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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Santa Claus put in an appearance at Winter Wonderland in Franklin last Friday to the delight of both young and old. The streets were filled with shoppers and revelers happy to be able to be a part of a long held tradition kicking off the Christmas season in downtown Franklin. Carolers sang at the festively decorated gazebo and families lined up to have their pictures taken at the many props provided by the Town of Franklin. Winter Wonderland will be held for one more Saturday on Dec. 4. For more photos of Christmas in Franklin, see page 12.

Photo by Betsy Gooder

Corbin decides to forego a run for Congress in 2022

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Filing for the 2022 election opens Dec. 6 and with the recent news that Congressman Madison Cawthorn will not be seeking re-election in his current district, Senator Kevin Corbin has announced although he gave a run for Congress serious consideration, he plans to seek re-election in the General Assembly at this time.

“My ‘freshman’ term in the Senate has been extremely successful and I have worked extremely well with Representatives [Karl] Gillespie, [Mike] Clampitt, and [Mark] Pless that have House seats within my current seven county district,” said Corbin. “We were able to deliver for this district with very pleasant success and I don’t think throwing that away is wise for myself or my Senate district. Through hard work and relationship building, we have brought more capital improvements to this district than we even thought possible just a year ago. In short, I love my current position as NC Senator and I feel I can offer more to the citizens of

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Filing opens Dec. 6 for 2022 general election

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

While campaign signs have been spotted on the roadsides for months, filing for the 2022 elections does not officially open until Dec. 6 and will run through Dec. 17.

While several of the seats up for election will appear on the March Primary ballot, filing for seats such as commissioner will open on Dec. 6 but will not appear on the ballot until November as the top vote getters win the seats regardless of party affiliation.

In North Carolina, the statewide primary is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022. During this election, voters can choose which candidates they prefer to be on the general election ballot in November. The purpose of a primary is to narrow the field of candidates for the general election.

Registered voters across the state can vote in the primary. However, voters affiliated with any political party will be given a ballot of candidates for their party. Unaffiliated voters can choose the ballot of candidates for any party:

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I Love My Town Christmas helps foster children



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David Phelps Live! kicks off Christmas at SMCPA

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CORBIN

Continued from page 1

Western North Carolina as a senator at this point than I could as a freshman Congressman.”

Sen. Corbin is in his third term in the North Carolina General Assembly and his first in the Senate, after more than three decades of service as a Macon County commissioner and school board member. During his two House elections, he won with vote totals above 72 percent.

Sen. Corbin began debating a run for Congress just a few days ago with the announcement that current Representative Madison Cawthorn will not be seeking re-election in his current district and instead will be running for office in the newly drawn NC District 13. Sen. Corbin said Rep. Cawthorn’s announcement came as a surprise and left little time to clearly assess the situation and determine the real feasibility of a Congressional run.

“First, we only had a very short time to make a decision regarding a run for Congress,” said Sen. Corbin. “We appreciate the flood of calls we have had encouraging the congressional run. I felt like the decision was two-fold. First to decide if the decision to run for Congress was right for me, my family, and my current Senate district. Secondly, we had to determine if it was probable to win the race and secure the seat. Normally, the first decision would be primary and then move on to deciding if we ‘could win.’ With the short time allowed to make a decision, I felt like we had to explore both decisions at the same time.”

While Republican leaders in WNC who have represented voters in various capacities were seemingly caught off guard by Cawthorn’s announcement, individuals within the district seemed aware of the tactical move, with some, specifically GOP District Chair Michele Woodhouse, poised to launch a Congressional campaign.

Over the weekend, Cawthorn campaigned in the newly drawn District 13 by attending Turning Point Faith Church in Charlotte where he was introduced as a “hero who has been draining the swamp and kicking butt.”

FILING BEGINS

Continued from page 1

Democratic, Libertarian, or Republican.

Each candidate that wins in each contest on their party’s ballot will become a nominee. The nominee will appear on the ballot in the general election contest. To become the party’s nominee, the candidate must win by at least 30 percent of the vote plus one. If no candidate reaches the total necessary to become the nominee in a contest on the ballot, a second primary may be held on April 26 or May 17. The date will depend on whether a federal office is involved.

Statewide races on the primary ballot include:

- The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives
- The N.C. General Assembly
- The N.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Local races on the primary ballot include:

- Sheriff
- Register of Deeds
- Clerk of Court
- County Commissioner

Local races specific to Macon County that will appear on the November ballot have various filing deadlines – Soil & Water: Filing begins noon on June 13 through July 1; and School Board: Filing begins noon July 25 and runs through August 13.

Rep. Cawthorn took to social media to declare his visit to his “new district.”

“So happy to speak at a church in my new district this past weekend. Looking forward to fighting for you all in DC,” read Cawthorn’s post on social media.

Despite Cawthorn’s declaration regarding his new district, he is slated to continue representing WNC until the Nov. 2022 election.

Sen. Corbin said given the short time he had to consider a run for Congress, he and his family decided he would be better suited to serve voters by staying in the North Carolina General Assembly.

“As soon as I heard about Rep. Cawthorn, I immediately began talking with my family and close friends about the idea of running for Congress and asked them to not give me an immediate answer but to thoughtfully examine the situation as if we knew a win were very likely,” said Sen. Corbin.

“Secondly, we employed many experts in the political community from political analysts in Washington and Raleigh to colleagues in both Washington and Raleigh. We found that the district is conservative leaning and I won a Republican Primary election for my current Senate seat with a margin of 80% to 20%. Prior to that, our House wins had been with a winning margin

of over 70%. My current district encompasses much of the newly redrawn Congressional district. I am in my third term in the NC General Assembly and first term in the Senate. We enjoy high name recognition in much of the district. With those factors determined the ‘electability’ conclusion was simply this: If we made a run and worked hard, the likelihood of winning the Congressional seat is good.”

Despite the statistical probability of winning the open Congressional seat, Sen. Corbin said it wasn’t the right time for him or his family.

“The first and more important part of the decision-making process was to consider what is right for my family, my district, and myself,” said Sen. Corbin. “The conclusion became clear. My family was hesitant about such a quick decision. Nobody in our ‘camp’ knew about the Cawthorn decision until it was revealed in the media just a few days ago. We didn’t have a good feeling about that. Secondly, I have quickly gained respect in the General Assembly having been there now three terms. I am in line to increase seniority in the Senate. Every member has a vote and we all understand that, but seniority is certainly a factor when it comes to things such as chairing committees, influence with other Senators, and possibilities of positions of leadership. Those are all factors in how well I am able to serve my district.”

Just as the recent census brought changes that resulted in the new Congressional District Rep. Cawthorn intends to run in, Sen. Corbin’s Senate District 50 will change slightly with the addition of Transylvania County.

“I look forward to having the opportunity of serving the folks of Transylvania County and have already started working to earn their support as their Senator,” said Corbin. “With all that said, I thank all those involved for helping to craft this decision to seek re-election to the NC Senate and not make a run for Congress at this time. I’ll not say never but just, not now. Also, staying in my current position brings other possibilities for serving the State of North Carolina which is a greater calling for me than serving in Washington. I don’t assume anything and am very careful to recognize that my re-election to the NC Senate is up to the voters and not me. I am however, announcing that I will file for re-election on the first day of filing on Dec. 6.”



Sen. Kevin Corbin with son Matt, wife Beth and daughter, Maggie as he is being sworn in in 2020.

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Investigation continues into former detention officer charged with rape

The Macon County Sheriff's Office first began an investigation into Detention Officer Kevin Sanchez on Monday, Nov. 15, after receiving a complaint of a sexual assault. The department's Special Victims Unit initiated the investigation and quickly enlisted the assistance of both District Attorney Ashley Welch's office and the State Bureau of Investigation.

The investigation was launched after Sheriff Robert Holland was notified by MCSO Jail Administrator Captain Dereck Jones that one of the agency's employees was alleged to be involved in an assault and it was being reported by a friend of the victim. Sheriff Holland contacted Captain Dani Burrows of the Criminal Investigations Unit and requested that she and one of her detectives from CIU immediately initiate an investigation into the allegations.

On Friday, Nov. 19, Sheriff Holland met with Officer Sanchez and following a brief conversation, the Sheriff terminated his employment effective immediately. Sheriff Holland then advised Sanchez that he was being formally charged with Second Degree Forcible Rape. An SBI Agent served the arrest warrants that had been obtained by MCSO detectives. Sheriff Holland made arrangements with another Sheriff to house Sanchez while Sanchez attempted to make a bond in the amount of \$400,000.

"While this was an employee of the Macon County Sheriff's Office in good standings at the time of the alleged crime was committed, he was not on duty," Sheriff Holland stated.



Kevin Sanchez

"We recognize that we cannot control what our employees do when they are not working but anytime an allegation is made against one of our employees we take it seriously and will investigate any and all allegations. Wherever the facts lead us we will do the right thing in the end even if it means arresting one of our own."

Since the initial arrest of Sanchez, additional allegations have been made against him, although according to Sheriff Holland, no official complaints have been made to his agency at this time.

"Investigators are aware of comments being made on social media pertaining to this case but as of this moment we have not been contacted by any witnesses or any other potential victims as speculated on social media," said Sheriff Holland. "As with any case we would encourage anyone with information to contact us and we would follow up with that information. Mr. Sanchez is now a former employee and unfortunately there are laws that prohibit me from sharing any information we might have related to any complaints about him while employed. However, in fairness to him and the staff at the MCSO as well as our citizens, I will say I have not had any complaints made against Mr. Sanchez that accuses him of any illegal behavior or it would have been addressed. I also am aware of the accusations being made on social media and again I would encourage those who have information of any kind to come forward and allow investigators to do their job."

Burn ban in effect in Macon County

The North Carolina Forest Service instituted a burn ban on Nov. 29. The authorization also cancels all burning permits issued by the the NCFS and prohibits open burning statewide. Franklin Mayor Bob Scott sent out a "Fire Danger Emergency" declaration and Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor followed suit.

The declaration states that existing dry conditions constitute an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property should a fire break out either accidentally or as a result of person or persons starting a fire.

The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed:

All open burning of any substance shall be prohibited within any or all of the Town of Franklin until such time as the burn ban declaration from the North Carolina Forest Service has been rescinded; and

Open burning means the intentional burning of any substance, whether natural or man-made, or the intentional casting off of any burning substance, whether natural or man-

made, except the burning of such substance in a container sufficient so as to prohibit the escape of any of the burning substance, or any sparks, flames or hot ashes from the container.

The escape of any of such burning substance, or the escape of any sparks, flames or hot ashes from any such container shall be deemed prima facie evidence that the container was insufficient so as to meet the exception from the definition of an open burning set forth herein.

The maintaining of a fire in any interior fireplace, stove or furnace is specifically excluded from the definition of an open burning as contemplated by this declaration.

All Town of Franklin law enforcement officers, employees, and all other emergency management personnel are directed to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Town of Franklin Emergency Operations Plan. This declaration shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

School board discusses how to spend \$15 million in federal ESSER funding

Brittney Lofthouse - Contributing Writer

Last week, the Macon County Board of Education held a special called meeting for the purpose of discussing nearly \$15 million in ESSER funding and possible employee bonuses as well as other business as needed.

Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the Department of Education awarded these grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

After working with a community collaborative, Assistant Superintendent Josh Lynch presented a proposal to members of

the Macon County Board of Education Monday night regarding use of the district's ESSER funding.

