

# The Macon County NEWS

& Shopping Guide

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FRIDAY,  
JAN. 14 -  
SUNDAY,  
JAN. 16

FRANKLIN  
PLAZA

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January 13, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 34

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Caleb Peters, owner and operator of Franklin's new Chick Fil A was joined by family, town and county officials and the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting on Wednesday morning. Members of the media and others in attendance were treated to the "first bite," a sample of Chick-Fil-A cuisine, to celebrate the opening. The restaurant is open to the public today, Thursday, Jan. 13. Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Chick-Fil-A is closed on Sunday. See more photos on page 12.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

## Three-judge panel rules new redistricting maps 'not unconstitutional'; candidate filing resumes Feb. 24

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Following a ruling by a three-judge panel in Wake County on Tuesday, candidate filing for the 2022 election will resume on Feb. 24, 2022.

"State Board of Elections staff will immediately begin preparing for the continuation of the candidate filing period, including securing a location to ensure the health and safety of staff and candidates," said Karen Brinson Bell, State Board executive director, in a press release. "We will provide all details to the public as soon as possible at NCSBE.gov and through an announcement distributed to the media."

A three-panel judge ruled Tuesday evening that North Carolina's redistricting maps will not be tossed out. In their ruling, in Wake County Superior Court in Raleigh, N.C., the three judges agreed that both the legislative and congressional maps were "a result of intentional, pro-Republican partisan redistricting." The Wake County Superior Court Judges stated in their ruling that the maps are not unconsti-

tutional, regardless of the partisan advantage they may give Republicans.

"Were we as a Court to insert ourselves in the manner requested, we would be usurping the political power and prerogatives of an equal branch of government," wrote Superior Court Judges Graham Shirley, Nathaniel Poovey and Dawn Layton. "Once we embark on that slippery slope, there would be no corner of legislative or executive power that we could not reach."

The 258-page decision comes in response to three law suits filed challenging the new maps, which were drawn and approved the North Carolina's Republican majority in the General Assembly.

"Declaring as unconstitutional, an act of the branch of government that represents the people is a task that is not to be taken lightly. There is a strong presumption that enactments of the General Assembly are constitutional," the

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# Out with the old, in with the new – old Walmart comes down



D.H. Griffin Companies, who specialize in contract demolition and environmental and site development services, brought in the heavy equipment this week and is tearing down the old Walmart building. Ingles purchased the Holy Springs Plaza property in 2015 for \$3.7 million. The Franklin Town Council approved a special use permit in February 2020, but no movement had been made on the property until this week. Ingles is proposing building a super Ingles with retail space for a total of 179,153 square feet. Photos by Vickie Carpenter

<p>2021 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE LUX 4X4</p>  <p><b>MSRP \$37,590*</b></p>	<p>2022 RAM 2500 TRADESMAN 4X4</p>  <p><b>MSRP \$48,830*</b></p>
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## A Night to Shine is set for Feb. 5

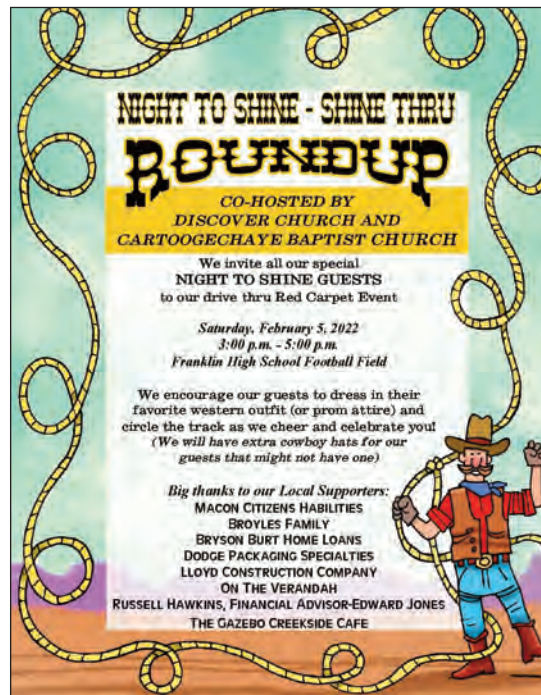
**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

A special group of kings and queens — or cowboys and cowgirls— will be celebrated this February for the annual A Night to Shine event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Made possible by event hosts Cartoogechaye Baptist Church and Discover Church, this year’s celebration will once again be different due to COVID19 safety precautions.

This year’s local event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Franklin High School football field. The community is encouraged to attend the event and line the track to cheer for the night’s special guests. This year’s theme is “Roundup,” so event organizers ask that volunteers dress in western attire, if possible.

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom experience for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. This event, started by the Tim Tebow Foundation, is centered on God’s love and celebrates people with special needs. According to the Tim Tebow Foundation, approximately 90,000 guests attend “Night to Shine” in more than eight countries with the help of 175,000 volunteers.

The night’s honored guests will circle the Franklin High School track and will be greeted by waves and cheers and special music by the Franklin High School March-



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ing Panther Regiment Band. Participants will have the opportunity to take photos with special guests and will be given carnations and special gift bags containing goodies and, of course, a crown and tiara for every king and queen.

Those wishing to help with the event in the future can contact Cheryl Richter at franklin-nighttoshine@yahoo.com or visit their Facebook page Night to Shine-Cartoogechaye Baptist/Discover Church-Franklin.

# State employees urged to volunteer in schools

Governor Roy Cooper has announced plans to help combat staff shortages in K-12 school districts across the state during the current surge of COVID-19 cases. The policy will allow state employees to use volunteer days with supervisor approval to work in North Carolina public schools as substitute teachers, bus drivers and cafeteria staff.

“It is critical that we keep children learning in the classroom safely,” said Gov. Cooper. “This policy will encourage state employees to lend a helping hand to our students at a time of severe staffing challenges for our public schools.”

For much of the 2021-22 school year, many school districts have experienced a greater need for substitute teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria staff and other support personnel who can fill in for employees who need to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19.

To help combat the staff shortages, Gov. Cooper’s new directive will allow state employees to use paid leave to serve as substitute staff in schools while also keeping any compensation they earn as substitutes. The State Human Resource Commission’s Community Service Leave Policy states that full-time state employees are eligible for 24 hours of paid community service leave each calendar year. This leave may be used by state employees with supervisor approval and will not interfere with or delay state government operations.

“State employees always step up to help our state in challenging times and this policy gives our talented employees yet another way to serve their communities,” said Barbara Gibson, State Human Resources Director.

“We appreciate Governor Cooper’s willingness to move quickly to address the current staffing crisis caused by the omicron variant,” Guilford County Schools Superintendent Sharon Contreras said. “This is one more tool we can use to keep our classrooms and schools open for our students.”

Under the updated policy, state employees are eligible to use community service leave for time spent training to be a substitute teacher, substitute teacher’s assistant or other substitute staff at a school or school district. State employees are also eligible to use community service leave for other volunteer activities, regardless of compensation.

The policy will be effective starting on January 12, 2022, and will end on February 15, 2022.

## FILING RESUMES

Continued from page 1

ruling stated.

Redistricting tied up courts for nearly a decade after the state’s maps were last redrawn — something that is likely to occur again. Challengers are expected to appeal the court’s Tuesday decision immediately to the state Court of Appeals or directly to the state Supreme Court, which in December halted candidate filing and delayed the primary election from March to May to allow for these suits to be tried and appealed.

As part of Tuesday’s ruling, the judges set a schedule to reopen candidate filing for all races across North Carolina, however, they also issued a separate stay of the schedule to allow the case to be appealed. Candidate filing will now resume on Feb. 24, per the ruling.

The new congressional map would give Republicans control of as many as 11 of the state’s 14 House seats, compared to the party’s current eight-to-five edge. North Carolina gained a 14th district as a result of population gains in the 2020 census.

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## Veteran's book offers a peek at life as a union boss

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Donning a “Korea Veteran” hat and a jacket adorned with an Honor Flight badge, 92-year-old William Lewis Anthony Trapani sipped coffee at his regular Main Street Coffee hangout and shared details about his dicey days as a union boss in Florida. His book, “The Takeover,” which will be presented and signed at a spaghetti dinner Jan. 22, 1 p.m., at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Franklin, is – according to Trapani “fictional.” However cautious the storyline might be with regard to conveying too many actual facts and names, “The Takeover” reveals much about the challenges of operating a union out of Miami in the mid-20th century.

