiction category.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award Winners and Distinguished Favorites are based on overall excellence.

The story in "Pink" revolves around Ethan Cooper, a high-powered corporate attorney in New York City, who seemingly has it all. Drawn to the city after

law school, he escaped life in his hometown of Charleston, S.C., and his family's notoriety. Years later, the strained relationship with them reaches new heights when Charlotte Rose, a part-time stationery designer and mechanical engineer, enters his work life. Together, they embark upon the journey to bring a racketeering terrorist to justice, tied to a gang responsible for the death of Ethan's wife utilizing both of their skill sets and that of

friends. In the process, Christmas romance softens his heart as he is drawn to her southern charms, kindness, and warmth. With her influence upon his life, Ethan discovers he is

romantic suspense novelist. She writes heart-warming stories and compelling characters that stay with you long after you turn the last page. Collier's emotional journeys are geo-

public is invited to attend.

This year was a record year for books awarded due to the high level of quality and diverse books submitted. Again in 2021, NYC Big Book Award received book submissions worldwide, including submissions from journalists, well-established authors, small and large press as well as first time indie authors who participated in high numbers. Entries were from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. Cities such as Bangalore, Edmonton, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, New York, Seattle, Singapore, Vancouver, were representative among the entries. Winners were recognized globally from

Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Lebanon, Queensland and the United States of America.

"We are elated to highlight these authors' books, recognize their excellence, and share their achievements," said awards sponsor Gabrielle Olczak. "We look forward to showcasing these titles to a larger audience."

For more information, visit: www.nycbigbookaward.com.



Macon County author Monica Collier has been awarded the NYC Big Book Award for her newest novel, "Pink." Collier is an award-winning Christian romantic suspense novelist who writes "heart-warming stories and compelling characters." A holiday open house and reception is planned Thursday, Nov. 4, 5 to 7 p.m., at Franklin Office, 161 Highlands Road.

missing the most important aspect of his life, love. Will they both heal from the profound loss of a spouse, with God's leading, and learn to love again?"

Collier is not afraid to tackle taboo subjects, usually glossed over in fiction, such as PTSD, profound loss after the death of a spouse, emotional and physical abuse, physical trauma, and healing.

Collier is an award-winning Christian ro-

graphic, family oriented, have strong female characters, and incorporate Biblical principles in modern life. Her books have been recommended by active and retired military personnel, pastors, professional women and several print venues. When she's not writing she enjoys traveling and photography.

A holiday open house and reception is planned for Nov. 4, at Franklin Office, 161 Highlands Road, in Franklin, from 5-7. The

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Fate of American Chestnut topic of discussion

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In 1904, a blight began killing the American chestnuts. The blight, which is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* was accidentally imported from Asia. These trees were considered the giants of the forest, sometimes reaching a height of more than 100 feet tall with trunk diameters often well over 10 feet. It is a tree that not only thrived in the Appalachian mountains, but that was also a source of food for the Cherokee. Chestnuts were roasted and then ground into flour for cakes and breads and also stewed into puddings and soups.

Donald Davis decided – after researching and writing about chestnuts for his 2003 book “Where There Are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians” – that the American chestnut deserved more attention. He spent five years of research and roughly 10 years writing the just-released “The American Chestnut: An Environmental History.” Davis, a researcher living in Washington, D.C., will close his promotional tour for the book at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. During the presentation, which is free to the public, Davis will be hosting a reading of his new book.

“After learning how important the tree was to the southern mountain region, I decided that the American chestnut would be the topic of my next book,” he explained. “In my Franklin talk, I will discuss the impact of the tree on the communities of Appalachia, as the species not only provided nuts for food, but also the raw material for tanning leather, and the wood for home construction, railroad ties, fencing, coffins, and shingles. I will also address the arrival of chestnut blight which, after 1904, killed more than 5 billion trees across the tree’s range. During the presentation, I will be sharing with the audience numerous archival images that are also published in the book,

including a photograph of two of the largest surviving American chestnut trees on the planet.”