In addition to using the ESSER funding for project-based learning across Macon County Schools as well as addressing mental health concerns within the school system, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin explained the funding would be used to add six classrooms at East Franklin Elementary School including a Pre-K classroom. Dr. Baldwin then proposed using \$4.5 million in ESSER funding allocated to the district to provide employee retention bonuses for all employees within the school system.

On a motion made by Tommy Cabe and seconded by Carol Arnold, the Board unanimously approved an Employee Retention Bonus of \$1500 for full-time employees and \$750 for part-time employees. The bonus will be paid out in the December payroll.

In addition, on a motion made by Tommy Cabe and seconded by Carol Arnold, the Board unanimously approved to authorize Dr. Baldwin to begin the Request for Qualifications from Architects (RFQ) process for East Franklin Elementary School.

Zonta Club leads the charge to end all violence against women

The Zonta Club of Franklin is participating in 16 Days of Activism, posting signs and orange bows at the courthouse and Town Hall asking citizens to do their part in the campaign to end all forms of violence against women. Zonta's advocacy includes contacting state and national legislators and bring awareness of the Equal Rights Amendment (which has not passed), STEM RESTART (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - Restoring Employment Skills through targeted Assistance, Re-entry and Training) Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

In the United States, one in every six women is the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetimes and almost all suffer from PTSD in the aftermath. In fact, more suffering is caused to the victim by rape than any other form of violent crime.

In North Carolina, around four of every 10 murdered women were killed by their sexual partner.

Risk factors for domestic violence include poverty, low education levels, early marriage and trauma, but educated, prominent males are also abusers. Unfortunately, the Covid

pandemic has increased gender-based assaults everywhere; in North Carolina the number of domestic violence cases has increased by 2,000 over the previous year.

Domestic abuse isn't the only form of assault suffered by girls and women; online targeting, leading to either cyber-bullying or in-person attacks is a concern in the digital age. Consider the recent case of a young North Carolina girl who, at first, went willingly with her abductor, then, realizing her predicament, she made the hand signal to show she was in danger - a signal spotted by a passing motorist. The police were then able to detain her abductor and return her home.

Violence against women affects them, their families and their communities. Zonta advocates for the survivors, promoting legislation and education to target violence against women and to improve outcomes for assault victims. From late November until Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, Zonta worldwide is focusing attention on gender-based violence.

Zonta Club of Franklin is a member of Zonta International with 29,000 members in 63 countries working together to improve the lives of women and girls.



ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

'I Love My Town' serves children near and far

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

An advocate for area foster children, Rachel Marshall helped start I Love My Town Christmas at Discover Church six years ago with 60 foster children in need of clothing and other items. That number has risen to 300 for this Sunday's I Love My Town Christmas, a Discover Church initiative occurring all morning Dec. 5, beginning at 8:30 a.m., that aims to call attention to and meet the needs of displaced children in Macon and surrounding counties.

Instead of regular worship services, the church "sends out," according to Pastor Ben Windle, participants to be "salt and light" in the community. Tags featuring needs are picked off various Christmas trees in the worship center and participants shop area stores and purchase items and bring them back to the church, where they will readied for delivery to foster families in time for Christmas. Participants purchase gifts for children anonymously.

Besides foster children, I Love My Town Christmas meets the needs of about 100 children in the Angel Tree ministry – which reaches children whose parents are incarcerated – as well as raises funds for two mission focuses: Haiti and Honduras. Monies raised for missions provide food, water, shelter, schooling, and more to struggling children and families in

these two countries.

"As a church, we support local foster families and want to be a resource and help provide for the kids in care," said Julie Adams, wife of Discover Church's facilities pastor, John Adams. The couple are licensed foster parents. "I Love My Town Christmas provides an opportunity for the community to be in this together."

Prior to the event, foster families are contacted to learn children's coat size, pants size, shirt size, and shoe size. Plus, the child is able to provide ideas for a toy or special gift.

"Macon County, Swain Family Resource Center, Jackson County, MPP, and local school principals send names of families in need," said Adams. "We have a heart for foster children and the foster families who open their homes and hearts to serve them. We want to help support them and walk this journey with them. When a family takes in foster children that also adds quite a bit to their schedule, including doctors' visits, visitation, school appointments, and so much more. We find that we can help save some time and show support at the same time when we

provide Christmas gifts for the children."

Anyone is welcome to participate in and support I Love My Town Christmas at Discover Church, or they can donate to help with purchasing items listed on tags that do not get chosen during the Dec. 5 event. Children whose tags are not chosen are shopped for by volunteers using donated funds.



I Love My Town Christmas, an annual event at Discover Church on the first Sunday of December provides opportunities for the community to donate monies for mission efforts and to purchase needed items for hundreds of foster children.

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Lecture offers facts about the Cherokee and Revolutionary War

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center offers free lectures pertaining to the area's culture, literary scene, nature, and more. Last month, Barbara Duncan presented "Cherokees in the Revolutionary War: Rutherford's Rampage." Duncan, who received her Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania, explained that a main goal of the presentation was to clear up confusion and misconceptions pertaining to the various North Carolina Highway Historical Markers, such as the one on Wayah Road at Wayah Gap that reads: "Cherokee Defeat - During the American Revolution, S.C. forces under Colonel Andrew Williamson defeated the Cherokees, nearby at the 'Black Hole,' Sept. 1776."

Duncan's talk to the packed auditorium at Cowee School explored the details of what actually happened in Macon County in September 1776 when two armies invaded deep into the Cherokee Nation. Instead of residents just reading that there was a "Cherokee defeat," slides were shown and information shared to paint a picture of cultural and political idiosyncrasies and details leading up to the devastating event.

"General Griffith Rutherford and Colonel Andrew Williamson led about 4,500 men on a mission 'to extirpate the Cherokees completely,' carrying out a scorched earth policy along the Little Tennessee, Hiwassee, and Valley Rivers," said Duncan. "The Cherokees, allies of the British, resisted strategically."

The tensions began in 1763 when King George III decreed that no settlements would be allowed beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains. However, Wataugans, white settlers, settled on Cherokee lands and a strain mounted among Natives, settlers, and the British until finally Gen. Rutherford "decided

to use the Revolutionary War [distractions in the North] as the time to remove Cherokee altogether from desired white settlement lands. Although the influx of soldiers to the area now known as Macon County was touted in the 1700s through correspondence as an "expedition," Duncan stated to the Cowee School audience that the burning of Cherokee homes, gardens, and crops was not an "expedition."

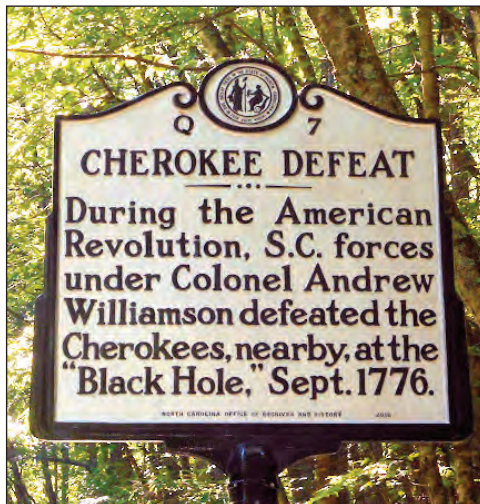
The culmination of the violence occurred when the outnumbered Cherokee ambushed the militiamen. An essay from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, pertaining to the Wayah Gap historical marker, blames violence toward the Cherokee and the destruction of villages on retaliation measures. It reads: "In response to numerous Cherokee raids in the summer of 1776, the South Carolina government coordinated an offensive with North Carolina leaders. Col. Andrew Williamson led 2,000 South Carolina militiamen

north into Cherokee territory in early September 1776 with orders to join Gen. Griffith Rutherford's North Carolinians. On September 19, Williamson and his men marched into an ambush in a gorge [thought to be somewhere along what is now Wayah Road] known as the 'Black Hole.'"

Research determined that a female Cherokee warrior was in the fray.

"She was dressed as a man and held off some of the men," said Duncan. "But the result of that September in 1776, was that so much food was destroyed that the Cherokees said this was the winter they had to eat their horses to survive."

She added that after the fighting in 1776, the Cherokees rebuilt their towns and lived along the Little Tennessee until this land was taken in the Treaty of 1819, which ceded all Cherokee land to the crest of the Nantahala Mountains.



A historical marker exists on Wayah Road that expresses the "Cherokee Defeat" that occurred in 1776.



An artist's rendering shows what Cherokee life was like along the Little Tennessee River in Macon and surrounding counties before "Rutherford's Rampage" in 1776.

"Some Cherokees were able to hold land in their own names and remained in Macon County even when the Trail of Tears removed most Cherokees to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

"But the Cherokee are still here, and that's what they want people to know," continued Duncan. "They are 16,000 members strong in the Qualla Boundary, which is 100 square miles of territory the Eastern Band of the Cherokee bought back from the Federal government in 2008. And they are still here in the many descendants living in Macon County and Western North Carolina."

Duncan coordinated "Folk Arts in the Schools" in Macon County for several years, worked for The Foxfire Fund, and then went on to spend 23 years at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, where she wrote grants, researched, wrote books, and coordinated festivals and community-based programs to revitalize Cherokee traditions. Currently, she teaches Cherokee language as assistant adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Thus, her Nov. 15 presentation was based on years of delving into "official dispatches, letters, newspaper articles, and even correspondence with Thomas

Jefferson" that occurred during the assault on the Cherokee.

"Thanks to digitization, everything I learned was confirmed by at least two resources," she said, pointing out that with the onslaught of Rutherford, Williamson, and the soldiers, the Cherokee men at the time concentrated on preserving the lives of their women and children. Thousands of Cherokee lived in the "middle towns," which existed from Franklin up to around Bryson City.

Duncan, noting to the crowd that she realized there are different perspectives and opinions about historical events just as there are varying views on current events, shared what a tribal member said to her: "Take hats off to the past; roll sleeves up to the future."

Duncan has written books about Cherokee history and culture, including "Living Stories of the Cherokee," and "The Cherokee Heritage Trails Guidebook" (co-authored with Brett H. Riggs). Her most recent book is "Cherokee Clothing in the 1700s," published by the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

Duncan's presentation was part of "Where We Live: History, Nature, and Culture," a lecture series held monthly at Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

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WCU nursing students assist refugee community in Clarkston, Georgia

A recent field trip for nursing students at Western Carolina University provided some heartwarming and heartbreaking moments during a day of health care outreach.

The 10 students traveled this month to assist with free dental services in Clarkston, Georgia, a small town within the greater Atlanta metro area that is home to a sizeable community of international refugees and referred to as the “Ellis Island of the South.”

This is where, more often than not, the process of assimilation begins, and the new residents learn to adjust to this melting pot of a country. Over the years, the resettlement program has accepted more than 40,000 displaced persons from some different 50 countries.

“I think one of the moments I will remember forever is the large group of children smiling, running up and hugging or holding hands with me and the other students,” said Rachael Crawford, of Winston-Salem. “The people, both children and adults, showed positivity no matter what their prior circumstances or past trauma had been.”

The WCU group came away with career experience and cultural insights, as well as experiencing some poignant moments during the visit.

“It broke my heart to see kids get excited over getting a toothbrush, a bar of soap, toothpaste, and just other things that I take for granted and do not get excited about,” said Sydney Kinter, of Rutherfordton. “These kids were fighting to get in line to be the first to learn how to properly wash their hands.”

“My favorite experience while we were there was when a very cute boy around 4 years old got down on one knee and proposed to me, taking a tire from one of his toy cars,” she said. “At first, I had no idea what he was doing, but when he slipped the tire onto my finger, I knew exactly what he meant. It was honestly the sweetest thing ever.”