Trapani dedicates the “adult reader” book, published by Newman Springs, to “Big Bobby,” a large-statured man he alludes to only as someone who was there for him when situations became difficult. Trapani’s 67-year-old daughter, Sherry Taylor, who takes care of his wife of 69 years, Joan, typed the book’s manuscript as he relayed it to her. The story’s setting starts in New York, which is where both Trapani and his wife grew up, and quickly switches to Florida, where the action takes place for the real Trapani as well as the book’s fictional “Charlie Trippie.”

“I went down to Florida in the 1960s,” said Trapani, “and at that time the state was wide open. Cubans were coming in frequently and the mafia presence was real.”

Trapani, who enlisted in the Navy for eight years, was no stranger to tension and tight spots. As a hospital corpsman and an operating room technician, he saw plenty of soldiers injured in the Korean War. When he left the Navy, he could have taken a one-year registered nursing degree offered by New York. Yet, he thought he wanted to distance himself from human drama.

Little did he know that taking a New York City dock job as a pile driver would lead him to first become part of the New York Dock Builders Union and then the South Florida Local Union 1966 Pile Drivers and Divers. In 1969, as a business agent, he took charge of the local Florida union and held that position for 17 years. (A pile driver is one who drives the large piles, or poles, into soil to build piers, bridges, cofferdams and other structures.)

“My job was to direct the activities [of the building projects], inform businesses about the union, share information about salary, benefits, safety ...,” he said. “Florida was growing so fast. So many of the condos and other structures down there are built on pilings. But the union bosses were under the supervision of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, so anyone in the union followed regulations and rules for construction. The condo that collapsed in Miami [Surfside; June 21, 2021] was not built by a union company. We drove those pilings 90 feet sometimes before we hit rock.”

Trapani’s territory was from Jacksonville, Fla., south, as well as the Bahamas.

“When I took over as union boss, there were about 200 members in the union. Within two years, there were at least 1,000. Working with pilings is filthy work ... hard work ... so the men needed the union to look out for them.”

Trapani retired at 56 years old, having experienced untold instances of coercion, threats, and more by entities that did not want their workers to join unions because of threats to company profit margins. Yet, Trapani said he



At 92, veteran and author William Lewis Anthony Trapani enjoys visiting Main Street Coffee and speaking to people about his service and his career as a union boss.

maintained ethical practices, and his steadfastness was respected by many people during his career. The book is intended as a glimpse of the union culture at the time.

“I wasn’t intimidated by outside sources,” he said. “I had to be tough for my members, and the greatest reward of doing the job was dedication to the workers.”

During his career, civil rights among African Americans was front and center. Despite protests, Trapani allowed the first black man into his union as a member.

“He eventually became an officer in the union,” said Trapani.

At his retirement party, more than 600 people attended, according to Trapani, and many of them spoke about how he had helped them.

Since retirement, Trapani has enjoyed a Georgia farm as well as charity work and involvement with veteran-related efforts. He and his wife and only child moved to Franklin 20 years ago. Although his wife suffers from Alzheimer’s, he said she still knows who he is and he reminisces often about how he met her.

“I ended up in a hospital while serving in the Navy and she was a USO [United Services Organization] girl and I met her when I was recovering.”

Trapani’s heritage as an Italian will be shared Saturday, Jan. 22, beginning at 1 p.m., at the Franklin VFW as he serves his homemade sauce over spaghetti for anyone who attends “The Takeover” book signing. For each book sold, \$1 will be donated to the Franklin VFW. The free spaghetti dinner will be served beginning at 2:30 p.m.

(Reviews about books and interviews with authors are in no way an endorsement of the book or the author by Macon County News or the article’s writer. Such articles simply provide to readers information about both.)

# Macon commits \$100,000 matching funds to Nikwasi Initiative

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

The Nikwasi Initiative has an opportunity to apply for a \$5 million grant, made available through through U.S. Economic Development Administration with American Rescue Funding by the Federal Government. The grant requires a 20 percent match — which equates to \$1 million.

The \$5 million grant would be used to develop the area around the Nikwasi Mound to preserve the mound’s history while developing the green space to serve as an economic corridor for the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Tuesday night, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to pledge \$100,000 toward the needed \$1 million contingent on verification that Mainspring Conservation Trust, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and the Town of Franklin are all also supportive of the project and that they will help meet the \$1 million match requirement. Nikwasi Initiative Director Elaine Eisenbaum and Co-Chair Juanita Wilson presented the request to commissioners.

The Nikwasi Initiative was founded to promote, interpret and link cultural and historic sites (such as the Noquisiyi and Cowee mounds) along a Cherokee Cultural Corridor, combined with raising awareness and funds to pursue those efforts and exploring more opportunities for collaboration between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and local communities.

Its story began on April 17, 2015, when a group of people from the Franklin and Cherokee communities met for the first time with the common goal of conserving heritage and healing relationships between mountain neighbors. Leaders from these two communities began a collaborative dialogue to explore strategies for regional partnership, cultural preservation, and economic develop-

ment.

This group known collectively as Mountain Partners, ultimately founded the non-profit Nikwasi Initiative in 2016 to act on the shared ideas and goals conceived during these collaborative sessions. Formed with support from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the larger Mountain Partners group includes members of the EBCI, Franklin Town Council and Macon County officials, members of Mainspring Conservation Trust, and members of the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

Part of Nikwasi Initiative’s mission is to develop a Cultural Corridor along more than 60 miles of the Little Tennessee River, from Cherokee to Franklin and the headwaters of the river, creating cultural interpretation resources on-site to promote improved visibility of significant Cherokee landmarks and historic sites. The first phase of this project has been completed and includes cultural kiosks with informational panels at the ancient towns of Cowee, and Noquisiyi overlooking the Mounds that were the gathering places of each. The \$5 million matching grant will jumpstart the remainder of the project and allow the Nikwasi Initiative to begin development of the corridor.

The funding would be used to consolidate



The site plan for the Noquisiyi Cultural District includes an amphitheater, a learning center, the placing of various sculptures including a Women’s History Trail sculpture, a Greenway connection and a Cherokee Restaurant. The implementation for the plan will require funds for property acquisition to begin the development process.

more properties into the triangle surrounding the mound and to remodel the former Dan’s Auto Service building, which the tribe purchased in 2017 as part of the eventual development of the area.

The motion was made by Commissioner Ronnie Beale and seconded by Gary Shields. Chairman Jim Tate also voted in favor. The funding is also contingent on the Nikwasi Initiative being approved for the grant funding — if they are not approved, the funding will remain within Macon County’s budget.

Commissioner Josh Young stated that he supported the project, but before voting to pledge the \$100,000, he would want to know

that Mainspring supported the project. Despite the approved motion being contingent on their approval, Young still voted against it.

Commissioner Paul Higdon stated that he, too, supported the project, but remains hesitant about supplying taxpayer funding to non-profits. Higdon stated that he would be more likely to approve the request if the funding could be included as part of the county’s budgeting process rather than an unexpected expenditure. Even with the full funding of the \$100,000 pledge not being needed immediately which could possibly become part of the budget discussion, Higdon voted against the measure.

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# Local handcrafted art in high demand at Cowee Mountain gallery

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

For centuries, the Appalachian Mountains region has been synonymous with arts and crafts. Mostly out of necessity, skills such as pottery and soap-making were commonplace during Colonial times. But expressions in art as well have conveyed the spirit and beauty of the mountain ranges, distinct seasons, and indigenous birds, plants, and animals.

Brian Davenport, Poané, and Jennifer Andersen all bring various talents to the table at Cowee Mountain Clay Gallery & Studio on Sylva Road and at Poané Gallery Art Bath & Candle, located just behind Cowee Mountain Clay.

“Heritage arts in some ways have disappeared,” said Davenport, a potter. “But people are always seeking handmade goods because they appreciate the workmanship. And especially since COVID and the quarantine, people are wanting handmade items more than ever ... nicer things to appreciate since they are home so much more.”

## Potter’s hobby becomes full-fledged pursuit

Davenport, whose pottery studio is on-site of the gallery, presents regularly at least 1,000 pieces of inventory – everything from small sponge holders to bird houses to lamp bases to dinnerware, and much more. His distinct glazed or low-fire burnished pottery is mostly utilitarian, such as vases and platters, but some pieces are purely artistic and have been purchased as décor for numerous local and regional homes as well as commercially, for such clients as Mission Health. The gallery, in fact, has become not only a place to seek unique gifts for holidays and special occasions, but a destination spot for vacationers who desire to add to their pottery collections during annual visits to the area.