Davis is an independent scholar, author, and former Fulbright fellow who has authored or edited seven books, including “Southern United States: An Environmental History.”

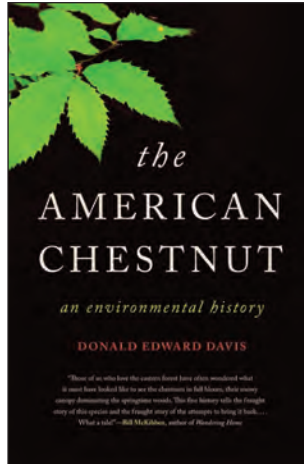
Although other hardwood trees thrive in the Western North Carolina forests, Davis explained the American chestnut’s pre-blight significance.

“Prior to 1910, the American chestnut was closely associated with fence building, shingle splitting, livestock husbandry, and even moonshining. For residents of Appalachia, where the trees defined the pre-World War II landscape, the loss of the American chestnut also served as a metaphor for the passing of a self-sufficient and forest-dependent way of life.”

Blight, or fungus, enters chestnuts through wounds on susceptible trees and grows in and beneath the bark. Eventually the cambium (cellular plant tissue) is killed all the way round the twig, branch, or trunk.

“Americans were shocked by the speed at which entire stands of trees often succumbed to the disease,” David noted. “In 1906, just two years after the fungus was discovered at the Bronx Zoo, tens of thousands of trees were already dead in New York City, and thousands more were showing signs of the illness. In fact, so many chestnut trees died in the metropolitan area that year that the *New York Observer*, a publication edited by Presbyterian minister John Bancroft Bevens, likened the fungus to the plagues of Egypt and suggested the disease was further evidence the world was cursed with sin.”

In his new book and in his presentation on Nov. 12, Davis will share how over the last several decades, considerable effort has been expended to try to restore this iconic species to the forest.



Donald Davis spent five years of research and roughly 10 years writing the just-released *The American Chestnut: An Environmental History*, and offers a presentation at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center Friday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m.



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Deaths & Funerals

Clarence Ray Baxley

Clarence Ray Baxley, 70, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Oct. 28, 2021.

He was born in Carmi, Ill., to the late Grover and Laura Upton Baxley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Eddie Baxley.

He was saved at Ashland Christian in Mill Shoals, Ill., on Oct. 10, 2021.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Marcia Sandusky Baxley; children, Chad Baxley, Mike Baxley (Hannah), Michelle Wise, Nichole Garcia (Giovanni), and Elizabeth Baxley; brothers, Gary Baxley (Jan), Larry Baxley, and Bobby Baxley (Lisa); six grandchildren, Victoria, Alena, Cody, Katelyn, Avia, and Ellah; and a great grandchild, Myla.

A service will be held in Carmi at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to American Diabetes Association at P.O. Box 7023 Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

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

Christine DeHart Waters

Christine DeHart Waters, 87, passed away Nov. 1, 2021. No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Ms. Waters' family.

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

Tony Israel McCall

Tony Israel McCall, of Franklin, N.C., 52, passed away on Oct. 25, 2021, after a long battle with COVID. The family is deeply saddened by his death.

He was born on Sept. 20, 1969, and attended Franklin High School and lived in Franklin his whole life.

He retired from Macon Oil Company at the age of 40 due to declining health. He loved NASCAR, sports, and his family. He had a great sense of humor and an amazing memory.

He is survived by his parents, John "Curt" and Nancy Hannah McCall; his daughter, Hannah Houston Covington (Devon); and grandson, Clay; his fiancé, Caroline LeBaron and his extended family. We will all miss him more than words can say.