Cheryl Clark, an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Nursing, organized the trip through Nurses Christian Fellowship in conjunction with Envision Atlanta, a faith-based mission group. It was a combination of community service and skill building workshop, the type of activity that the School of Nursing is known for.

“There is so much incorporated into one service visit,” Clark said. “We put together hygiene kits beforehand to distribute to the children when we get there, we help with basics with adults, from filing paperwork – which can be challenging with so many dif-



Western Carolina University nursing students were overwhelmed by the positivity of the refugees in welcoming them to their community. The students handed out hygiene kits, helped parents with paper work and did general medical assessments. More trips are planned to the area including several that will include nursing school alumni.

ferent languages – recording blood pressure, weight and height and general medical assessments, to helping doctor as they process patients.

“Our students were brilliant, getting kids to help translate for parents when they could, showing kindness and going beyond the required procedures to personally reach the person and make them feel cared for,” she said.

Clark expressed appreciation to Lane Perry, executive director of WCU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, for assistance with transportation arrangements and other logistics. Future trips to the refugee community are scheduled, including several that will include nursing school alumni.

“Getting to experience the culture and being able to provide some health care and conversation with those in the area was very meaningful to me,” said Billy Pilcher, a senior who anticipates graduating in December. “I hope I am able to return in the future to Clarkston, Georgia, and be able to show the individuals there in the community how they are worthy and cared about so much.”

WCU’s School of Nursing is nationally ranked, with undergraduate and graduate programs offered at the main campus in Cullowhee, the Biltmore Park instructional site in Asheville and online. For more information, go to nursing.wcu.edu.



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TekTone employees making a difference in the local community

TekTone Sound & Signal Mfg., Inc. hosted a "Pink Out Day" in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness during the month of October.

TekTone employees were encouraged to dress in pink for "Pink Out Day" on Oct. 21 to raise awareness for this disease affecting so many lives in the community and around the world.

Johnny Mira-Knippel, president of TekTone, stated, "Given how much Breast Cancer Awareness month touches us at TekTone and here in Macon County, we wanted to do something for this cause."

A donation to Macon County Public Health women's programs was made on behalf of TekTone employees. Macon County Public Health was chosen because of its continued efforts to support the women in Macon County. Kathy McGaha, Macon County health director stated,

"We are incredibly grateful for this donation from TekTone. We are so proud that an industry leader is not only based in Macon County, but also is giving back to their community. This money will be put to use to continue our efforts to provide free screening, services and care-management to low-income women in Macon County facing Breast and Cervical Cancer," said Macon County Public Health director Kathy McGaha.

TekTone employees give back to local health care workers TekTone Sound & Signal Mfg. Inc. employees delivered homemade baked goods to Angel Medical Center staff to say "thank you" for their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of TekTone's culture and desire to give back, employees are participating in a quarterly appreciation project for individuals and organizations in the Franklin



TekTone employees participated in a "Pink Out Day" to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness in the month of October. Employees made a donation to Macon County Public Health to aid in its support for women with free screening, services and care management to low income women facing cancer.

community. Employees started off the community giveback by delivering homemade baked goods to the staff at Angel Medical Center since they have been on the frontlines and supported the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Even during turbulent times, acts of kindness are a part of the culture at TekTone. We wanted to express how grateful we are for every single frontline worker caring for our community's residents. Thank you for being such great people and for making sure that all of us are safe and healthy," says Brad Hyder, Marketing Manager at TekTone.

Homemade baked goods made by TekTone employees were taken to Angel Medical Center last Tuesday. Brown-

ies, cookies and other treats were delivered to both day and night shift employees.

"In the true spirit of Thanksgiving, the team at TekTone took the time to honor our healthcare workers at Angel Medical Center, letting them know how much of a difference they make to our patients and community. TekTone's acknowledgment and support during a difficult time for the healthcare industry goes far deeper than the treats they shared. We're truly grateful for their support," said Clint Kendal, Angel's CEO/CNO.

About TekTone

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TekTone employees recently delivered homemade baked goods to the frontline employees at Angel Medical Center to show their appreciation for their hard work in caring for the community's residents.

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Dogwood Health Trust shares goals, objectives

Dogwood Health Trust has announced the formal release of its goals and objectives within each of the organization's four strategic priorities: Housing, Education, Economic Opportunity, Health & Wellness. The result of months of research, discussion and planning, the new goals - posted to its website - will guide Dogwood's work over the next several years.

"This work is the result of months of research, learning, discussion and planning among our Impact Strategy Teams, which are made up of board, committee and staff members," said Dr. Susan Mims, interim CEO of Dogwood Health Trust. "These teams engaged with local and regional community partners and leaders as well as national experts to identify the opportunities that Dogwood's can leverage as part of its overall community investment strategy to move toward our vision."

"The goals and objectives in each of our four Strategic Priorities will frequently include cross-sector approaches and will embrace investments that address needs shared by all - such as broadband access and a focus on equity," said William Buster, Dogwood's Senior Vice President of Impact. "Each goal provides ample room for ongoing innovation, partnership and growth, so that we can welcome other opportunities that nonprofit leaders will propose in alignment with our goals."

Buster also explained that Dogwood's Impact Strategy Teams are now identifying the metrics they will use to gauge their progress and allow the community to understand the extent to which the strategies are "moving the needle."

To achieve its defined goals and objectives, Dogwood will continue its grantmaking activities along with impact investing, convening, education and advocacy, capacity building, as well as using its leverage and influence to attract additional partners, investments and allies for Western North Carolina. Additionally, the organization is updating its process for grantmaking in 2022 to include more regular grant cycles and request for proposal (RFP) opportunities to coalesce partners around certain goals for deeper or broader impact.

"We understand that achieving our goals will take many partners and that community collaboration and ownership are absolutely necessary if our region is going to dramatically improve health and wellbeing for everyone," said Mims. "We are eager to continue the collaboration begun through our strategic planning and investments this year and anticipate that our goals and objectives will continue to evolve as we learn, ensuring that Dogwood's work aligns with local needs."

Potential partners and organizations seeking funding from Dogwood are encouraged to explore the goals and objectives on Dogwood's website and share ideas and questions with the Impact Team.

About Dogwood Health Trust

Dogwood Health Trust is a private foundation based in Asheville, North Carolina with the sole purpose of dramatically improving the health and wellbeing of all people and communities of 18 counties and the Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina. Dogwood Health Trust focuses on innovative and equitable ways to address the many factors that contribute to overall health and wellbeing, with a focus on housing, education, economic opportunity, and health and wellness. Dogwood Health Trust works to create a Western North Carolina where every generation can live, learn, earn and thrive, with dignity and opportunity for all, no exceptions. To learn more, please visit www.dht.org.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I read Reverend Manning's column several weeks ago about taking time to be thankful on Thanksgiving. The minister expressed concern about stores open and people working on that special holiday.

Thanksgiving morning I rode through town and noticed Main Street was closed down. I drove to the major construction sites, like the new fire station, the Episcopal Church, and the Performing Arts Center. They were closed, too.

Then I drove through a neighborhood only to encounter a construction crew working on a house under renovation. My Thanksgiving spirit sunk as I asked the question, are people so busy meeting deadlines that construction has to continue on Thanksgiving? People in the neighborhood were about to settle down to dinner, and they shouldn't have been subjected to construction operations.

I contacted the police and asked them to remind the construction crew that work was not allowed on holidays. Highlands has an ordinance that prohibits construction work on holidays.

Friday morning construction work in the town was back to almost a normal level. The next day, Saturday, I was in my yard around 2:30. I heard a loud, concerted roar of leaf blowers coming from a distant area. I suspected a landscape contractor was working on Saturday afternoon. While I understand homeowners doing yard work on Saturday, such as grass cutting and leaf blowing, I do have concerns about commercial operations on weekends. Our ordinance is somewhat ambiguous about the issue of landscape companies working on the weekend, although I have witnessed commercial landscapers working in my neighborhood even on Sundays.

The leaf blowers continued to blare all that Saturday afternoon. About 4:30 I decided to take a road run. I ran toward the sound of the leaf blowers. After about a mile from my house I came upon the source of the noise. It wasn't one landscape contractor operating leaf blowers, but rather a concert of two crews from two companies operating multiple leaf blowers in the same area. I don't know how people living near by dealt with that situation.

My concern is that Highlands has always been a retreat community where folks come to get away from all

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Redistricting maps should get most attention

North Carolina's General Assembly has a long and not so honorable history of creating legislative maps that have been consistently struck down by federal and N.C. courts. This year, maps for N.C. Congressional districts, State Senate districts and State Representative districts were drawn again as they are every 10 years due to U.S. Census data, or when the courts order new maps. Indeed, N.C. has drawn more litigation over this issue than any other state over the past 10 years.

One would think that the Republican legislators who control the map making process would have been embarrassed by their past behavior and the millions of taxpayer dollars they have spent defending their work only to have the courts declare that their maps are illegal. One would think - if they didn't already know that the Republicans in the General Assembly are either very slow learners and/or they just don't care about fairness. Or as is said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

After months of work and public hearings, the General Assembly passed maps for Congress, state Senate and state House. The maps passed along strictly party- lines - Not one Republican voted against the maps and not one Democrat voted for the maps. And Governor Cooper cannot veto these maps because only N.J. and N.C. do not allow the governor to veto redistricting maps. How convenient! As one of the commenters said during the recent redistricting hearing at Western Carolina University "Let's call this what it is. Political corruption, pure and simple." And that was before the maps were drawn.

The only way to challenge these maps is through the courts. Already, the NAACP, Common Cause and several voters have filed suits, challenging the legality of these maps. And noted Democratic election attorney Marc Elias and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder are filing suits. Elias won lawsuits challenging prior N.C. redistricting plans in both federal and local courts. Following the passing of the 2021 maps he said that "N.C. Republicans are persistent and shameless," and he intends to beat them again.

Why are these suits needed? N.C. is as close to being a 50/50 Democratic/Republican state as any state in the country. In the 2020 elections, Democratic congressional candidates received more than 50% of the votes while winning only three of 13 N.C. congressional seats. The maps which just passed don't even pretend to be fair, giving Republicans a 10-4 or an 11-3 advantage in the 2022 Congressional races. The maps for state Senate and state Representative are just as skewed, giving Republicans a likely veto proof majority in the General Assembly again following the 2022 election. And the new maps clearly make our Black, Latino and Native American representatives underdogs for reelection. How convenient!

Many election experts have weighed in on our new maps. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project evaluates election

maps across the country and has given the NC General Assembly an "F" for their maps. They simulated a million possible maps for N.C. and only the outliers showed anything close to the maps which we ended up with. Our General Assembly really had to work hard to come up with maps as unfair as these.

North Carolina will be adding another congressperson due to our population growth over the past decade. Here in Western N.C., we have been in Congressional District 11. In 2022, we will be in Congressional District 14 which will include Watauga County (Boone) and move three counties - McDowell, Rutherford and Polk- to Congressional District 13. President Biden carried Watauga County in 2020. However, Virginia Fox has been the congressperson from that area since 2004. So, I'll bet you think that Ms. Fox will have to run for reelection in the 2022 primary against our own Madison Cawthorn. Well, of course, you'd be wrong because our General Assembly carved out Ms. Fox's home precinct in Watauga County and placed it in the new District 11. Watauga County is the only county in the state where a teeny, tiny slice was moved to favor an incumbent congressperson. Again, how convenient!