He said an art class in high school in the mid 1970s turned him onto pottery. He was not adept at painting and drawing, but a pottery wheel beckoned him and he found he was a natural at shaping clay. He took another pottery class in college, but put the hobby aside until many years – and various careers – later he moved to the Franklin area and took a pottery course at Southwestern Community College. That was about a

decade ago and Davenport said he has been feverishly “throwing pots” ever since.

About nine years ago he moved his work into the building on Sylva Road, just outside of Franklin, that was once a gem shop. Even though he said his pottery was basic in appearance when he first started, every piece sold.

“The only way to become a good potter is to spend time making pots ... at the wheel,”

horse hair to a pot after it has been taken out of the kiln. The carbon from the hair absorbs into the pot and results in dark, decorative lines against a white background.

Davenport goes through upwards of 2,000 pounds of clay each month. He stacks as many as 300 pottery pieces at a time into his 20-cubic-foot kiln. His studio resembles a factory, with stations that include a multitude of pots in various stages of the process. He

next day,” he said. “I look at the whole thing as part of the process.

Davenport is often consulted to assist in decorating homes with pottery due to the “warmth” and “beauty” pottery brings to an interior. And a few years ago, he aligned with artist Poané (PO-Nay) to provide people who shop in the gallery and ones who want decorating advice with a cohesive look that involves both the art and the pottery.

Davenport’s own Cowee home, in fact, is replete with the synergy of his pottery complemented by countless Poané paintings.

Poané’s paintings capture ‘spirit’ of subject

When Poané met Davenport five years ago, it was to assist in the pottery studio. However, after Davenport learned of the extent of Poané’s artistic prowess, he began to ask him to paint pieces that would complement the pottery. Poané, a professional portrait artist and more, obliged and has been painting everything

from mountain scenes, birds, and fish to pieces with Native American and Southwestern themes. He also occasionally paints on some of Davenport’s pots.

“I’ve always pursued things that are artistic,” said Poané, who worked in Atlanta, Ga., for many years as a photographer, makeup artist, and hair stylist.

He is often found seated in a corner of the Cowee Mountain Clay gallery where light streams in working on a commission piece or one that he hopes to sell. His paintings balance the hues of the pottery pieces throughout the gallery. Poané said he loves to paint so much that he will often leave the gallery and paint more when he returns to his home.

“It’s a good pairing,” said Poané of the pottery/paintings décor; he also makes for the gallery charcuterie boards out of such woods as black walnut, cedar, and pine.

Behind Cowee Mountain Clay is Poané’s own gallery space that he shares with Andersen, his long-time girlfriend. Her talents include candle and soap making. In the Poané Gallery, the artist shares his breadth of talents: animal portraits, equine paintings, celebrity publicity paintings – including a Charlie Daniels’ commissioned piece – and various, large-scale oil-on-canvas paintings of famous masterpieces.

“I’m his biggest fan,” said Andersen,



From left, potter Brian Davenport, multi-media artist Poané and crafter Jennifer Andersen share a studio and gallery situated at the base of Cowee Mountain called Cowee Mountain Clay Gallery & Studio and is located on Sylva Road. Among the offerings at the gallery, they offer hand crafted pottery, original paintings, handmade soaps and candles and more.

said Davenport. “The wheel is the greatest teacher. My love of doing it got me to another level, and I’ve been able to come up with a lot of distinct techniques along the way.”

One unique technique involves applying

might spend five hours at the wheel one day, but then takes care of the more tedious, and “less enjoyable” work of trimming and glazing another day.

“I might throw 24 mugs one day, but then those 24 mugs have to have 24 handles the



Potter Brian Davenport employs a technique involving applying horse hair to a pot after it has been fired in a kiln. The carbon from the hair absorbs into the pot and results in dark, decorative lines. Poané’s paintings make an attractive backdrop for the pottery.

“because his range is so wide. When he paints an animal, he paints the spirit of that animal. And his attention to detail ... I love his work.”

**Putting a creative spin on soaps and candles**

Andersen may not consider herself an artist, but her decorative soaps are especially creative. For example, she has soaps shaped like teeth or an individual tooth with a minty scent so that dentists might enjoy them for their offices or to give to patients. Her realistic rose-shaped soaps are in various shades

and packaged in such a way as to appear as a dozen real roses.

Candles are often in heart-shaped or wooden reusable dishes, or she is experimenting with candles poured in empty, top-less soda cans. Her soy jar candles are available in bright rainbow colors and a plethora of scents. She hand makes and mixes essential oils with wax and coloring in an organized craft space at the back of the Poané Gallery space. Yet, Andersen’s creations on display in the retail portion of the gallery complement some of Poané’s more modernistic artwork in the same way that his natural-themed works complement Davenport’s pottery.

The potter, the artist, and the soap/candle maker all have experienced increased public interest in the fruits of their labor during the past two years. As Davenport pointed out, “We’ve sold so much and keep working, doing the things we enjoy. Everything we do is the real thing, and the feedback we hear from people is that they want real ... things that draw the eye, that have the distinction of being hand made.”

Knowing that people desire their created items is what motivates them day after day, he added.



Candles fashioned to look like desserts are among the designs Jennifer Andersen creates at the Cowee Gallery.



Poané’s paintings feature a wide variety of subjects, from Native American and Southwestern to religious themes. His talents also extend to animal portraits, equine painting and even celebrity publicity paintings including one of Charlie Daniels.

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(Elizabeth will tell in our schools, Friday, Jan. 14)



The Arts Council serves Macon County as a presenter, promoter and resource for artists, cultural organizations and schools working to meet their goals.

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## ‘Opportunity Appalachia’ subject of webinar launch

Mountain BizWorks, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Opportunity Appalachia will host a webinar on Tuesday, Jan. 25 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., to launch an expanded phase of Opportunity Appalachia. The webinar will feature Gayle Manchin, federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Tom Barkin (invited), president & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and Donna Gambrell, president & CEO of Appalachian Community Capital.

Mountain BizWorks invites all interested community and economic development leaders, elected officials, developers, and business owners to learn about the opportunity to obtain assistance for important development projects. Visit [mountainbizworks.org](http://mountainbizworks.org) to register.

Opportunity Appalachia will provide targeted support for downtown and rural development projects to build entrepreneurial communities where local business can thrive, creating quality jobs for residents and revitalizing local economies. The \$2.25 million in funding will provide support for more than 40 projects which are anticipated to create 3,000 jobs and bring \$400 million of new investment into Central Appalachian communities. The expanded program targets Appalachian communities in five states: Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Selected communities will each access \$30,000 – \$75,000 in technical assistance to support their proposed development projects, to include (but not limited to):

- Development of investment prospectus, preparation of pro forma financial projections, structuring of project financing,
- Market research, demand assessment,
- Architectural and engineering,
- Business plan preparation, operations planning,
- Identification of project developers, and
- Investor outreach.

Mountain BizWorks will also be hosting a subsequent North Carolina-focused event for Opportunity Appalachia on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m. For information visit the Mountain BizWorks Opportunity Appalachia page, or contact the Mountain BizWorks Opportunity Appalachia Program Manager, Steve Lockett, at [steve@mountainbizworks.org](mailto:steve@mountainbizworks.org).

## Survey: Small business owners reporting that inflation is biggest problem, highest since 1981

The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index increased slightly in December to 98.9, up 0.5 points from November. Twenty-two percent of small business owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem encountered in operating their business. Price raising activities have reached levels not seen since the early 1980s when prices were rising at double-digit rates.

“Small businesses, unfortunately, saw a disappointing December jobs report, with staffing issues continuing to impact their ability to be fully productive,” said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg. “Inflation is at the highest level since the 1980s and is having an overwhelming impact on owners’ ability to manage their businesses.”

State-specific figures are unavailable, but NFIB State Director Gregg Thompson said, “It’s clear from the numbers that small businesses everywhere are facing the same challenges – inflation, a lack of job applicants, supply chain disruptions. We need our elected officials to set partisan politics aside and work together to pass legislation that eases the financial pressure on small businesses and enables them to get through these difficult times.”

Key findings include:

- Twenty-two percent report inflation as the single most important problem operating their business, a 20-point increase from the beginning of 2021 and the highest level since Q4 1981.

- Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months increased three points to a net negative 35%. Owners remain pessimistic about future economic conditions as this indicator has declined 23 points over the past six months.