A service was held Friday, Oct. 29, at Macon Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Phillip Cochran and Rev. Davis Hooper officiated. Burial followed at St. Johns Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bobby Bishop, Randy Stoudemire, Adam Burrell, Mike Simpson, Mark Swank, Chad Welch, Pepper Moffitt, Charles Sergent, and Marcus Hughes.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Clarence Ray Baxley



Tony Israel McCall

Danny Allen Jackson

Danny Allen Jackson, 67, of Franklin, N.C., (formerly of Millbury, Ohio) passed away at his home on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021. He was preceded in death by his father Albert Jackson.

He was born Oct. 6, 1954, in Toledo, Ohio, and graduated from Whitmer High School in 1972. He went to work as a journeyman pipefitter with Ford Motor Company and Sunco Refinery. He returned to Ford as a stationary engineer working at the Maumee, Ohio, stamping plant and the Endo facility in Dearborn, Mich., retiring in 2014. He was an auxiliary member of VFW Post 7339 and a Mason as well. He attended Franklin Covenant Church in Franklin.

He loved classic cars, especially his 1966 Fairlane. Harleys, woodworking, camping, traveling and family time around the pool were his greatest joy. He was a truly special outgoing guy who never met a stranger. He will be missed by so many and remembered for his quick wit, infectious laugh, and warm smile.

He is survived by his mother, Elsie "Babe" Wagonfeld Jackson of Toledo, Ohio; his wife of 29 years, Kristina Hassan Jackson; his children, Lisa Ann Trost (Jon) of Hudson, Ohio, Lisa Renee Dye (Russell) of Charleston, S.C., Daniel Jackson (Stacey) of Haskins, Ohio, and Lindsey Marie Scott (Nicholas) of Springboro, Ohio; a brother, Gene Jackson (Cheryl); a sister, Cindy Day (Dan) both of Toledo, Ohio; and eight grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Nov. 6, at 12 p.m., in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Pastor Josh Greenley officiating. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744 or VFW Post 7339, 60 West Palmer St, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Danny Allen Jackson

Edith McCall McDowell

Edith McCall McDowell, 96, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021. She was born in Swain County on Sept. 16, 1925, to the late Samuel Richmond McCall and Dovie Jane Smith McCall. She formerly worked for CR Industries, Blue Bell and Burlington Industries. She was a chaplain and member of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, an active Sunday School teacher and an active member with Bible study. She always stayed active in prayer chains with the church. She was a member of the Sugarfork Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Steve Tallent (Alice) of Johnson City, Tenn., and Eric Tallent (Diane) of Huntsville, Ala.; three grandchildren, David Tallent (Ginny), Emily Tallent and Will Tallent (Alice); three great-grandchildren, Samuel Tallent, Matthew Tallent, and Caleb Tallent; a sister, Mavis Jones; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Joseph McDowell; her first husband, Terrell Tallent; a brother, Ray McCall; and two sisters, Alberta Chastain and Hazel Wright.

A funeral service was held Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, at Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Gene Hawkins and Rev. Roy Lowe officiating. Burial followed at the Mount Moriah Cemetery.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the McDowell family.

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



Edith McCall McDowell

Karen Jo Raby

Karen Jo Raby, 57, passed away Monday, Oct. 25, 2021. She was born Feb. 25, 1965, in Jackson County, North Carolina, to the late Joe Raby and Josephine Thomas Raby.

She was a selfless mother to Amanda and Amber McMahan and a loving nana to Kira, Zayna, Dai and Kyla. She survived cancer not once, but twice. She always had a song in her heart, sang in a band and wrote most of the songs they sang. In her down time, she enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and watching game shows. She is loved by many and will be forever missed. Mama, may you rest in peace and sing with the angels. She was of the Baptist faith.

In addition to her daughters and grandchildren, she is survived by a brother, Kevin Raby and his wife, Stacey of Franklin; and their two children, Bethany and Nathan.

A funeral service was held Monday Nov. 1, at Bryant Grant Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tony Drinnon officiating. Burial followed in the Cowee Baptist Church cemetery.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Cremation is serving the Raby family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



Karen Jo Raby

Eric Randolph Ellis

Eric Randolph Ellis, 60, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Oct. 26, 2021.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisc., to Jewel Swecker Ellis and the late Alfred Lee Ellis. He was member of the NRA, and enjoyed classic cars, and working in his yard and in his garden.