This makes Madison Cawthorn's race more competitive. So, what has he done? He jumped ship and will now run in the newly created Congressional District 13 as he feels he has a better chance of winning there than in our district. So, before he has completed even half of his first term, he is writing off most of the present District 11 and focusing his time on running in his new district. To paraphrase the old Irish Ballad "Maddie, we hardly knew ye." But we're used to that. After all, former Congressman Mark Meadows left District 11 without representation for 10 months when he left his job to become White House Chief of Staff.

So, where do we go from here? Well, it's up to the courts. At least two possibilities:

We will have to run the 2022 elections with these new maps because there is not enough time to redraw them before the end of the candidate filing period of (December 6-17) and our March 8 primary election. If new maps are mandated by the courts, those maps will be drawn after the 2022 election.

The court(s) will order N.C. to move the candidate filing period and the March primary to allow time for new maps to be drawn. The N.C. primary elections have often been in May, so that is a possible solution. But this would have to happen very fast.

It's hard to believe that this is where we have landed. This type of thing is going on in many states controlled by both Democrats and Republicans. It is a major reason that we can't have competitive elections and look what we end up with. With all the talk about secure elections, this is the situation which should be getting the most attention. When we allow partisan hacks to make all the rules, this is what we get. Is it any wonder why so many people have lost interest in politics and why our political bodies have such low approval ratings? Our democracy is at stake if we don't get this fixed soon.

Gary St. Arnaud - Franklin, N.C.

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Safety and well being of Americans has been destroyed

“Surely a more stable person could be found.”

President Joe Biden obviously does not know who he was elected to represent.

He is more dedicated to the well-being of the illegal aliens and open border policy than American citizens.

Also, what help is being given to the Americans left behind in his rushed Afghanistan departure? We left billions of dollars in military equipment, which will be used against us, while they are wearing our military uniforms. It appears our Commander in Chief is unaware of the pledge of no American left behind.

Proof of COVID 19 vaccination is not required for illegal aliens entering into the United States. No prior notice is extended to governors and mayors prior to releasing the illegal aliens into the various states.

Proposing to pay each illegal alien separated from their family the enormous sum of \$450,000 each, is just a ridiculous. When bad behavior is rewarded, all you get back is more behavior. This plan makes one wonder if they should fly to Mexico and walk back across the border.

He shuts down construction of the Keystone Pipeline and then pressures Russian and other counties to pump more oil, which we will purchase, causing us to pay even higher prices for gasoline. The price per gallon is already at \$5.00 per gallon in California.

May the wrath of God almighty be brought down on President Joe Biden, and all of his administration, for destroying the safety and well-being of Americans now and for future generations.

John Nord – Franklin, N.C.

The gift of courageous love

We seem to follow the things we love most. Whether a favored celebrity, political party, social media or for whatever pulls the heart for total allegiance. Modern man seems to be at the point of worshipping what man creates or wants to create. We've come to the place where even within leadership we're told how to view life and they will lead us into an enlightenment that has never been realized. Everything of the past is in question and we must march to a new drummer, which only they themselves seem qualified to fulfill. This seems a chipping away little by little where there's hardly any notice of how the past has brought us to the present. Many are uneasy with this modern thinking, yet there also are those who gladly embrace it.

There was a young, 26-year-old man, who is unknown to many of us by the name of August Landmesser. He was a Nazi loyalist, but yet in a photo taken at a rally in Hamburg Germany, all arms were extended in salute to the country's leader, "Hitler." Except there was one with folded arms, August, who refused to salute. He realized the evil of hatred towards fellow human beings, seeing that he fell in love with a young lady named Irma Eckler. You see, Irma Eckler was a young Jewish women whom August was deeply in love with. They married and had a child, half Jew and half German, which was a disgrace in German society. She was sent to a concentration camp and there died, and he was sent to the front line and declared missing in action. August, in such courageous love saw beyond what man called upon him to hate yet made such a statement of what is only found outside of mankind. A love we wish for and all desire. His love was so deeply courageous it was worth dying for.

We follow what we love, and we love what we choose, we choose to listen to those who tell us what to hate, who tell us that they are right and others are wrong. We listen little to the Divine calling that is outside of futile man, the only one who courageously died for all our hate, selfish desires, pride, the love towards evil and all the while we say, "look at us, we are good." To what do we point our children to? Do

TAYLOR

From previous page

the hustle and bustle of metropolitan, city life. The question for me is whether in our enthusiasm to build more, attract more visitors and expand business opportunities, are we not slowly and subtly degrading the quality of life in this special community? In our quest to build and develop more in pursuit of the good mountain life, are we destroying what we strive to enjoy?

I know some will say here goes that anti business mayor. I support businesses, wise growth and development. On the other hand, I'm concerned about growing practices that reduce our quality of life, especially in residential areas.

In the coming weeks I will ask the town board to review current ordinances concerning construction work on weekends. Our ordinance may need clarification. Also, I will request a review of noise issues coming from equipment operation.

we point to our leaders or media which begs our allegiance that we're so committed to? If we ourselves can't explain a foundation upon which we stand, and only have mankind as a foundation. This foundation is built on the history of shifting sand with little direction of where man is going or what value man is. Christ's courageous love is what He gives, asking for courageous love back to Him. There is much to be thankful for, especially when there's a foundation that is true and tested and is where such love is found.

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

Freedom to Vote act will save our democracy

I have lived and voted in WNC for 23 years. During that time our Congressional representation has changed four times. On at least one of those occasions, the elected official declined to run again because his seat was deemed vulnerable due to redistricting. In other words, the State legislature re-drew the district lines to favor their own party and disadvantage the party of the incumbent. When this is the way district lines are drawn, it amounts to parties choosing voters, rather than voters choosing who will represent them. Both parties do it, and it is a practice that is designed to entrench power, not to serve the will of the people. It is a practice almost as old as the Republic, but modern technology has made it possible to design a winning district for your side "with near surgical precision."

There ought to be a law against that, you say?

The proposed Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will end partisan gerrymandering and ensure more fair, transparent and nonpartisan maps. The same technology that makes maps unfair can be used to make them fair, after all. Senators Burr and Tillis need to deliver the Freedom to Vote Act to the American people. To do that, they need to defy the majority leader in the U.S. Senate by eliminating the filibuster, a remnant of the Jim Crow era, which is blocking the progress of this overwhelmingly popular and urgently needed legislation. Then they must vote for the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Our democracy will not survive any other way.

Elizabeth Swift – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to
maconcountynews@gmail.com

How to avoid delivery scams, package theft

Some consumers have recently been getting text messages stating a major delivery carrier needs them to "update delivery preferences" on a package by clicking on a link. The problem? The text is a scam, and the link results in theft of personal information.

Most consumers love the convenience of making purchases online and having them shipped straight to their doorstep. But with millions of packages delivered each year, con artists and thieves have developed many ways to steal from shoppers. Fortunately, there are also many ways to protect yourself from their shady tactics.

Popular Delivery Scams

Delivery scams and theft are particularly prevalent at the holidays, when more packages are being shipped, but they can happen year round. Scammers are hoping shoppers are busy or distracted and will act without thinking.

The first scam to look out for are phishing texts or emails that pose as official notices from delivery companies. These either contain a "tracking link" or a message that the shipper is having difficulty delivering a package to you, or most recently, a link to update delivery preferences. Clicking the link either takes you to a form that asks for personally identifying information, or to a site that downloads malware onto your computer.

Another delivery scam involves fake "missed delivery" tags. Scammers place a note on your door that claims they are having challenges delivering a package to you. They ask you to call a phone number to reschedule your delivery, but it's really a ruse to get your personal information.

Another issue shoppers face is package theft. Many consumers have had their packages stolen before they arrive home from work. Thieves snatch packages from doorsteps or lobbies of apartment or condo complexes. Criminals even follow delivery and postal trucks. When the truck leaves, the crooks move in and grab the parcels.

How to Avoid Delivery Scams:

1. Take precautions to ensure a safe delivery. If you are having a valuable or fragile item delivered to your home, purchase shipping insurance. In addition, always get tracking numbers for your purchases and check the shipping progress periodically.

2. Watch out for texts, calls or emails about a missed delivery. Legitimate delivery services usually leave a "missed delivery" notice on your door. If you receive a missed delivery notice, examine the form carefully to make sure it is authentic and only then follow their instructions. Keep track of what you've ordered so you have a better idea of what is coming and when. Don't click on any links; go to the delivery carrier's website directly, or log in and use the retailer's tracking tools.

3. Request a Signature. Chances are this feature may come with a price tag, but it may be worth the extra fee. Requesting a signature means that a delivery service won't be able to drop a package on your doorstep unless someone is around to sign for it.

4. Don't leave packages sitting on your doorstep. Packages left sitting outside are particularly vulnerable to theft. To ensure safe delivery, have your package delivered to your workplace, or to a trusted friend or neighbor who will be home to accept delivery. Some delivery companies now have lockers where your packages can securely wait for you to pick them up using a one-time code to open the locker.

5. Open your delivery upon receipt to check for damage or signs of tampering. Contact the seller immediately if you believe something is wrong with the shipment or if it's not what you ordered. Also, be sure to review the seller's return policy for damaged or unwanted items.

Franklin Christmas Parade

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Franklin Christmas Parade in downtown Franklin on Sunday, Nov. 28. Always held the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the parade featured floats sponsored by local businesses, churches, civic groups, cheerleaders and more; the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment; classic cars; one motorized port-a-potty; a couple of goats, and Santa Claus as the grand finale.

Photos by Ellen Randall



Streets of Franklin hosts Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland and all its magic will be featured again this Saturday in downtown Franklin with roving characters, Santa Claus, carriage rides, live music and plenty of opportunities for a little early Christmas shopping. Winter Wonderland happens between 5 and 8 p.m.

Photo by Betsey Gooder



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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 November 12 - 27. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Franklin Police Department

November 12

Andrew Parker Casto, 29, was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass. A \$100 bond was set.

November 16

Joseph Lee Samarco, 48, was issued an order for arrest for the possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia and larceny. A bond of \$30,000 was set.

November 18

Damian Aswan Ray, 41, was charged with injury to personal property and assault on a female. A \$250 bond was set.

November 20

Desmond Jerome Williams, 24, was charged with failure to appear for operating a vehicle with no insurance, drive allow motor vehicle with no registration, permit operation vehicle not registered and disorderly conduct. A \$500 bond was set.

November 21

Maxwell David Jimenez, 24, was charged with driving while impaired and speeding 56 MPH in 35 MPH zone. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Robert Louis Bowman, 48, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$5,000 bond was set.

November 23

Jelissa Sarah Jordan, 29, was charged with second degree trespass and resisting officers. A \$750 bond was set.

Thomas Michael Johnson, 31, was charged with failure to appear for injury to real property. A \$1,500 bond was set.

November 24

Gaven Lee Henry, 28, was charged with driving while license revoked. A \$500 bond was set.

November 25

Casey Jordan Barnette, 27, was charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Jeffery Michael Miller, 38, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, exceed posted speed, cover/disguise registration plate, no insurance, failure to register a motor vehicle and no operators license. A \$1,600 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

November 13

Julio Cesar Rodriguez, 23, of Comet Ct., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Terrell Michael Rogers, 34, of Magic Circle, Was charged with receiving stolen goods/property, manufacture marijuana, felony possession of marijuana more than 1.5 ounces, felony possession of marijuana tetrahydrocannabinols, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance and possession of a firearm by a felon. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Steven Edward Lamar Mercer, 35, of Pam's Way, Bryson City, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia and felony possession of marijuana. No bond was set.