- Forty-nine percent of owners reported job openings that could not be filled, an increase of one point from November.

According to NFIB’s monthly jobs report, a net 48% (seasonally adjusted) of owners reported raising compensation, up four points from November and a 48-year record high reading. A net 32% plan to raise compensation in the next three months. Thirteen percent cited labor costs as their top business problem, up three points and a 48-year record high reading and 25% said that labor quality was their top business problem.

Fifty-seven percent of owners reported capital outlays in that last six months, up two points from November. Of those making expenditures, 41% reported spending on new equipment, 25% acquired new vehicles, and 19% improved or expanded facilities. Six percent of owners acquired new buildings or land for expansion and 13% spent money for new fixtures and furniture. Twenty-nine percent plan capital out-

lays in the next few months, up two points from November and two points higher than the 48-year average.

A net 1% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes increased by one point to a net 3%.

The net percent of owners reporting inventory change increased four points to a net 7%. Thirty-six percent of owners report that supply chain disruptions have had a significant impact on their business. Another 30% report a moderate impact and 21% report a mild impact. Only 11% report no impact from recent supply chain disruptions.

A net 9% of owners viewed current inventory stocks as “too low” in December, down six points from November. A net 8% of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months, down two points from November but five points above the 48-year historical average.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices decreased two points to a net 57% (seasonally adjusted). Unadjusted, 5% of owners reported lower average selling prices and 58% reported higher average prices. Price hikes were the most frequent in wholesale (85% higher, 0% lower), construction (74% higher, 5% lower), and retail (70% higher, 7% lower). Seasonally adjusted, a net 49% plan price hikes (down five points).

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends increased three points to a net negative 14%. Among the owners reporting lower profits, 29% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 22% blamed weaker sales, 17% cited labor costs, 10% cited the usual seasonal change, 8% cited lower prices, and 4% cited higher taxes or regulatory costs. For owners reporting higher profits, 63% credited sales volumes, 11% cited usual seasonal change, and 15% cited higher prices.

Two percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied. Twenty-six percent reported all credit needs met and 62% said they were not interested in a loan. A net 4% reported that their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts. Zero percent reported that financing was their top business problem. A net 4% of owners reported paying a higher rate on their most recent loan.

The NFIB Research Center has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the 4th quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB’s membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. The survey was conducted in December 2021.

For more information, visit [NFIB.com](http://NFIB.com).

## State’s workplace injury rate continues to decline

New figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor, show the nonfatal workplace injury and illness rate for North Carolina’s private industry remains at a historic low for 2020 with a rate of 2.1 cases per 100 full-time workers. This represents a decline from the 2019 rate of 2.3 and is significantly lower than the national rate of 2.7. North Carolina’s rate for private industry is the fourth lowest in the nation and is the lowest rate among all State-Plan states.

These data are estimates from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) compiled by the BLS. The rate accounts for growth and contraction in total hours worked in industry, which is an important factor in a state like North Carolina that has experienced significant growth.

“I am pleased to see that the downward trend in workplace injuries and illnesses continued in 2020,” Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson said. “Given the additional challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, employers and employees

should be commended for their dedication to safety on the job. Businesses in this state have embraced a culture of safety, which is reflected in the fact that North Carolina’s injury and illness rate is the fourth lowest in the nation.”

The 2020 rate for North Carolina’s state and local government sector was 3.0 cases per 100 full-time employees. This represents a significant decline from the 2019 rate of 3.8 cases per 100 workers. Nationally, the rate was 3.9 for 2020. In North Carolina, the rate for private industry construction in 2020 was 2.0 cases per 100 full-time employees and the rate for private industry manufacturing was 2.5. These rates are statistically unchanged from 2019.

As a State-Plan state, North Carolina’s Occupational Safety and Health Division will continue its focus on hazardous industries, such as construction and manufacturing, through its special emphasis programs, by providing free safety training and education, conducting free safety and health consult visits, and establishing partnerships and alliances with industries.

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# Dogwood Trust announces second round of funding for opioid-related planning grants

Dogwood Health Trust has announced a second round of funding for opioid-related collaborative planning grants available to the counties, municipalities, or the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians located in Dogwood's 18-county service region in Western North Carolina, including the Qualla Boundary. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on Dogwood's website, and proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2022. Award notifications will be made by the end of April 2022.

Dogwood also announced nearly \$2.7 million in funding from its first round of opioid-related collaborative planning grants. Buncombe, Graham, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey Counties all received a grant to assist with planning and preparing to use the funding that is expected to be distributed from the state as a result of the national opioid settlement.

"As a result of the historic \$26 billion national opioid settlement agreement, every county in our state is expected to get a boost in funding for their opioid remediation efforts," said Dr. Susan Mims, interim CEO of Dogwood Health Trust. "The timing of this settlement is fortunate since substance misuse and related deaths have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to ensure the region establishes the necessary collaborations and plans now, so Western North Carolina is well equipped to use the settlement funds when available to improve health and wellbeing across the region."

Each opioid planning grant provides up to \$300,000 per

year for up to two years to support collaborative planning projects between counties, municipalities, or tribal nations and 501(c)(3) organizations and other community partners that align with the Memorandum of Agreement that governs the use of opioid settlement funds in North Carolina.

Opioid planning proposals may include requests for support of the following:

- Facilitation and/or coordination of collaborative planning
- Needs assessment, data collection and/or analysis
- Partnership building
- Development of workforce, implementation, and/or sustainability plans
- Capacity building
- Technical assistance
- Administration/reporting

"Western North Carolina should soon be able to leverage significant resources towards our efforts to reduce opioid overdose mortality throughout the region and impact populations that have been disproportionately affected," said April Bragg, PhD, Senior Impact Officer - Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder. "To that end, we are particularly interested in funding projects that include multi-county planning efforts and collaboratives that include multiple partner organizations."

The RFP is posted on Dogwood's website, and proposals must be received by 5 p.m. on Feb. 14, 2022. Award notifications will be made by the end of April 2022.

# Harris Medical Park expands; open house planned for Jan. 18

Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin is proud to announce an expansion at 144 Holly Springs Park Drive that includes new space for Harris Surgical Associates and the Harris Pain Center. The expanded space is conveniently located adjacent to the longstanding facility at 55 Holly Springs Park Drive which includes Harris Family Care – Franklin, Harris Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Harris Women's Care, Harris Pediatric Care, and outpatient lab, radiology, and physical rehabilitation services.

In honor of the expansion, there will be an open house held at the new location from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 18th. Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin invites community members to see the new space, meet the physicians, and grab a goodie. General surgeons Gilberto Robles, MD, and Joshua Pratt, DO, and interventional pain specialists Austin Albright, MD and Todd Lipphardt, PA-C will be in attendance to greet the community.

"We're excited to expand access to care in Macon County as part of our mission of Making Communities Healthier," said LaCrystal Gordon, CNO and Interim CEO for Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital. "Our new space for general surgery and pain management in Franklin will complement our primary, subspecialty, and outpatient services that have been available to the community for decades."

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Let me cover several current items. Some of this information comes from questions folks have sent to my website in recent days.

First, Optimum is continuing COVID testing at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 5. This state testing program is in high demand. Testing supplies are becoming limited, as well as testing personnel are being impacted by Omicron. We are fortunate that Optimum is providing this service, and I am hopeful it will continue. The Macon County Health Department is also conducting testing in Franklin.

While the town has provided the site for testing, we are not directly involved in its operation. We open and close the building and sanitize the facility after each session.

Some folks have complained about having to wait outside during this cold weather. Given the spread of the virus and the confined space of the Community Center, having large number of potentially infected people waiting inside the testing area is not an acceptable protocol.

The testing process can be expedited by folks going to the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation website and preregistering. Once on the website scroll down to COVID Testing to where preregistration into the Optimum system is accessible. Preregistration eliminates the need to enter basic information at the testing site and reduces wait times for everyone. If you have previously used Optimum testing services, preregistration is not required a second time.

The replacement of the waterline on Moorewood Road will be underway soon. A major delay has been a limited supply of six-inch ductile iron water pipe. The contractor has had to search for and order the pipe from multiple suppliers.

Town electric crews are in the process of replacing the old sodium vapor street lights with new LED lights. The new lights are more in keeping with the dark sky initiative. They produce a natural light that is directed and focused down onto the street. Crews are getting 50 light units at a time and installing them asap. They are about half way through the conversion process.