He is survived by his mother, Jewel Ellis; and siblings, Sara Ellis, and Sandra Cook.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Liver Foundation.

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



Eric Randolph Ellis

Krista Lauren Bennett

Krista Lauren Bennett, 42, passed away Oct. 30, 2021. She was employed at Drake Enterprises and loved living in the mountains. She was an avid reader that began when she was two years old, and always looked forward to being with her pup, Dixon, and two cats, Castile and Misha.

She is survived by her husband, Christopher B. Steele; her mother, Linda Votry Bennett; her father, Roger C. Bennett (Laurali); her sister, Melissa Paulik; aunts, Darlene Votry and Cheryl Filippini; uncles, Bradley Votry, Russell C. Bennett Jr. (Barbara); and numerous other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Jason Bennett, and her grandparents.

No public services are planned.

In the words of Morrison, "death makes angels of us all and gives us wings where we had shoulders smooth as ravens claws."

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com



Krista Lauren Bennett



Deaths & Funerals

Mary Lou Ellen Swafford Childress

Mary Lou Ellen Swafford Childress, formerly of Seneca, S.C., passed away on Oct. 22, 2021, following a short illness. She was born on Nov. 24, 1938, in Oconee County, South Carolina, to parents, Curtis Ezekiel Black and Zennie Mae Haynes. She retired from the textile industry where she worked as a weaver. She enjoyed traveling, camping, reading, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jessie Childress; three children, Dale Swafford (Amy) of Westminster, S.C.; Jackie Fuller (Keith) of Seneca, S.C., and Lisa Dye Chartrand (Stephane) of Dillard, Ga.; eight grandchildren, Stephen Cale Swafford (Becky), Brandon Day (Elizabeth), Zach Swafford, Vince Swafford, Kelly Day, John Dye (Logan), Jay Scruggs, Cody Reece, and Grant Chartrand; eight great grandchildren, a sister, Edith Collins (Doug), and a brother, James Smith (Carol).

She is preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Beverly Swafford Scruggs; stepdaughter, Ann Popham (JL); stepsons Steve Swafford, Mike Swafford, and Frankie Swafford; brothers David Black and Ervin Black; and a sister, Sarah Richardson (Mark).

No services are planned at this time.

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

Glenn Fraser

Glenn Fraser, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away at his home on Oct. 29, 2021.

Born in Detroit, Mich., to the late Elmer and Katherine Oswald Fraser. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy and was awarded the Bronze Star. After his military career, he served in law enforcement for more than 20 years. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He was of the Southern Baptist faith.

Surviving are his daughters, Kriste Fraser of Lansing, Mich., and Karie Fraser of Franklin; a brother, Jack Fraser of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and one grandchild, Halic Coleman.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Wounded Warriors Project. Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Rose Irma Coggins Rogers

Rose Irma Coggins Rogers, 92, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

Born in Jackson County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Alex and Annie Bennett Coggins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Pat Theodore Rogers; daughter, Deborah Hickey; and siblings, Ellis Coggins, Everette Coggins, Eldon Coggins, Pearl Higdon, Stella Higdon, Bessie Stiwinter Crawford, and Grace Knecht.

She was a longtime member at Mt. Hope Baptist Church and had retired from Belden.

She is survived by a son-in-law, Joe W. Hickey of Texas, and numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask donations to be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 or at www.stjude.org

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Carolyn Rice Nohria

Carolyn Rice Nohria, 70, of Franklin, N.C., departed this life on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021.

Many souls leave this world for the next at sunrise and sunset and at the changing of the tides. Something in nature or time and space sees to that—it's a mystery, and if ever there was a soul who'd take advantage of a mystery it was Carolyn Nohria. And she did, when she traded in the pains and cares of her earthly life for the great adventure that lay before her on Thursday, Oct. 28, just moments before a splendid harvest-red sunrise split the darkness of the disappearing night.