November 14

Joshua Clifford Marks, 42, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with violation of court order. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

November 15

Charles Joe Allmon, 30, of Tahquette Dr., Whittier, was charged with no operators license. A secured bond of \$250 was set.

Benjamin Scott Martinez, 45, of Mink Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Brent Andrew Moore, 31, of Mills Branch Rd., was charged with obtaining property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Brittany Ann Cosgrove, 26, of Garland Buchanan Rd., was charged with resist a public officer, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. No bond was set.

November 16

Matthew Thomas Snipes, 43, of Mountain River Dr., was charged with domestic violence protective order violation and motor vehicle theft. No bond was set.

Justin Reeves Lambert, 39, of Sunset Farm Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for simple possession of schedule II controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, uttering a forged instrument, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance. A secured bond of \$7,000 was set.

Debra B. Riddle, 57, of Sunny Dale Dr., Easley, S.C., was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

November 17

Reyna Mae Owle-Perez, 21, of Arrow Head Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault.

William Manuel Rodriguez, 27, of Arrowhead Lane, Whittier, was charged with interfere with 911 communication and assault on a female. No bond was set.

Cody Douglas Woodard, 27, of Swayney Rd., Cherokee, was charged with parole violation. No bond was set.

Michael Warren Wilnoty, 30, of Swimmer Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

November 18

Tomas Alan Manuel Rodriguez, 23, of Magic Circle, was charged with conspire to obtain property by false pretense, possession of stolen property and obtaining prop-

erty by false pretense. No bond was set.

November 19

Kaitlyn Brooke Price, 28, of Bigwitch Rd., Cherokee, was issued a true bill of indictment and failure to appear. A secured bond of \$2,250 was set.

November 20

Tameka Schalene Sherrill, of Holly Lane, Maggie Valley, was charged with driving while license revoked and possession of stolen vehicle. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Harvey Douglas Bumgarner, 36, of Floral Dr., was charged with breaking and entering non forcible and destruction/damage/vandalism of property. No bond was set.

William Jason Woodard, 37, of Leatherwood Dr., was charged with larceny after breaking and entering and breaking and entering. No bond was set.

November 21

Harvey Douglas Bumgarner, 36, of Floral Dr., was charged with felony larceny. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

November 22

Ubaldo Estrada Camacho, 36, of Jurassic Dr., Cashiers, was charged with failure to appear for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$45,000 was set. William S. Collins made the arrest.

November 23

Samantha Day Perry Marlow, 53, of Hicks Ridge, Blairsville, Ga., was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set. William S. Collins made the arrest.

Jeremy Richard Black, 43, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with child support purge and fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$27,059 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Michael James Stiwinter, 29, was charged with being a fugitive from South Carolina. A secured bond of \$20,500 was set. James A. Brown made the arrest.

November 25

Dalton Faron Taylor, 19, of Manor Trace, was charged with intoxicated and disruptive. A secured bond of \$200 was set. Megan L. Rhinehart made the arrest. Megan L. Rhinehart made the arrest.

November 26

Matthew Adam Freeman, 38, of Locke Dr. S.E., Atlanta, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for second degree trespass, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, carrying a concealed weapon, possession/manufacture fraudulent ID, resisting a public officer, first degree trespasss enter/remain, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, no operators license, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance and identity theft. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

November 27

Cadence Atton Green, 18, of Little Savannah Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for failure to stop for stopped school bus. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. William M. Hawkins made the arrest.

Kenneth David Groat, 39, of Sylva, was issued a true bill of indictment for statutory rape of a minor. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set. Dustin L. Bishop made the arrest.

Shyanne Joleen Bedsaul, 24, of Fisher Creek Rd., was charged with simple assault. No bond was set. James A. Brown made the arrest.

Michael David Touger, 37, of Retirement Lane, was issued a true bill of indictment for possession of burglary tools. No bond was set. Dustin L. Bishop made the arrest.

Dulcimer U's Winter Weekend January 6-9 at Lake Junaluska

Western Carolina University's Dulcimer U will hold its annual Winter Weekend event Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 6-9 at the Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska.

This event is for the beginner dulcimer player all the way to advanced players," said Bobby Hensley, associate director of continuing education. "This is a wonderful weekend of music and fellowship and a great way to learn more about the mountain dulcimer."

Participants will be able to choose classes based on their skill level during registration.

Early registration is \$175 per person until Dec. 9, after that date, the fee will be \$199 per person after December 9. The fee for non-participating guests is \$20.

Directors are Elaine and Larry Conger and instructors are Keith Watson, Ruth Barber, Jeff Furman, Anne Lough and Jim Miller.

Accommodations, classes and meals will all be located at the Lambuth Inn. Participants will need to book their room separate from their registration by calling the Lambuth Inn at 800.222.4930.

For more information and to register, visit dulcimeru.wcu.edu or call 828-227-7397.



Dulcimer U directors Larry and Elaine Conger.

Cowee Christmas checks all the boxes for holiday cheer

It's that time of year again when we think about the holiday season and wonder how we are going to spread a little Christmas cheer while creating meaningful memories. The 7th Annual Cowee Christmas event being held on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, checks all the boxes for getting us in a festive mood with one stop shopping for decorations and gifts, activities/crafts for the kids, photo opportunities and live entertainment by local musicians. Activities will be both inside the school and on the outside grounds. Masks will be required for entry into the school.

Beginning at 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., these Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center artisan tenants and vendors will be open where one might find that special gift or learn more about the culture of this historic area:

- Cowee Textiles – Weaving, Needle Felting and Hats by Teresa Bouchonnet
- Jon Houglum Fine Art & Painting Studio – Oil Landscapes & Painting Lessons
- The Mountaineer – Handcrafted Woodworking, Leatherworking and Soaps
- Cowee Pottery School – Wheel-thrown and Hand-built Studio Pottery & Classes
- Alarka Expeditions – Outdoor Excursions & Cultural Events
- Down Memory Lane Toy Museum – Extensive toy collection that spans decades
- Cynthia Kinard Portrait Legacies – Oil & Watercolor Paintings and Portraits



Balsam pillows will be on sale again this year to benefit the Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center.

Starting a bit later at 12 p.m. until 3 p.m., children and families will have an opportunity for free hands-on crafts and activities such as evergreen swag making, cookie decorating with Grandma's Kitchen, sewing a little bag with Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild, and making tree decorations with the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC). In addition, there will be other special activities such as Face Painting by Mary Bennett (sponsored by the Arts Council of Macon County), and photo opportunities featuring the Franklin Fire Department Antique Engine, Cowee Fire Department and Wayne English and friends and their antique cars which are sure to produce smiling faces. To complete the holiday enchantment, local musicians will be performing between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. – Wyatt Duvall, The White Sisters, Lady and the Tramps and Richard Tichich.

The Women's History Trail (a project of FHAMC) will be selling festive homemade cookies and hot drinks to benefit their annual student scholarship and fresh balsam pillows and swags will be available for purchase to benefit Cowee School.

For more information about Cowee Christmas, contact event organizer Claire Suminski (828) 342-9071 or email Claire@dometrics.com or visit Coweeshool.org.

The holiday celebration will continue at Cowee School with a new event, "A Cowee Nutcracker" scheduled for Friday, Dec. 17 – 19. For tickets, contact DanceArtsNC@gmail.com.

Submitted by Theresa Ramsey

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David Phelps and The Sock Hops kick off Christmas at SMCPA

David Phelps is returning to Franklin with his Christmas tour, David Phelps Live! It Must Be Christmas, the perfect way to kick off the holiday concert series at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. On Thursday, December 9, Phelps will perform both sacred and traditional Christmas favorites, as well as a few fun surprises. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$25 each, and priority seating is available.

David Phelps has performed inspiring Christian music all over the world for the greater part of two decades. He is a vocalist, songwriter, and vocal arranger who is also known for singing tenor in the Gaither Vocal Band. His masterful vocals and lush arrangements, as well as his ability to tell a story through his music, takes listeners on a journey of inspiration and worship.

Phelps grew up in a small town near Houston, Texas. He graduated from Baylor University in 1992 with a degree in music and vocal performance. While studying at Baylor, Phelps met Lori Purtle, who has been his wife and a huge supporter of his career for more than 20 years. The couple have four kids and make their home on a farm in outside of Nashville, Tenn.

While in college, many of Phelps' teachers felt he should pursue a career in secular music in the world of opera, or somewhere on Broadway, but he knew Christian music was his calling. In 1994, he released his first solo album. Since then, he has released 14 solo albums, two compilation albums, and contributed to 17 Gaither Vocal Band albums. He has also contributed to recordings by various other artists including Larry Gatlin, Mark Lowry, and Michael English.

In 2009, Phelps joined the Gaither Vocal Band and has been featured in more than 30 Gaither Homecom-



ing videos. While touring with the Gaither Vocal Band, Phelps continued to focus on his solo work and in 2017, Phelps stepped away from Gaither projects so he could focus primarily on his solo career. He has won 12 Dove Awards, is a four-time Grammy Award nominee, and has had several platinum-selling projects. He has also had several videos earn the number one spot on Billboard's Music Video Charts.

In 2018, Phelps released "It Must Be Christmas," a holiday album that features

songs such as "Fall on Your Knees," "We Are the Reason," and "Tennessee Christmas." Another song from his Christmas album, "Catching Santa," was featured in an advertisement for Google's Pixel smartphone. Earlier this year, Phelps released his latest album, "GameChanger." Some of Phelps hits include, "The Power of The Dream," "There Is a Fountain," and "We Shall Behold Him."

Phelps has been credited for having one of today's most spectacular voices in Christian music. His vocal range extends more than three octaves, and he has been blessed with a God-given gift for communicating a song. His artistry has echoed off the walls of Carnegie Hall, the chandeliers in the White House, and in countless halls and churches across the nation.

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts is thrilled to be part of David Phelps life-long passion to travel around the world and share music, inspiration, and the good news of God's love. To purchase tickets to enjoy the masterful melodies of the great David Phelps in David Phelps Live! It Must Be Christmas, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts is happy to welcome The Sock Hops, an oldies group known for singing beautiful four-part harmonies of memorable songs from the '50s, '60s, and '70s, for a one-of-a-kind Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$18 each, and priority seating is available.

Having had the privilege of opening concert appearances for The Temptations, Frankie Avalon, The Rascals, and many other renowned artists, The Sock Hops are no strangers to the stage, nor are they strangers to the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts. Previous showgoers enjoyed performances of hits including, "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," "At the Hop," "Sherry," and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." Now, these same popular songs and all-time favorite tunes will be accompanied by several holiday sing-alongs. The Sock Hops are going to doo-wop and deck the halls while they brighten the merriest of Christmas celebrations.

The Sock Hops recently celebrated their 30th anniversary as Georgia's premiere oldies entertainment group. They provide fun and memorable experiences everywhere they go. Members of the group include Courtney Oliver, Scott Cruce, Ward Hiss, and Jim Mitchell. Oliver formed The Sock Hops in 1989. His heartfelt interpretation of Louis Armstrong's, "What A Wonderful World," often brings a crowd to its feet. Cruce has an incredible tenor range which makes him the perfect fit as lead vocal on hits made famous by The Eagles and The Four Seasons. Hiss adds a signature baritone sound that holds the group's complex harmonies together and makes him the perfect lead vocal on songs like, "Margaritaville." And with a powerful bass sound in songs such as, "Blue Moon," and "Sweet Caroline," Mitchell's voice offers the perfect touch to many fan favorites.

To purchase tickets to see The Sock Hops, who are always a crowd pleaser, for their special Doo-Wop & Deck the Halls Christmas show, or to find out more information about this or any other show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, visit SmokyMountainArts.com or call (866) 273-4615.