I continue to get questions about when Hotwire will begin operations. Hotwire is in the process of setting up equipment, upgrading the headend building to meet their

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### A third school zone sign would clear up confusion

When Cartoogechaye Elementary School was built 20 years ago, the state or county should have placed a third flashing light School Zone sign at the intersection of Carson Crossing and Old Murphy Road. As motorists exit U.S. 64 West onto Carson Crossing they are dumped right into the middle of the school zone onto Old Murphy Road, not knowing if it's during a drop off or pick up time at the school until they exit the school zone 1/4 mile to the north or south. But by then they've driven 45-plus MPH in a school zone which may be flashing 35 MPH, unbeknownst to them. If the third flashing light were placed right in front of them at that stop sign, on school property, it would be as clear as day. And these days especially, during COVID, who knows when school is in or out if motorists have no kids in schools. It's a bad intersection right now and has been for 20 years.

Ken Bowden – Franklin, N.C.

### Rittenhouse has moral question to resolve

The late, great Johnny Cash wrote: "Don't take your guns to town, son." In the song, Billy Joe repeats his mother's warning as he lays dying. Shot down by a cowpoke who could draw faster than him.

In Kenosha, Wisconsin, two young men lie in eternal rest. A third man is maimed for life. All three were shot by a young boy like Billy Joe who took his gun to town. But, the young shooter in Kenosha had much more firepower than the cowpoke in Cash's song. Kyle Rittenhouse carried an assault weapon strapped on his shoulder.

The jury found Rittenhouse not guilty on five charges leveled by the state prosecution. He will go on with his life. But, it won't be that simple. He has gone into a room that he can never leave. He killed two fellow human beings. From a legal standpoint he may have done all he needs to do. Still, there is a moral question to resolve – Was it really necessary for Kyle Rittenhouse to kill those two people? From a Biblical perspective how does he atone for his deadly deeds? He can (1) accept the facts. He can (2) confess his wrongdoing. That is where his process of atonement hits a snag, though. He can't complete the third requirement—restitution. Those two victims can't be brought back to life. That will surely haunt Kyle Rittenhouse.

It should haunt every American. As Cash's long-time friend Kris Kristofferson asked: "...who's to bless and who's to blame?"

Can you hear Johnny Cash somewhere in the distance: "Don't take your guns to town, son."

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

### Time to admit you have been fully deceived

If you will need never ending boosters after being vaxxed; if you will need to get tested after being vaxxed; if you will need to wear a mask after being vaxxed; if you are still spreading the virus after being vaxxed; if you can still be hospitalized after being vaxxed; if you are still living in fear while blaming others even though you are vaxxed; then it is time to admit that you have been conned and fully deceived by the propaganda meant to control you. It is time to read the book (or at least the first chapter of damning evidence) called "The Real Anthony Fauci" by Robert Kennedy Jr. for a dose of real and scientific truth based on real facts. It's time for all of us to get back to life after two years of falsehoods and panic.

Jim Gaston – Franklin, N.C.

### Grateful for 20 wonderful years in Franklin

Well it's a new year and I want to say to Franklin citizens, a huge thank you to all for giving this old Florida/Brooklyn Yankee a wonderful 20 years here in Franklin.

You great people accepted me and my wonderful wife of 69 years with kindness and graciousness. Thank you to all. And to the great crew at our VFW Post, their treatment is great God bless you all and thank you all. Again, bless you all from Joan and me.

Bill Trapani – Franklin, N.C.

Email letters to the editor to  
[maconcountynews@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountynews@gmail.com)



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### The foundation of justice seems ever-changing

The search for justice and truth seems to be evasive. We all seem to take sides of finding what this means and who actually is to implement this idea of justice for all. I myself grow tired of the many who claim justice while at the same time not viewing this equally.

The Capitol Hill disturbance of Jan. 6, 2021, is viewed with a different set of eyes than the rioting of many of the cities across our great land. We seem to favor one wrong but ignore the others. We say that justice is blind but yet it favors with eyes wide open its own cause which itself seeks. So is justice of Republicans the same justice as that of Democrats? It seems more of a chess game where the American public are the game board and the powerful play for the ruling over us. Each say they carry the torch for truth and justice and we fall sway into an allegiance towards one or the other. So the truthfulness or foundation of justice seems ever changing. It's as a compass that cannot find its true north and seems pulled in every direction. So it's no wonder that we as Americans seem so lost and have no direction except for our pleasures and comfort. If any generation is in need of a renewed direction it's those of our younger and mid generations. They are to carry the torch which will light or darken our path into the future. They too will seek out truth and justice, but if there is no foundation, as in the present, then they themselves will be evermore lacking in a world that seeks so desperately, "justice."

Dr. Martin L. King knew this all too well when he stated "there are just laws and un-just laws." He himself knew of the foundation of where truth and justice lays. America's beginning, claimed the foundation of being equal and just, but lost its way in the true meaning of justice, equality and truthfulness. We once again have drifted from knowing its truest foundation. If we ask why does all humanity desire justice, truth and equality and if they say it's the collected agreement of man, then who's the higher man in authority who dictates what justice or truth will be? It is so obvious today that no one seems to know just what justice or truth is. If leadership and our justice system has no compass, it's obvious we ourselves are lost, for we are the ones who elect those who lead us.

This is of no surprise, for mankind's story past, present and future has all been written for all to see, in the pursuit of meaning and purpose all within the framework of equality, truth, with what is just and fair for all. The very foundation of this, is we've removed the Divine God from everything we can, speech, thought, memorials, and within our government we want nothing to do with Him. Why is this? It's the same for each of us, we prefer to answer to no one! So we become our own little god, we make our own truth, justice, equality, and fairness. All good attributes are of God, all that is "good" derives itself from Him. If you take Him out you have man to fill the void which has always been deceitful, within equality, justice and truthfulness, yet we all say we want this?

*Dedicated to Dr. Martin L. King who personally knew the Foundation of Justice.*

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

### Change is coming

I am a legal U.S. citizen, having been born and raised all my life in this once great country. I have paid taxes through my working years and at 71 have just recently retired. I am very frustrated every time I turn the news on - not ABC, CBS, or NBC, but NewsMax, who, like Paul Harvey, tells "the rest of the story."

Not much is constant except change and our country has gone through many changes in recent years in morals, work ethics, religious values - to name a few - since I was a young adult. I feel that our government cannot be trusted to do what is best for the "legal" citizens of our country. I have done my homework and research and if interested, you can do yours, to validate the present direction of America.

Open borders? Flying illegal immigrants into our country and giving them a free ride financially? I had to work for my ride, how about you?

NYC mayor granting a vote to non-citizens? Voting machine fraud, dead people voting - do the research! The last time I voted, I didn't even have to show my driver's license. A citizen can't even speak at a voting commissioner's meeting in Franklin/Macon County.

When will the government handouts stop which are keeping people from getting back into the workforce when they can make more by sitting home than going out to earn a living?

Now the covid mandates for businesses are getting employees fired if they don't take the injection which will put even more people on the government payrolls. It seems our government wants to "control the masses." We have a right to just say no without it affecting our livelihood.

I saw a billboard on the highway which stated entitlement of \$300 per month per child. That's a great reason to have more children. (Sarcasm, of course)

The LGBT community has grown by leaps and bounds. In nature, reproduction is by male and female, not male/male or female/female, although I think from science classes years ago there is an organism that is able to switch back and forth independently, but that doesn't pertain to humans or animals. LGBT - one way for population control of our species!

Transgenders in sports - how can a female athlete compete with the body of a transgender male turned female? Men typically have more muscle mass and strength than women. I guess that's one way for a sure win in sports. Fair? Hardly.

The recent fire in N.Y. which killed 19 people including 9 children. No water sprinklers in the building. It was a federally funded building and did not require sprinklers. What??!

New information has surfaced about Pelosi and her husband investing in the stock market over the years, making millions with "insider" trading knowledge. How many other politicians have followed suit, I wonder?

President Biden's son Hunter, has brokered over a trillion dollar deal with China regarding lithium mines which

# TAYLOR

From previous page

standards, and setting up an office. They will announce in local media very soon their plans for operation. For folks who live in neighborhoods with underground utilities, the process will take longer since Hotwire will have to install underground conduit. The underground portion of the network will involve about 18% of the residences, and it will be more expensive and challenging to install. Hotwire is committed to provide this service.