She was born in Franklin, N.C., the daughter of the late Virgil Garverson Rice and Kathryn Elizabeth Tallent Rice. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Johnny Virgil Rice.

She was a 1969 graduate of Franklin High School, a graduate of Western Carolina University with a BS in Nursing, and a graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill with a Masters in Public Health. She began her career in Nursing in hospitals and health departments in Western North Carolina before advancing to Pediatric Neurology at Duke Hospital. She finished her career in nursing as a nurse for Smart Start in the western region of North Carolina.

An avid reader, researcher, and world traveler, she, as the Whitman poem said, "Contained Multitudes." At any given time she might have been found walking ancient battlefields in England, visiting castles, sipping tea with friends and family, losing herself in study, archiving pictures, or searching for rarities in small thrift stores wherever she might find herself. A devotee to all things unusual, unsolved, mysterious or unknown, she was constantly asking the question—why not? And it was her insatiable appetite for learning and her openness to possibilities that fed her vast knowledge on so many topics. She was a walking encyclopedia of her ancestral and genealogical history, and no less an expert on local and Cherokee history. With a truly beautiful open mind, heart and soul, she blended her love of history and the unknown seamlessly, and in doing so crafted a manner of living, a philosophy, a belief system that the greatest minds of all time might have praised.

She truly lived life. She loved authentically. She spoke truth and expected no less than truth from others. Her sincere love of God's mystical plan guided her actions and her words.

This world and her family suffered a great loss when Carolyn Nohria left on the sunrise, but the mists of time gained a treasure—a wise, intelligent, loving, spirited, funny, genuine treasure.

She is survived by three children, Renee Kirkland Cooney of Franklin, David Kirkland of Franklin, and Patrick Nohria of Asheville, N.C.; six grandchildren, Zachary Kirkland, Lindsay Owenby, Julie Cooney, Dawson Kirkland, Dillon Kirkland, Riece Kirkland; and one great-grandchild, Ellee Thomason; three sisters, Pat Ensley of Franklin, Audrey Clark of Franklin, and Christy Armstrong of Andrews, N.C.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Carolyn Rice Nohria

Robert Harley Rowland

Robert Harley Rowland, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Oct. 30, 2021, after a period of declining health.

He was born in Macon County to the late Royal and Carrie Henderson Rowland. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Kathy Rowland, of Nantahala.

He was of the Baptist faith and a member of White Oak Baptist Church. He loved taking pictures, watching movies, and walking. He was known for walking all around Franklin and always had a smile on his face.

He is survived by a sister, Diane Swatford of Franklin; three brothers, Johnny Rowland of Franklin, Randall Rowland, and Royal Rowland Jr., both of Nantahala; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m., at Aquone Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Tully Griggs and Rev. Dean Bateman will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Jason Rowland, Braydon Rowland, Joey Rowland, T.J. Slease, Bill Glass, and Charlie Rich.

Honorary pallbearers will be Kyle Martin, Ethan Martin, Jimmy Rich, and Ron Schrichten.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to American Diabetes Association P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Robert Harley Rowland

William Perry Emory

William Perry Emory, 82, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Oct. 19, 2021.

He was born in Black Rock, Ga., to the late Thomas and Della Emory. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Carolyn Emory; daughter, Tabitha Roxanne Emory; three brothers and one sister.

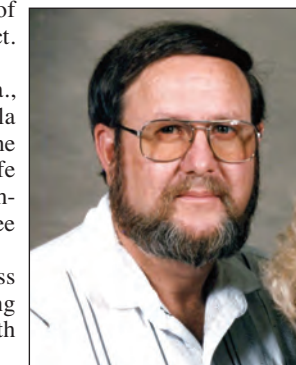
He was a member of Prentiss Church of God, he loved helping others and enjoyed working with his tractor.