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Deaths & Funerals

Janet 'Jan' Louise Yeomans

Janet "Jan" Louise Yeomans, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Nov. 21, 2021.

She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late Albert Edmund and Dorothy Madeline Biedinger. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel "Danny" Morgan Yeomans; her son, Greg Yeomans; her brother, Raymond Biedinger; and granddaughter, Alexandria "Ally" Marler.

She relied heavily on the Lord for guidance through her losses and is quoted saying, "Without my strong faith and reliance on the Lord, the love of my church family, friends and family, I would not have been able to carry on."

She was blessed with hardworking, encouraging, Christian parents who moved their family to Bradenton, Fla., at the age of seven. There, she enjoyed her school years and graduated from State College of Florida. She was always an exceptional student academically and behaviorally, except when she got in trouble for talking a lot. Throughout school her main interest revolved around music - singing, playing the piano and organ, and being in musical plays, but she decided to attend college to become a Legal Assistant. A path she believed was divinely laid out, as she would later lose her singing voice after being struck by lightning, while attending her children's BMX racing events.

She met her beloved husband Danny in a bowling alley during her college years. After their marriage she became a member of his church, Grace Baptist Church, where she served as church clerk, organist, and choir director. She and her husband served as leaders of the Pioneer Girls also at Grace Baptist Church. After retiring from a Christian Law firm in 1995, She and Danny moved to Franklin, and promptly became members of Victory Baptist Church, where she served on the Hospitality committee, in the nursery and headed the lady's group for 15 years. She enjoyed watercolor painting, knitting, and creating greeting cards in her spare time. She adored her family, especially her grandchildren. She had a very special relationship with all her grandchildren and all of them had a different and unique bond.

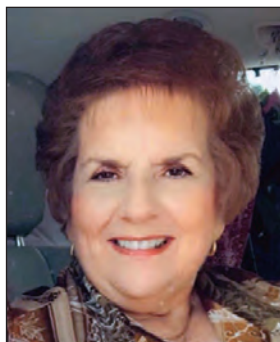
She is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Marler; son in-law, Warren Marler; daughter-in-law, Roxanne Yeomans; granddaughters, Danielle Marler, and Sierra Yeomans, great granddaughter, Leigha Ballard, and several nieces and a nephew.

A service was held Saturday, Nov. 27, at Victory Baptist Church in Sylva with Pastor Rusty Wolfrey officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Victory Baptist Church, 278 Victory Baptist Church Road, Sylva, NC 28779

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Janet Louise Yeomans

Rev. Ernie Blanchard Sanders

Rev. Ernie Blanchard Sanders, 83, of Franklin, N.C., slipped his earthly bonds to enter his heavenly home on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021.

He was born in Franklin on Feb. 23, 1938, to Nina Margaret Moffitt Sanders and Rev. James Andrew Benjamin Sanders.

He was an ordained Baptist minister. He began his ministry in 1961. During his long career, he pastored the following Baptist churches in Franklin: East Franklin, West Franklin, Oak Grove, Ellijay, Pleasant Hill, and Mashburn Branch. He also twice pastored Marble Springs Baptist Church in Marble, N.C. He loved the Lord and spreading the gospel. He could light up a church with his fiery oratory, Biblical knowledge, and passion for spreading God's word. Through his testimony, and by his example, he led the way for hundreds to accept Christ as savior. No doubt, he will hold a special place in heaven, where he will join his father and mother, many relatives, son, Darren, and his first wife (and the mother of his three sons), Virginia McCall, who passed away in 2003.

His family will always remember his loving spirit, humor, quick wit, devotion to his family, and competitiveness in everything from playing golf to playing cards. With his passing, he joins in heaven his golfing buddies, Norman Seay, Grady Corbin, and Roscoe Lewis. Let the golfing begin.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Nellie Ruth Sanders; three Sanders brothers, Ralph (Thelma), Billy (Joyce) and Joel (Dianne), all of Franklin; two sons, Victor (Gina) of Murphy, N.C., and Vance (Rachel) of Franklin; step-son, Gary Owens (Evelyn); as well as 10 grandchildren, April Sanders Tippett (Shayne), Daniel Sanders (Jessica Wilson), Savannah Sanders, and Molly Sanders, all of Franklin, Logan Sanders (Liesel Sunderman) and Jacob Sanders, of Eugene, Ore., Breanna Sanders of Whiteville, N.C., Chase and Colton Sanders and Hailey Townson, of Murphy, and Matthew Owens (April) of Franklin; seven great grandchildren, Brooklyn Hoagland, Saulyer and Zayden Sanders, and Shelby Ruth Owens of Franklin and Braxton, Jack, and Sailor Turner of Whiteville, N.C. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Darren Lane Sanders.

A celebration of life, led by Rev. Don Moffitt and Rev. Jason Smith, was held at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, Nov. 27. The service was live streamed on Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Facebook page.

Pallbearers were Bill McConnell, Daniel Sanders, Jim Sorgi, Shayne Tippett, Colton Sanders, and Matthew Owens. Honorary pallbearers were Bud Moffitt and Dearl Ledford. Ministers of any denomination are invited to the service as honorary pallbearers.

The family wishes to thank all those who kept Ernie and his family in prayer, Rev. Don Moffitt, Rev. Jason Smith, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Conrad Hefner, and Moffitt Family Funeral Care.

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

June Edna Wolf

June Edna Wolf R.N., 89, went to be with God on Nov. 23, 2021, loving mother and registered nurse to her last breath. She was born June 19, 1932.

A strong-willed woman who got what she wanted out of life, she helped people and her children more than anyone could imagine. Always thoughtful and generous and a believer in God. Those of us who remain should follow her ethics, Lee Ann Pierce, Myra Pierce, Richard Wolf, Cathi Wolf and Caitlin Wolf and some extended family will all love her forever.

No services are planned.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.



Rev. Ernie B. Sanders

Thomas Andrew 'Tommy' Browning

Thomas Andrew "Tommy" Browning, 62, of Franklin, N.C., passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021.

Born Nov. 10, 1959, in Macon County, he was the youngest son of the late Bennie and Peggy Browning. Infamously known as "Browning brother," he had a love for music since birth, backing up his father and gospel singing sisters, the Browning sisters. From bluegrass to country, Southern Gospel to Southern Rock and Roll, he enjoyed picking and grinning with several bands playing bass guitar and singing. A 1978 graduate of Franklin High School, he became a successful entrepreneur, building one of the first shopping centers on the Highlands Road, The Village Plaza. He owned and operated a real estate company as well as starting Macon Printing Company. He also became a contractor and enjoyed building and remodeling, following in his father's footsteps. A jack of all trades, he was a successful, self-made businessman. He very rarely sported a frown, loving to help any and everyone in need.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, childhood sweetheart, soulmate and best friend Pat Pickens Browning; three brothers, Jackie Lee Browning infant child, Troy Leon Browning infant child, and James Ernest Browning.

Surviving are daughter, Erica Browning and partner Daniel Cantrell; son, Robert Browning and wife Kendra; two grandchildren, Annalee James Swanson and Kayce Jack Browning; four sisters, Shelba Jean (Earl) Buchanan of Waynesville, Cathy (Tom) Tippett, Brenda (Elgie) McClure of Franklin and Debra (Dale) Shreves of Brooksville, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service is planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC Inc., PO Box 815, Franklin, North Carolina 28734

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

Brenda Joyce Brabson Chastain

Brenda Joyce Brabson Chastain, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021.

She was born in Macon County, North Carolina, to the late Nelson Shope and Blanche Brabson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Pritchard Chastain; and siblings, Steve Shope and Betty McComb; and great grandchild, Wesley Gregory. She enjoyed housekeeping and Hallmark movies.

She is survived by her children, Patricia Hummel of Otto, N.C., Marvin Cunningham (Debbie) of Otto, Linda Pitts (Glenn) of Franklin; and stepchildren, Jerry Chastain (Debbie) of Otto, and Kathy Flowers (Bo) of Otto; brother, Larry Shope; 11 grandchildren, several great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

A service was held Tuesday, Nov. 23, at Coweeta Baptist Church.

Burial followed at Coweeta Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jamie Thompson, Stephen Hummel, Ely Cunningham, Dalton Cunningham, Preston Gregory, and Elijah Gregory.

Honorary pallbearers were Shane Cunningham, Isaac Pitts, Michael Hess, Robbie Sanders, and Nathan Gregory.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Coweeta Baptist Church building fund at Coweeta Baptist Church Building Fund, 780 Coweeta Church Rd. Otto, NC 28763, or the Coweeta Baptist Church Cemetery fund.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Thomas Browning



Brenda Joyce Chastain



June Edna Wolf



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Deaths & Funerals

Jane Knight Cabe

Jane Knight Cabe, 75, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, at her home.

Born in Macon County on Sept. 6, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Alonzo Franklin Knight Sr. and Myrtle Nora Whitmore Knight.

She is survived by her husband, Zeb W. Cabe of Otto; one brother, Alonzo Franklin "Bo" Knight (Dorothy) of Otto; one son, Michael Shane Cabe of Fusquay-Varina, N.C.; four grandchildren, Zachary Cabe (Chelsey) of Lillington, N.C., Josh Cabe, Rachel Cabe, and Michaela Cabe, all Fusquay-Varina; great grandchildren, McCrae and Barret of Lillington; two stepsons, Brian Cabe (Holly) of Otto, and Arnold Cabe (Toni) of Lake City, Fla.; grandchildren include the late Jackson Cabe and Woody Cabe of Otto, Luke Cabe of Lake City, Fla., and Grace Krause (Nico) of New York; and one great grandson, Noah also of New York.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m., at Pine Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Greg Rogers and Rev. Mike Chastain officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Pine Grove Baptist Church.

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

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneral-home.com.

Macon Funeral Home will announce full arrangements when completed.



Jane Knight Cabe

James Albert McCall Jr.

James Albert McCall Jr., 91, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late James Albert McCall Sr., and Florence Fitzgerald McCall. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two daughters, Judy Sleight and Cathy Leopard; two brothers, Charles McCall, and Dan McCall; three sisters, N.A Persky, Jenny Brendle, and Elizabeth Huscusson.

He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was a retired United States Air Force veteran and a member of the Junaluska Masonic Lodge #145 in Franklin. After returning to Franklin, he worked in the cable business and at Macon Funeral Home for several years.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Sue Ledford McCall; son, Jimmy McCall of Franklin; sister, Karen Stinson; and a brother, Johnny McCall both of Franklin; six grandchildren, Chuck Brown, Amanda Jones, Josh Sleight, Jason Sleight, James McCall, and Sarah McCall; five great grandchildren, Tara Owens, Kayla Daves, Brent Sleight, Oscar Brown, Annabelle Brown, and Denise Cauble; two great great grandchildren, Noah Owens and Ava Lee Cauble; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Monday, Nov. 22, at Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Trout Unlimited, Headwaters Youth Program, 394 Merrimon Ave, Asheville, NC 28801.

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



James McCall Jr.

Anthony Yuzzi Jr.

Anthony Yuzzi Jr., was born in Broward County, Florida, on Feb. 10, 1966, to Alice Ivers Yuzzi and Anthony Yuzzi. When he was six years old, he and his family relocated to Franklin, NC. He passed from this life on Nov. 24, 2021.

He leaves many memories. One of those is how he enjoyed going to Atlanta Storage auctions to bid and be surprised as to what was inside to resell. He had grand and wonderful ideas and enjoyed finding treasures and bidding on them in auctions. Although he was the owner of Asheville Honey Company, he found himself "owned" by a very spoiled chihuahua named Doggy.