We are in the winter season where power outages are very likely with heavy snow and winds. Our friends in Macon County Emergency Services want to remind everyone not to call 911 if there is a loss of power. Outages during business hours can be reported to town hall at 526-2118. After hours call 526-4131, a nonemergency number. But, my request is to be patient. During these winter storms our electric crews monitor the electric system and restore power as soon as it is safe to work. In these winter events, power failures invariably impact large sections of the town. If everyone immediately calls 911, the emergency system will be too overloaded to quickly respond to life threatening situations.

will be used for batteries in electric vehicles by the year 2030, according to our president's mandate, as part of his "infrastructure" bill. If that's not a conflict of interest in Biden's family, I don't know what is. Welcome to China on the North American continent! Do your research!

Gun control? To me, that means hitting my target. Unarm the masses and only criminals will be armed.

When will we return to a country we can all once again be proud of, or is our government heading towards a socialist party system as it seems? The "have's and the have nots" with "big brother" constantly looking over our shoulders and monitoring our every move. Taxation without representation is sounding more and more familiar.

Being older, I may not have too much more time on this planet, but I want a good life for all of our children and grandchildren and all who come after. All of us. A change is needed - no not needed, but required - or I fear civil unrest will be our future. We need a strong, professional leader who looks out for the legal citizens of America and knows how to balance a budget!

I am appreciative that I can get some respite as I live in this beautiful area of Western North Carolina, God's back yard. The mountains give me a release from some of the frustrations I feel on a daily basis. Thank you Jesus!

Deb Sands - Franklin, N.C.

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# Chick-Fil-A open for business in Franklin



Along with the ribbon cutting and the "First Bite," the 828 Vets Organization raised the American Flag as part of the celebration of the Franklin Chick-Fil-A.  
Photos by Vickie Carpenter



# Little Library completed for Eagle Scout project



Matthew Vargas completed his Eagle Scout project with the dedication of the Little Free Library at the new Dog Park on Monday, Jan. 3. The Little Library was built and installed under Matthew's direction with the help of members of his Boy Scout Troop 202 and Troop Master Jared Benedict. Read2Me sponsored this project along with support from the Macon County Public Library and Friends of the Library.



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## NCDOT seeking new partners for 2022 Watch for Me NC program

North Carolina communities interested in participating in the 2022 "Watch for Me NC" safety program may now submit applications to the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

"Watch for Me NC," focuses on reducing bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities through public education and community engagement partnerships with local law enforcement.

"It takes everyone working together to keep bicyclists and pedestrians safe," said Mark Ezzell, director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. "The educational materials, hands-on training and critical partnerships forged by "Watch for Me NC" goes a long way towards making our communities safer."

Communities selected to participate will receive free training, technical assistance and safety tools provided by NCDOT and the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. Communities are encouraged to form coalitions with diverse stakeholders, such as law enforcement agencies, schools and community groups, all of whom will be eligible to attend training sessions. In addition, communities will receive support that is individually customized, helping them plan outreach, share opportunities and troubleshoot challenges.

"Watch for Me NC" partners will also receive materials with pedestrian and bicycle safety messages to aid in engagement at public events. Communities may also be eligible to receive advertising such as radio PSAs and vehicle wrapper ads. Applicants should be able to demonstrate support from local law enforcement agencies and, if applicable, campus police, plus the capacity to participate fully in the program. Apply online at [watchformenc.org](http://watchformenc.org).

Applications are due Feb. 18, 2022.

## Applications open for DOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative

To reduce bicycle injuries and deaths, the N.C. Department of Transportation is encouraging people across the state to receive free bicycle helmets as part of its annual Bicycle Helmet Initiative.

The program, founded in 2007 and overseen by the Integrated Mobility Division, has provided thousands of helmets to children, including providing more than 30,000 helmets in the last five years. While less than half of all children typically wear a helmet while biking, they can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by almost 90 percent.

All applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Feb. 4, 2022. Applicants may request 25, 50, 75, or 100 helmets, and awardees will receive the helmets by April 29, 2022.

As part of the initiative, applicants are encouraged to partner with government and non-government agencies to host bike safety events. Examples of partners include police and fire departments, parks and recreation departments, health departments, community centers, churches and non-governmental organizations.

Sales of the Share the Road specialty license plate make the initiative possible.

Visit the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative webpage for more information and to download the application.



## Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests December 31 - January 9. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



### Macon County Sheriff's Department

January 3

Dustin Bo Rodmaker, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

January 4

James A. Metcalf, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

January 5

Richard Dewight Collins, was charged with violating domestic violence protective order and probation violation. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Kristin Amy James-Bates, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

James Patrick Oneal, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

January 6

Amy Murray Gibson, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Ronald Lee Wickham, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Davin Lane Eldridge, was charged with larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Gregory Dillon Dehart, was charged with assault by strangulation, assault inflicting serious injury with minor present and interfere with emergency communication. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

January 7

Justin Michael Connell, was charged with drug/narcotic violations. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

Samuel Cole Schmitt, was charged with reckless driving. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

January 8

Tricia Lorraine Campbell, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license revoked. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Travis Staffelbach, was charged with larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

January 9

Madison Adia Garnett, was charged with domestic physical. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

### Franklin Police Department

December 31

Amy Morgan Smith, 29, was charged with resist/obstruc/delay. A \$20,000 bond was set.

January 1

Kurt Joseph Tastinger, 28, was charged with injury to

real property. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jeffery Scott McAlpine, 25, was charged with disorderly conduct and simple assault. No bond was set.

January 2

Kendra Lanece Guffey, 26, was issued a true bill of indictment for possession of methamphetamine. A \$5,000 bond was set.

Brian Lynn Brugman, 45, was issued an order for arrest for indictments for methamphetamine and larceny. A \$13,750 bond was set.

Gary Russell, 48, was charged with felony probation violation for out of county. A \$30,000 bond was set.

### Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 3

Andrew Douglas Anderson, 35, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with violation of a court order and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Gracie Jalene Green, 41, of Webster Rd., was charged with trespass and breaking and entering. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Cody Shay Brady, 42, of Childrens Home Loop, Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, larceny after breaking and entering and breaking and entering of a motor vehicle. No bond was set.

January 4

James Colby McCoslin, 39, of Oak Hill, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Margie Lynn Taylor Toineeta, 52, of Noah Geneva Ledford Dr., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set.

Cheryl Dion Cole, 38, of Drangonfly Lane, Whittier, was issued a true bill of indict for habitual larceny and larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Travis Wayne Fisher, 36, of Norman Dr., was issued a true bill of indictment for habitual felon. An unsecured bond of \$2,500 was set.

January 5

Patrick Kevin Milligan, 46, of Skyland Dr., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Katherine Nichole Dickerson, 32, of Thomas Valley Rd., Whittier, was charged with simple assault. No bond was set.

Anthony Kelvin Sequoyah, 33, of Dragonfly Lane, Whittier, was charged with assault on a female. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Ellen YellowHammer Lincoln, 26, of Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen goods/property, conspire to commit felony larceny and felony larceny. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set.

Julie Liberty Tate, 38, of Thomas Valley Rd., Whittier, was charged with assault by pointing a gun. No bond was set.

Norma Kay Driver, 47, of Mary Jackson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of stolen goods/property and possession of stolen motor vehicle. No bond was set.

January 6

Orion Deacon Holmberg, 24, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with driving while impaired. No bond was set.

January 7

Jessica Ann Normand, 42, of Ajuga Dr., was charged with assault and battery. No bond was set.

January 9

German Palleres Garcia, 43, of Tsali Enolia Rd., Cherokee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. No bond was set.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Holly Springs Community Development Club Breakfast Meeting** will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the community building, 2720 Cat Creek Rd. Upcoming plans for 2022 will be discussed. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Graduation** will be held on Saturday Jan. 15, 10 a.m., at the center, 336 Living Hope Way. There will be worship, a message from the word, a short video and the graduate giving his testimony. Come join them. For more information about the program go to [www.livinghopeway.com](http://www.livinghopeway.com) or call (828)524-2157.

**Valley River Arts Guild** will be offering classes for Wooden Carpenter's Wheel Barn Quilt, on Saturday, Jan. 15, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Decorative Snail Mail Mailbox, on Saturday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Pine Needle Basket Making, on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1 to 4 p.m.; and Official Bob Ross Art Technique Class, on Saturday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

**Jackson County Branch #54AB of the NC NAACP Online Meeting** will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. Plans for MLK Day and themes and events for 2022 will be discussed. Email [jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com](mailto:jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com) to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome.