He is survived by his children, Randy Emory, Melissa Emory, Rebecca Emory; sisters, Lula and Lela; and four grandchildren, Ryan Coggins, Daniel Bottoms, Katrine Bottoms, and Dylan Tallent; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Macon Funeral Home Friday, Nov. 5, from 1 to 2 p.m., with a funeral service to follow at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Don Moffitt will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to charity of choice. Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



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Alex Bowman triumphs; Truex Jr. makes top four

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Denny Hamlin provided the perfect capstone to a day of banged-up stock cars, hurt feelings and crushed dreams.

Alex Bowman took the checkered flag in Sunday's Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway after sliding up into Hamlin's race-leading Toyota on Lap 494 of 501 and knocking Hamlin's car up the track and into the outside wall.



Alex Bowman, driver of the #48 Alty Chevrolet, spins Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 FedEx Ground Toyota, to take the lead during the final laps of the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 31, 2021 in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

body that wants to think I was trying to crash him, obviously that wasn't the case, considering I literally gave up the lead at Martinsville to give it back to him.

"He's been on the other side of that. He's crashed guys here for wins. I hate doing it. Obviously, I don't want to crash somebody. I just got in, got underneath him, spun him out... Regardless, we get a free grandfather clock (trophy), which is pretty special."

By the time Bowman took the checkered flag, his teammate, defending Cup champion Chase Elliott already had clinched a spot in next Sunday's Championship 4 race at Phoenix by sweeping the first two stages of the event.

Elliott joins another teammate, two-time Round of 8 winner Kyle Larson, Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. in the quartet that



moved up as high as I could on the race track to give him all the room I could—he still can't drive."

Lane choice helped Truex gain the final four after Aric Almirola got loose and forced him up the track on Lap 471, costing Truex positions and the eventual scrape with the wall. Truex gained spots on the subsequent restart on Lap 478 and chose the outside lane—directly behind Busch—for the final restart on Lap 500.

"I have no idea how we finished fourth," Truex said of the contact with the wall. "I'm going to buy a lottery ticket on the



Alex Bowman, driver of the #48 Alty Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 31, 2021 in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images

As Bowman tried to start a burnout to celebrate his fourth NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season and his first at the .526-mile short track, Hamlin drove to the frontstretch and expressed his displeasure by twice blocking the progress of Bowman's No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

"I just got loose in," Bowman said of the accident that gave him the lead. "I got in too deep (into Turn 3), knocked him out of the way and literally let him have the lead back. For any-

will vie for the series title at the one-mile track in the Sonoran Desert.

With a damaged car that had slapped the outside wall at the exit of Turn 2 on Lap 471, Truex eked out his berth in the championship race by three points over Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch, who finished second to Truex's fourth but lost his slim pre-race advantage in the first two stages.

Eliminated from the Playoff with Busch were the Team Penske Fords of Brad Keselowski (third Sunday and eight points below the cutoff), Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano.

Hamlin, who started from the rear after his car twice failed pre-race inspection, had enough of a margin entering the race that his 24th-place finishing position didn't cost him a chance at the championship. But that was little consolation for the lost opportunity to add to his collection of five grandfather clocks.

"He's just a hack," Hamlin said of the race winner. "Just an absolute hack. He gets his ass kicked by his teammates every week. He's (expletive) terrible. He's just terrible. He sees one opportunity, he takes it.

"Obviously, he's got the fast car of the week and he runs 10th. He didn't want to race us there. We had a good, clean race. I

way home."

Even though Busch struggled with the handling of his No. 18 Toyota throughout the afternoon at Martinsville, he blamed his 28th-place finish last weekend at Kansas for his failure to advance to the Championship 4 Round.

"We just missed last week," said the two-time series champion — and the only active driver with more than one title. "That's where we lost all the ground. Could have come in here with 15 more points, we would have been fine on the cut. Just wasn't it. Wasn't meant to be. Obviously, it was Truex's day. We had a Hail Mary opportunity there at the end. Just didn't materialize.