As a teenager, he was drawn to fast cars and hot rods. His love for collectible cars ended when he became interested in flying, as he was thrilled when he received his pilot's license. On the opposite side of his personality, however, was fishing. The challenge of mountain streams and hooking a big trout was also one of his interests.

He and his dad were both sports fans who watched games together on television. He was a Pittsburgh Steelers fan for many years, but got the happy occasion to meet in real life other football players. He and Steven were playing football outside the house in Riverbend when a car came down the road and turned around. It was Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick. They talked for a few minutes.

During the days of church softball leagues, he enjoyed being part of the team sponsored by his church, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, playing alongside Father Mike and other church members. He also had knack for getting people off morbid thoughts and turning them around.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Yuzzi; his brother, Steven Yuzzi (Lori), of Cullowhee, N.C.; his niece, Lauren Yuzzi; his nephew, Nick Yuzzi; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father, Anthony Yuzzi Sr.

Funeral mass was held Wednesday, Dec. 1, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Anthony Yuzzi Jr.

John Henry Fouts

John Henry Fouts, 93, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late Nondus and Vira Farley Fouts. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Pinky Fouts; stepdaughter, Dorothy Rump; siblings, Betty Crawford, Max Fouts, Gene Fouts, Sheryl Fouts, Kenneth Fouts, Jack Ray Fouts, and Boyd Fouts.

He enjoyed sitting on the front porch, reading Westerns and cooking.

He is survived by his brother, David Fouts.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Patricia Jean Conklin Vichich

Patricia Jean Conklin Vichich passed away November 25, 2021.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Mrs. Vichich's family.

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



Patricia Vichich

Agnes Margaret DeHart

Agnes Margaret Roberts DeHart, 94, left this earth peacefully on Nov. 16, 2021, surrounded by loved ones. She was born in Jeddo, Pa., in 1927 to Verna May Keller and Benjamin Albert Roberts. She attended Temple University earning a nursing degree in 1947, commissioned to the U.S. Navy for five years and was awarded U.N. and Korean ribbons. As an R.N., she worked in military hospitals and a variety of medical settings. In 1952, she married Turner DeHart of Franklin, N.C., whom she met in Okinawa, Japan. They shared a joyful marriage for 63 years in Bethesda, Md., and Franklin.

As a devoted, very loving mother and wife, she cared for and supported the family as they traveled and lived far and wide, including Turkey, Canada, Hawaii, and Washington, DC. She served her community and church wherever she was, including singing in the choir, Lay Reader, Chalcist, Vestrywoman, Sunday School teacher, and Daughters of the King. A woman of many talents, she was a painter, artist, seamstress and enthusiastic pinochle and bridge player. She enjoyed a multitude of volunteer activities all her life: PTA, Girl Scouts, Guardian Ad Litem, Hospice, community choirs Mountain Voices and Carolines. An amazing lady of 94, she even did tai chi in the park. She was a faithful and active member at St John's Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, Md. Church of the Incarnation, Highlands, St John's Cartoogechaye and All Saints Episcopal Community Church in Franklin. She will be terribly missed by many as a beautifully gracious woman of deep faith, compassion, warmth, friendliness and respect for all.

She is survived by daughters, Margaret Uhar (Robert), Mary Bennett, Martha DeHart; grandchildren, Milton Bennett, Kellar Mackoviak, Ian Uhar (Michelle), Aidan Acarya Uhar, and Emily Uhar (Scott); and three great grandchildren, Everett and Grace Uhar and David Erich; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by sisters, Caroline King and Ruth James; brother, Benjamin Albert; son, David DeHart; and husband, Turner DeHart. Her spirit will live on and she will continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service is planned for Jan. 15, 2022, 11 a.m., at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, Franklin. At this time, masks are required.

Online condolences may be made at moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.



Agnes Margaret DeHart

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James Stewart Browne

James Stewart Browne, 77, died peacefully on Nov. 18, 2021, surrounded by his family in Highlands, N.C. Born in 1944 in Brooklyn, N.Y., he spent most of his childhood in Coral Gables, Fla., and graduated from Coral Gables High School. He had many fond memories of sailboat racing and biking while growing up, and he remained a lover of nature, hiking, and national parks and forests his entire life.

**James Stewart Browne**

He met Lynne Underwood, his wife of 55 years, at Lake George in the Adirondacks in 1964. They married in June 1966, shortly after he graduated from the Ohio State University, where he was a business major and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army in Benjamin Franklin Village, Mannheim, Germany, from 1966 to 1968, specializing as a Chaplain's Assistant. Upon his return to the U.S., he began working at Stewart R. Browne Manufacturing, a safety equipment manufacturing company founded by his grandfather. He remained at the family company from 1968 until his retirement in 2013, serving as president for 15 years.

Those who knew him described him as kind, gentle, generous, funny and humble. He was a devoted husband to Lynne and a doting father to his children, Margaret, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Ross, of Atlanta, Ga. He instilled in his family his love of travel, nature and the Ohio State Buckeyes. He was a loving brother and health care guardian to his late sister, Carolyn Mason Browne.

After 30 years of living in the Atlanta area, Jim and Lynne settled in Highlands, their favorite spot in the mountains. He took countless hikes in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He could be found on trails around Highlands almost daily with his beloved mini schnauzers, Sophie and Woody. He was a supporter of conservation and environmental causes and a collector of folk art and crafts.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by two brothers, Alan and Christopher Browne, both of greater Atlanta.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Highlands-Missions (www.fpchighlands.org).

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands on Friday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Martha Rainer

Martha Rainer, 93, of Franklin, N.C., died on Nov. 27, 2021.

She was born in Elba, Ala., in 1928 to Franks Hendrick Rainer and Sara Farris Rainer. She attended Auburn University before transferring to Troy State University, where she received an undergraduate degree in physical education and a master's in education.

A talented artist, she taught art and physical education for many years in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. After retiring, she opened a jewelry store in Albany, Ga., before retiring again and moving to Franklin, where she has resided for the last 21 years. She enjoyed reading, traveling, gem mining, collecting flamingo memorabilia, and cheering for her beloved Auburn Tigers. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, and was an Elder in the church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Hendrick and Sara Farris Rainer; her brothers, Frank and Young Wood Rainer, and a nephew, Ronald Wood Rainer; four nieces, Charlotte West of Cary, N.C., Deborah Lewis of Milton, Fla., Marilyn Patterson of Birmingham, Ala., and Nancy Watson of Auburn, Ala.; and her primary caregiver and friend, Beverly Linton.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin with Rev. Tempe Fussell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to First Presbyterian Church of Franklin.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Martha Rainer****Susan Tillot Willard**

Susan Tillot Willard, 80, of Franklin, N.C., passed peacefully on Nov. 23, 2021, at home surrounded by those she loved. She was born in Stamford, Conn., to the late Eugene and Mary Vetter. She is preceded in death by her son, Kevin Willard; and sister, Mary Koch of Connecticut.

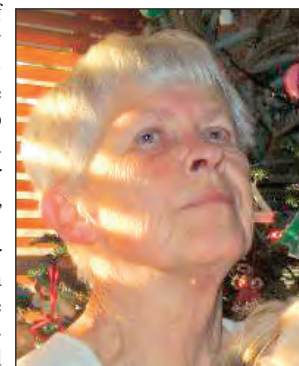
She moved to Florida with her family in 1973 where she was a homemaker. She later became the office manager at Baldauff Funeral Home, a job she loved dearly until her retirement and move to Franklin in 1997. She opened Just Kidding Consignments with her daughter, Cindy in 1998 where she was not only an entrepreneur but a friend and confidant to many.

Born and raised Catholic, she was strong in her faith and relationship with God. She had a strong work ethic, a giver's heart and was always willing to lend a listening ear or offer sound advice. Her hobbies included strolling the neighborhood in her golf cart, having coffee with her friends and refinishing doll houses.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Willard; her lovable dog, Nikki; sister, Jeanne Roselle of Illinois; children, Kevin Tillot (Karen) of Franklin; Cindy Marr (John) of Franklin; Bobby Willard (Barbara) of Deland, Fla.; Scott Willard (Sandy) of Deland, Mark Willard (Michelle) of Deland, and Carla Lynch (Michael) of Blairsville, Ga.; 18 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Susan Tillot Willard****Patricia 'Pat' Matteson**

Patricia "Pat" Matteson, 90, moved to Heaven on Nov. 19, 2021. She was born in 1931 in Kansas City, Mo., raised in Monroe, Wisc., and majored in music at St Mary's College of Notre Dame and the University of Wisconsin. She then married and relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where she raised her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, James and Gladys, her sister, Gloria and her son, Jimmy.

She was a proud and loving mother to her children, Kathy, Debbie, Sherry, Mary and Mike and their spouses. She so loved her 10 grandchildren and was over the moon loving her 19 great grandchildren. She couldn't have been any happier to recently meet and immediately love her sister, Maxine and her niece, Kristi.

After raising her family in Florida, she relocated to Franklin, N.C., where she lived, worked and enjoyed many lifelong friendships for 40 years. She was a concert pianist who even recorded a beautiful classical CD with a violin accompanist. She also played for many years at her beloved church, St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. She was a longtime volunteer at Angel Medical Center for more than 31 years accumulating many thousands of hours. She started knitting when she was nine years old which included, among a million other things that she knitted for her family, baby blankets, sweaters and baby caps for the hospital gift shop.

She was an avid reader, enjoyed doing the daily *New York Times* crossword puzzle and loved to travel. Her most favorite place in the whole world was her home in Franklin, built in the trees, with a stream flowing through her property. This was the place that we called home as we all gathered there often. It remains the heart of our family as all of our precious memories center around her home. She left behind a huge loving family and many, many friends. She will be truly missed by everyone.

She will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin, at a future date to be determined.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

**Patricia Matteson****Deaths & Funerals****Myra Crawford Patton**

Myra Crawford Patton of Franklin, N.C., entered into eternal life on Nov. 22, 2021, two days before her 87th birthday. She was born to the late Eugene and Mary Crawford in Cartoogechaye community into a home filled with love. Her childhood included playing with her special cousins and sisters and enjoying a love of nature that she held into her adult life. She loved wildflowers and birds and spent many hours working in her flowers and walking in nature.

**Myra Crawford Patton**

She graduated from Franklin High, Brevard College, and Western Carolina University. She initially worked in the business world but soon decided to follow her love of children into teaching. She taught in Charlotte, and Marietta, Ga., before returning to her beloved mountains to teach first grade at Cartoogechaye. Her love of children translated into a classroom of encouragement and acceptance and interesting lessons. She even had part of a wall removed so her students could go outside into an enclosed area for exploring science and measurement.

She believed those gifted with teaching should use that gift for God's glory and she taught Sunday School for many years. She was a humble person who gave selflessly of her time to the church. She worked with children's programs, served as church treasurer and participated in activities at the Western North Carolina United Methodist Church Conference level alongside her husband, Erwin. She and Erwin purchased chimes for Patton Church which have brought joy to the community for many years.

She was an encourager who looked for the best in those around her. She encouraged pastors, ministry students, fellow teachers, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, and anyone she recognized as needing kindness. Her wry and teasing humor will also be missed.

She was generous with her time as well as her possessions. Nothing made her happier than giving to others. When family visited she always gave something before they left. She literally gave the shirt off her back several times! She loved learning about family history and completed hours of research and interviews to compile stories about the history.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Erwin, her sister, Una and husband Ed Setser, and several cousins.