**Macon County Republican Women's Club Monthly Meeting** will be held on Jan. 18, 11:30 a.m., at Fat Buddies Ribs & BBQ Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Michele Woodhouse who is running for election to the US House to represent NC 14th Congressional District. All Republican women are cordially invited to attend. Bring a small household item that you would like to donate.

**VAYA Health Substance Use, Misuse and the Opioid Crisis Free Community Class** will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. The class is for anyone helping someone experiencing substance abuse issues. This class details common substance use issues and tips for those caring for those individuals. Register ahead by calling or emailing Kristina Moe at (828)524-3600 or [kmoe@fontanalib.org](mailto:kmoe@fontanalib.org). Visit <https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/> to sign up for other free online classes.

**Yoga at the Macon County Public Library** will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., in the Meeting Room. Register with the instructor at Beyond Bending Yoga, <https://beyondbendingyoga.com/schedule/> to ensure safe numbers. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Rd., Franklin. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

**Prentiss Church Food Pantry** is open on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

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

**Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center** is now offering limited in-person classes at the Robert Carpenter Community Building. A variety of exercise classes and a writing group are offered in the afternoons for adults over 50. For more information, call (828)349-2058.

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

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

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

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

**Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club** Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on 441 S. For more information, call Larry Noyes at (828)200-9394 or email [LarryRNoyes@gmail.com](mailto:LarryRNoyes@gmail.com)

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

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

### CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spiritual Light Center** on Sunday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m. Alexander III & Bishka Ravenell Alexander will be sharing on "Spiritual Sovereignty Part II." On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to [SpiritualLightCenter.com](http://SpiritualLightCenter.com).

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

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

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

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

**Memorial United Methodist Church** Worship Services in person and on Facebook at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Communion the first Sunday of each month. The church is located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd. (across from Loafers Glory). The pastor is Evan W. Hill. For more information, call (828)369-5834.

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

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

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

**Snow Hill United Methodist Church Sunday** worship with music is held at 10:45 a.m., morning worship service 11 a.m. Pastor D'Andre Ash is the pastor. The church is located at 330 Snow Hill Rd., in the Cowee Community.

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

S	E	T	S	E	N	O	N	E	A	L	T
N	E	V	E	L	O	S	I	L	O	S	O
C	E	N	I	C	E	S	A	L	S	A	T
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# WCU planning weeklong celebration of MLK Jr.

Western Carolina University's Martin Luther King Jr. week-long celebration will be highlighted this year with speaker Charisse Burden-Stelly's keynote address "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Tradition of Radical Blackness."

Burden-Stelly is a 2021-22 visiting scholar in the Race and Capitalism Project at the University of Chicago and an assistant professor of Africana studies and political science at Carleton College. She is a scholar of critical Black studies, political theory and intellectual history, and the co-author of "W.E.B. Du Bois: A Life in American History."

Her published work appears in journals including Small Axe, Souls, Du Bois Review, Socialism & Democracy, International Journal of Africana Studies, Journal of Intersectionality and the CLR James Journal. Burden-Stelly's public scholarship can be found in publications including Monthly Review, Boston Review, Black Perspectives and Black Agenda Report. Additionally, she is the co-host, with Layla Brown, of "The Last Dope Intellectual" podcast.

Other MLK events include:

– Monday, Jan. 17 – The annual MLK Jr. Unity March will begin with poster making at 10 a.m. in the University Center's multipurpose room, followed by the annual march which will start at the fountain in the center of campus at 11 a.m. The Jackson County NC NAACP Branch #54AB will lead a Freedom Caravan from Sylva to Western Carolina University. Vehicles will line up at 9:15 a.m. at Mark Watson Park, 86 Mark Watson Park, Sylva and be escorted to reserved parking at WCU. Caravan riders will join the annual MLK Unity March, beginning at 11 a.m. at the fountain in the center of campus.

The annual MLK Unity March is hosted by WCU's Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. This year's theme is "Until justice rolls down like water." (Amos 5:24). For information, leave a message at the Jackson County NC NAACP Branch, (828)331-1803 or email jacksonnaacp54ab@gmail.com.

The first of two service learning opportunities will take place, hosted by the Center for Community Engagement and

Service Learning. Time and location TBD.

– Tuesday, Jan. 18 – The College of Business is hosting "David Tutt Talk: The Economics of Dr. King and the 1965 Voting Rights Act" at 5 p.m. in the UC multipurpose room.

This talk will explore the economic thoughts of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the economics of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. It will explore the economic power of voting in a democracy and its relationship to capitalism.

– Wednesday, Jan. 19 – Intercultural Affairs will host a keynote workshop titled "Martin Luther King Jr. and W.E.B. Du Bois Against U.S. Imperialism" at 10 a.m. in the UC multipurpose room.

The presentation of Student Leadership Awards, followed by the keynote address, will take place at 7 p.m. in Bardo Arts Center Performance Hall. Music will be provided by Franklin's Blue Jazz.

– Thursday, Jan. 20 – David Walton, director of WCU's Global Black Studies program, will lead a workshop on "Strategies for Classroom Diversity and Inclusion." It will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the UC multipurpose room.

– Friday, Jan. 21 – Intercultural Affairs will hold a meet and greet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. with

artist Zeke Jennette, who won the Chancellor's Award at the 53rd Annual Juried Undergraduate Exhibition for his painting, Oshun. Intercultural Affairs will show an exhibition of Jennette's work in their gallery throughout January and host a meet and greet vernissage with him on Jan. 21. Light refreshments will be served.

Students will hold a pair of workshops. The first will be at 4 p.m. called "What I've Been Told," followed by "Joy as Resistance" at 5:30 p.m. Both will be held in the UC multipurpose room.

– Saturday, Jan. 22 – The second of two service learning opportunities will take place, hosted by the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. Time and location TBD.



Blue Jazz

## Master storyteller Elizabeth Ellis in Franklin Jan. 15

Internationally known storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will present a program of humorous and poignant tales Saturday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m., in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room.

From the Hans Christian Andersen statue in New York's Central Park to the Glistening Waters Festival in New Zealand, this master storyteller and award-winning author captivates listeners of all ages with her humor, honesty, and Southern-style wisdom. Recipient of both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network, Ellis is a frequent favorite at the National Storytelling Festival and at the Teller-In-Residence Program of the International Storytelling Center. More than half a million children have been mesmerized by her stories during her 35-year career as a teller.

Ellis will spend Friday, Jan. 14, telling stories to public school students through the Arts Council's Artists-in-the-Schools Program. Learn more about her at elizabethellis.com.

Admission is free; donations are welcome. Attendees should wear masks and practice social distancing. If the event must be canceled due to weather or COVID concerns, notice will be posted on the Arts Council's and the Library's Facebook pages.

The Library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road with ample parking and handicap access. This event is produced by the Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.



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# Town council approves skate park design

**Brittney Lofthouse**  
Contributing Writer

During the first meeting of 2022, members of the Franklin Town Council unanimously approved the design concept of the future skatepark that will be located on the Whitmire Property in town.

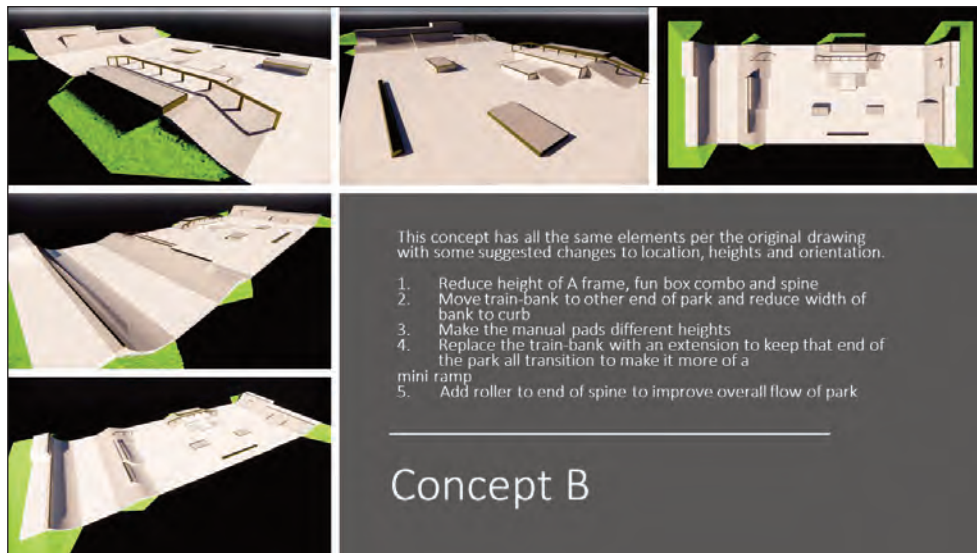
In September, the council voted to place the skatepark on the Whitmire Property which is located at the corner of the Highlands Road and Main Street and is currently home to the Sunnyside Disc Golf Course. After walking the property,

town leaders voted unanimously to move forward with plans to construct the new 6,000 square foot skate park on the corner of the property.