"All in all, just proud of the effort for sure. We slung everything and anything at this thing today, couldn't really make it come alive. Great effort. That was there, for sure. We've just got to get better, everybody included, the whole team, in order to be able to go race with the best and race for a championship. We're not going to do that this year."

Neither will Bowman, who was eliminated from the Playoffs in the Round of 12. But the victory at NASCAR's most venerable track, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year,



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Noah Gragson, driver of the #9 Bass Pro Shops/TrueTimber/BRCC Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Dead on Tools 250 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30, 2021, in Martinsville, Va. Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images

was ample compensation.

Not to mention the free clock.

Noah Gragson snags Championship 4 spot with dramatic Martinsville victory

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – To get to the Championship 4, you have to drive like a champion.

That's what Noah Gragson did on Saturday night in the NASCAR Xfinity Series Playoff race Dead on Tools 250 at Martinsville Speedway.

Faced with the necessity of winning the race to keep his NASCAR Xfinity Series title hopes alive, Gragson did just that, pulling off a dramatic pass of Daniel Hemric from the outside lane in the first attempt at overtime and holding off series leader Austin Cindric in the second extra period.

With Cindric's Ford to his inside, Gragson won a drag race off Turn 4 to the finish line by .064 seconds, the closest Xfinity Series finish ever at Martinsville Speedway.

Gragson, who led a race-high 153 of 207 laps, got the lead after a restart on Lap 201, when he spun then-race-leader Ty Gibbs in a chain-reaction collision in Turn 4. After surrendering the top spot to Hemric on Lap 232, Gragson took advantage of a Lap 243 caution to regain the lead on the first overtime restart.

"This team, this Bass Pro Shops team," said Gragson, who won for the third time this season and the fifth time in his career. "It's been a rough, rough season. We had a couple of wins there, at Darlington and Richmond. After that deal last weekend (crashing out in 35th place at Kansas), I was pretty fired up. I told my guys we still have an opportunity. We're still in it."

"I'm just so thankful. It's just such an awesome opportunity. My second win here at Martinsville (his first came in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series). Get to take home another clock."

Gragson's victory was bittersweet for JR Motorsports. Though Gragson clinched a spot in next Saturday's Championship 4 race at Phoenix, his victory simultaneously eliminated teammate Justin Allgaier, ending a string of three straight appearances in the final four.

Hemric came home third to earn the final Cham-

ampionship 4 berth by six points over Allgaier. Regular Season Champion AJ Allmendinger ran seventh, qualified on points and will race against defending series champion Cindric, Gragson and Hemric for the title.

Eliminated from the Playoff along with Allgaier were Brandon Jones (sixth), Harrison Burton (who suffered damage in a wreck with Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Gibbs and finished 20th), and Justin Haley (who fell out of the race with brake problems after completing 222 laps).

Zane Smith vaults into Championship 4 race with win MARTINSVILLE, Va. – On a track strewn with spinning trucks and broken hearts, Zane Smith catapulted into the Championship 4 with a thrilling overtime victory in Saturday's United Rentals 200 at Martinsville Speedway.

In a no-holds-barred race that featured 14 cautions for 89 laps, Smith won under yellow after he, Stewart Friesen and Todd Gilliland raced three-wide—yes, three-wide at Martinsville—off Turn 4 on the first lap of overtime.

Contact from Friesen's Toyota sent Gilliland's Ford spinning across the start/finish line to start the final lap. As Friesen moved down the track to contest the lead with Smith, contact between the two trucks spun Friesen's Silverado into the Turn 1 wall.

With the track blocked by spinning trucks behind Smith, NASCAR called the final caution, and Smith took the checkered flag under yellow.

Smith's victory—his first at Martinsville, his first of the season and the third of his career—was heartbreak for his GMS Racing teammate, Sheldon Creed, the reigning series champion. Late in the race, Creed slapped the outside wall in an incident involving Matt Crafton and Grant Enfinger, finished ninth and failed to make the Championship 4 by four points.