She is survived by her sister, Maysa and husband Al Mathews; her sister, Jean and husband Walt Swainey; and dearly loved nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews and special cousins. She supported all her family members as hers and showed them often that she loved them.

The family is thankful for the care Myra received while at The Franklin House.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Myra's memory to KIDS Place, 330 W. Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734 (KIDSPLACE.org); or Mt. Zion Cemetery Fund, 151 Valley Lane, Franklin, NC 28734, c/o Kathy Tinsley.



View obituaries online at
themaconcountynews.com

Top country music star Jake Owen set to perform at NASCAR Awards Show and Champion Celebration

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Nov. 30, 2021) – It wouldn't be a proper Nashville party without a country music megastar gracing the stage.

Multiplatinum-selling entertainer Jake Owen will perform during the NASCAR Awards and Champion Celebration event this Thursday, Dec. 2, in downtown Nashville.

Before all the accolades honoring the 2021 NASCAR season, Owen will open the show at the Music City Center with a live performance of his latest hit single, "Best Thing Since Backroads."

Owen's first album "Startin' With Me" was released in 2006 and reached the Top 20 on the country charts. Other top songs include "Barefoot Blue Jean Night" and "Beachin'."

The Florida native is no stranger to NASCAR, having performed the pre-race concert before the 2019 DAYTONA 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

Fans can tune in to watch the 2021 NASCAR Awards, including Owen's performance, when it airs Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. on NBCSN. In addition to the Cup Series champion, NASCAR will honor the Xfinity Series and Camping World Truck Series champions in the largest awards show to date.

For more information on Champion's Week, please visit www.nascar.com/championsweek.



Multiplatinum entertainer Jake Owen will perform during the NASCAR Award and Champion Celebration event this Thursday, Dec. 2, in Nashville. The awards show will air on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. on NBCSN.



Practice & qualifying return with knockout-style format in 2022

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – NASCAR has announced the return of practice and qualifying to its race weekends in 2022, with a dramatic knockout-style qualifying format setting the starting lineup for each NASCAR Cup Series race.

The announcement comes after nearly two seasons with race weekends largely held without practice or qualifying – a procedure born out of necessity to reduce travel days and on-site personnel while navigating the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

In 2022, all events across all three NASCAR national series are scheduled to include qualifying.

"NASCAR is excited to return practice and qualifying to its race weekends," said Scott Miller, NASCAR senior vice president of competition. "We missed seeing cars and trucks on track all weekend long, and so did our fans. We worked closely with our broadcast partners, teams and race-tracks to create an exciting, unique qualifying format, while keeping several of the efficiencies that helped our entire industry successfully navigate the pandemic."

For a majority of the NASCAR Cup Series schedule, the field will be split into two groups and participate in a practice and qualifying event that will last approximately two hours. The two-hour window will allow broadcast partners ample time and ability to cover the entire field, bringing wide-ranging, in-depth stories and insight to millions of fans each and every weekend.

During six NASCAR Cup Series weekends, five NASCAR Xfinity Series weekends and eight NASCAR Camping World Truck Series weekends, NASCAR will implement an extended practice weekend schedule, which will feature one standalone 50-minute practice as well as a qualifying event.

Daytona International Speedway's Speedweeks and the lead-up to the DAYTONA 500 will employ the extended practice format for all three series. Busch Pole Award Qualifying for the DAYTONA 500 is scheduled for Wednesday evening, Feb. 16, 2022.

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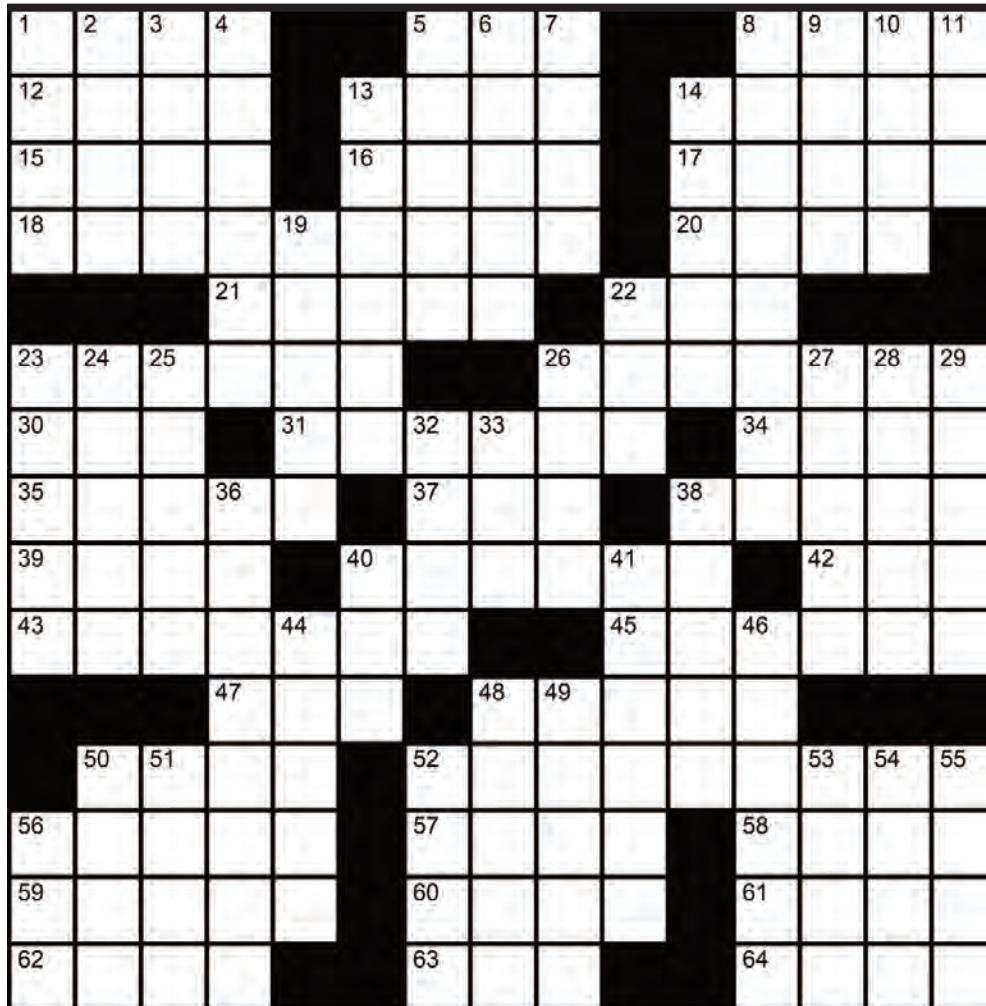
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

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THEME: REALITY TV

ACROSS

1. "Oh, my!"
5. Say untruth
8. Left or right
12. Spiritual leader
13. *" ing Up with Marie Kondo"
14. Great reviews
15. Related
16. Double reed woodwind
17. Fourth deck
18. *"The ," MTV's trailblazing reality show
20. Affirm with confidence
21. I to Greeks, pl.
22. Baba
23. Powerball and such
26. Swaggering show of courage
30. Spermatozoa counterparts
31. Based on two
34. Has a mortgage
35. dog, gin and grapefruit juice cocktail
37. DNA transmitter
38. *"The Real Housewives" is full of this type of conflict
39. Write on a tombstone
40. Unwholesome atmosphere
42. Hairpiece, slangily
43. Stitched again
45. Unit of electric current flow
47. Solemn pledge
48. Like nose during hayfever
50. Uncouth one
52. *"Who a Millionaire?"
56. Front of cuirass
57. Sixth month of civil



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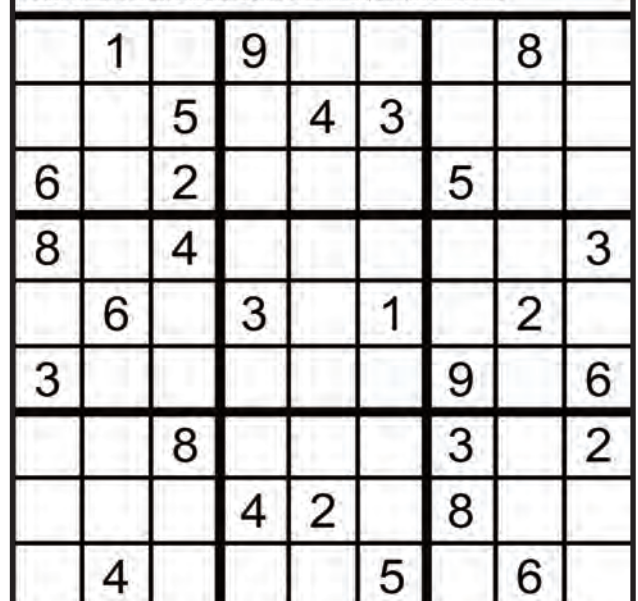
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- GRAVEL
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- year
 58. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
 59. Travesty
 60. Italian money
 61. *"Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and "Cleveland Hustles" state
 62. *" house Masters" on Animal Planet
 63. *Not KhloË or Kourtney
 64. Common allergens
- DOWN**
1. Gelatin substitute
 2. Gospel writer
 3. "Tosca" song, e.g.
 4. Like sunroom, hopefully
 5. Balance in the sky
 6. *"Pop " and "Ameri-
 - can ," pl.
 7. Gave the once-over
 8. *"Outwit, Outplay, Out-last" show
 9. Not active
 10. Point of entry
 11. Sixth sense
 13. Foot, to a child
 14. Aussie bear
 19. Buzz Lightyear's buddy
 22. Brow shape
 23. *"The Biggest "
 24. Egg-shaped
 25. Same as talcum
 26. Civil rights concern
 27. In the know
 28. Raise objections
 29. Missouri River tributary
 32. Like a desert
 33. Crime scene evidence
 36. *Singing competition (2 words)
 38. Curses
 40. Feline sound
 41. "I think I can, I think I can..." , e.g.
 44. "For better or for "
 46. "Monty 's Flying Circus"
 48. r in a circle, pl.
 49. Deprive of weapons
 50. *Star of wilderness reality shows, Grylls
 51. Fairytale beast
 52. Street-crossing word
 53. Hawaiian island
 54. Londoner, e.g.
 55. Narrative poem
 56. Back of a boat

The Classifieds

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NO WRONG DOOR Yard Sale, Saturday, December 4, 9am-3pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, 12-3:30pm, Repeats Consignment, 65 Highlands Rd. Proceeds will help keep the homeless warm this winter.

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NO WRONG DOOR Saturday, December 4, 9am-3pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, 12-3:30pm, Repeats Consignment, 65 Highlands Rd. Proceeds will help keep the homeless warm this winter.

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AUTO BODY MAN/PAINTER Wanted Apply after 3pm at 69 Mill St. Franklin. (828)421-7332 Leave Message.

Commercial Rentals

MEDICAL OFFICE SPACES For Lease Immediate availability! Newly renovated medical/professional office space for lease. This office is located within Franklin city limits on the Georgia Rd. Medical office layout, but could accommodate a variety of businesses. For more information please contact Times Square Properties. (828)200-7019.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACES For Lease Immediate Availability, Multiple office spaces for lease in downtown Franklin. These spaces can accommodate a variety of office needs for a business or individual as low as \$300/monthly, including utilities. For more information please contact Times Square Properties (828)200-7019.

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RV/CAMPER LOT Short distance to town. \$325/month. 6-month minimum. Includes water, sewer, and trash. Text your email address to (828)346-1200 for all the details.

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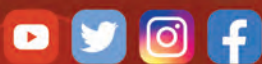


DECEMBER 21



DECEMBER 23

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