Regular Season Champion John Hunter Nemechek survived a hard wreck on lap 130 after Austin Wayne Self hooked him on the backstretch and turned the No. 4 Toyota hard into the outside wall. Nemechek and Crafton made the final four by four points, joining Smith and Ben Rhodes in next Friday's championship race.

Knocked out of the Playoffs with Creed were Friesen, who finished 17th and Sunoco rookies Chandler Smith and Carson Hocevar.

In an earlier incident on Lap 185, Enfinger had turned Crafton in Turn 4, but Crafton escaped damaged with a deft move after a 360-degree spin and salvaged a fifth-place finish.

Gilliland led a race-high 133 of 204 laps but couldn't survive the final restart when Smith used his bumper to get beneath Gilliland's Ford in the first corner.

In the wild finish, Austin Hill was credited with second, followed by Tanner Gray, Chandler Smith and Crafton.



Zane Smith, driver of the #21 MRC Construction Chevrolet, celebrates with a burnout after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series United Rentals 200 at Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30, 2021, in Martinsville, Va.

Photo by Brian Lawdermill/Getty Images

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ACROSS

- 1. Good earth
- 5. Pea soup bone
- 8. Transport, with a U
- 12. Top notch
- 13. Copenhagen native
- 14. Boggy
- 15. Who would
- 16. Play parts
- 17. "Sesame Street" roommate
- 18. *World's best-selling candy bar
- 20. Law school entry requirement, acr.
- 21. Use a garrote
- 22. Homer Simpson's exclamation
- 23. *"Gimme a break" bar
- 26. Scrimmage line group
- 30. Dollar
- 31. Saltwater game fish
- 34. Hindu workout
- 35. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.
- 37. *Hyde & ___ Boutique candy
- 38. Seize a throne
- 39. Popular aquarium performer
- 40. Germany's National Socialism, for short
- 42. Ryder Cup peg
- 43. Excellent
- 45. Jet setters' vessels
- 47. Scientist's office
- 48. Game ragout
- 50. One from Glasgow
- 52. *Twizzlers competitor
- 55. There's none like home?
- 56. Vocal piece for one
- 57. Small ladies' hand-bag
- 59. Black cat crossing

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- the street, e.g.

 - 60. One with biggest share?
 - 61. Actor Wahlberg
 - 62. Secondary school
 - 63. Follow ems
 - 64. Sheltered, nautically

DOWN

 - 1. Order's partner?
 - 2. Sounds of amazement
 - 3. Any day now
 - 4. a.k.a. hop clover or nonesuch
 - 5. Certain consonant marker
 - 6. Cavern or cave
 - 7. Army ___ hall, or dining room
 - 8. *Who's Kisses?

- 9. Pavlova or Kournikova
 - 10. Newton, e.g.
 - 11. Caustic chemical
 - 13. One of Fanning sisters
 - 14. Cell dweller
 - 19. Online conversations
 - 22. Cacophony
 - 23. Japanese string instrument, pl.
 - 24. Apathetic
 - 25. 9 a.m. prayer
 - 26. Mischievous Norse deity
 - 27. *Pop Rocks sizzle and pop in it
 - 28. Kind of heron
 - 29. Back of the neck, pl.
 - 32. Back of military formation
 - 33. *Short for Pfefferminz

- 36. *Chocolate-covered whipped marshmallow (2 words)
 - 38. Savory taste sensation
 - 40. Apprehend
 - 41. Spirit of the woods
 - 44. Not now
 - 46. Auteur's art
 - 48. European finch
 - 49. Goodbye, in Puerto Vallarta
 - 50. Hurtful remark
 - 51. Zoo room
 - 52. Respiratory rattling
 - 53. Et alibi, abbr.
 - 54. "You betcha!"
 - 55. OB-GYN test
 - 58. *Mike and ___ fruity, chewy candy

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