With a location selected for the future public skatepark, the town of Franklin approved \$15,000 to hire a design firm to determine the layout of the park. With input from local skateboarders, two design concepts were presented for consideration at Monday, Jan. 3 meeting.

The town voted to approve concept B, which incorporated ideas from skateboarders, while also taking safety and feasibility into account.

With the design layout finalized, the next step is to look at funding and costs for the project. The skate park will be constructed as a public private partnership project with funding from the town of Franklin, funding raised from the community, and funding from JE Dunn Construction. JE Dunn Con-



struction was originally hired by HCA Healthcare to build the new Angel Medical Center in Franklin, but after learning of the public's desire to see a skate park developed in Franklin, Project Superintendent Steve Suttles told members of the town council in June 2021 that the company was willing to volunteer to make the park a reality. The entire project has an estimated cost of materials for the project to be around \$100,000, with much of the time and labor for the project being donated by HCA and JE Dunn partners.

JE Dunn said at the meeting that now that the design was finalized a price will be determined, letting the town have a realistic figure of how much money needs to be raised or contributed by the town to complete the park. JE Dunn said they hope to begin construction of the park in April — finishing the skatepark near the same time the new hospital is completed.

# Annual Polar Plunge benefits Mainspring Trust



From left, the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge benefitting Mainspring Conservation Trust, included Jordan Smith, executive director, Rachel Newcomb, outreach associate, and Craig Smith, president and general manager of Bear Lake Reserve. They shared information about Mainspring before the Polar Plunge began.

**Deena C. Bouknight**  
Contributing Writer

On New Year's Day, Bear Lake Reserve near Sylva hosted the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit Mainspring Conservation Trust, based in Franklin. Around 50 children and adults attended and participated in the chilly event - among them a few Mainspring staff members. Mainspring supports conservation efforts in the Southern Blue Ridge.

"I really wanted to support the cause even though the water was breathtakingly freezing," said Meta Sadlon, who lives in Franklin and participated for the first time in the event. "Mainspring staff shared good information about what they accomplished in 2021."

"The money raised at the event will go toward general needs of the organization. Participants paid for a brunch that was served after the event, and this raised money for us, in addition to the bar sales for the day. The temperature was warm, around 60 degrees, but the water was incredibly cold!" said Rachel Newcomb, Mainspring's Conservation Outreach Associate.



## Helen Gribble Short

Helen Gribble Short, 72, of McBee, S.C., went home to be with her Savior on Tuesday morning, Jan. 11, 2022.

Her twin brother and she were the last of eight children born to Mary Rogers Gribble and Harden Ammons Gribble of Franklin, N.C., on May 27, 1949. She has always loved reading books and enjoyed the beauty of the mountains.

She went to college after high school at Western Carolina University where she met the love of her life, a boy from the Sandhills of South Carolina, Charlie "Nick" Short. They were married at Union United Methodist Church on Aug. 16, 1969, in Franklin. After graduating from college, they moved to Fort Lawn, S.C., to teach and coach. Both earned master's degrees in education from Winthrop University. Charlie felt called to be a minister and Helen was very supportive of this change in their lives. They moved to Seneca, S.C., with two little girls, had two churches, and Charlie attended Emory University during the week.

They moved to McBee in 1983 and Charlie began his career at Union United Methodist Church. McBee became part of the Short's family and they did not leave until 1997. Helen devoted these years to helping so many children and families as a guidance counselor.

In 1997, the couple moved to Laurens, S.C., and Charlie began preaching at St. James United Methodist Church. Helen worked as a guidance counselor for a few years, but she felt led to help with adult education at that time. She helped so many adults obtain their GEDs and it was here that Helen's family began to grow so much more.

Charlie retired in 2014 and they moved back to McBee. By this time, Helen had six grandchildren of her own to spoil and many more adopted grandchildren.

Nana Short loved her McBee Panther Softball girls and especially the girls in 2020 who helped her get through the COVID season.

She leaves behind her loving husband of more than 52 years, Rev. Charlie A. Short of the home; her daughters, Mary Evelyn (Isaac) Shipman and Nicole Short Teal; grandchildren: Jacob Shipman, Campbell Shipman, Cassi Shipman, Savannah Teal, Jenna Teal, Charlie Teal, and Noel Heustess; three wonderful sisters, Carol Pollack, Lana Haires, and Betty Accord; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nana Short was so excited to be seeing her brothers who preceded her in passing, Robert "Bob" Gribble and Junior Gribble and her sisters, Mary Ann Gribble and Doris Owens Gribble. Most of all, her beautiful niece and nephews, Celeste Atkinson, Mike Shuler, Larry Owen, and Jeremiah Gribble.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Agape Hospice for their loving and tender care during her time of declining health.

A service celebrating her life will be held Thursday, Jan. 13, at 3 p.m., at Union United Methodist Church of McBee with Revs. Paige Wheeler and Dale McCluney officiating. Burial will follow in the McBee Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

At Helen's request and in lieu of flowers, memorials may be to a church or the charity of one's choice.

Norton Funeral Home & Crematory of Hartsville, S.C., is honored to be serving the Short family. [www.nortonfh.net](http://www.nortonfh.net)



**Helen Gribble Short**



## Deaths & Funerals

### Robert Wayne Faust

Robert Wayne Faust, 68, of Franklin, N.C., formerly of Jacksonville, Fla., passed away on Jan. 3, 2022.

He was born in Shreveport, La., to the late Edward William Faust and Nancy Lee Smith Faust. He graduated Englewood High school in Jacksonville, Fla. He was a University of North Florida graduate, a Navy veteran, and a member of Toastmasters.

He is survived by his wife, Leone Bellamy Faust; son, Eric Wayne Foust; Brother, William Foust; sisters, Jackie Davis and Linda Pickett; and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends and loved ones Saturday, Jan. 15, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Franklin Christian Church. A memorial service to follow at 2 p.m. with Rev. Matt Kolodzik officiating.

A second visitation will be held at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church on Jan. 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. A memorial service to follow at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Franklin Christian Church at 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin, NC 28734; or South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church at 2137 Hendricks Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207

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

Macon Funeral home is handling the arrangements.

### Dolores Agnes Nebot Ernst

Dolores Agnes Nebot Ernst, 94, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022.

Born in Palisades Park, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Julian and Mary Hendricks Nebot. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Russell Ernst; daughter, Dolores Pataki; and six siblings.

She loved painting and reading. She was a founding member of the Macon County Republican Women's Club and a member of St. Francis Catholic church.

She is survived by eight children, Christopher Ernst (Elizabeth) of Stoughton, Mass., Adrienne Mosco (Peter) of Franklin, Julianna Burtoff of Long Island, N.Y., Russell Ernst of Lake Worth, Fla., Rose Mary Pumillo of Mattituck, N.Y., Timothy Ernst (Lori) of Fayetteville, Ga., Baldwin Ernst (Karen) of Franklin, and Matthew Ernst of Long Island; and a brother, William Nebot of New York; 13 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, one great great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass will be Thursday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m., at St. Francis Catholic Church. Father Tien Doung will officiate.

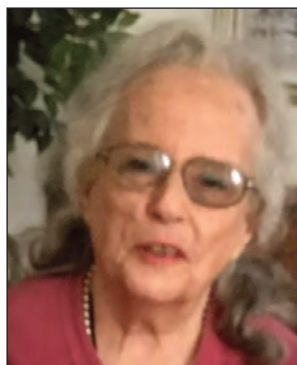
Burial will be on Friday, Jan. 14, at 12 p.m. at the WNC State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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



Robert Wayne Faust



Dolores Agnes Ernst

### Thomas Ross Tolbert, M.D.

Thomas Ross Tolbert, M.D., 54, of Franklin, N.C., died peacefully on Dec. 31, 2021, after a five year struggle with melanoma.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1967, in Atlanta, Ga., to Julian Hudson Tolbert and Helen Ross Tolbert. He attended Sarah Smith Elementary School and Sutton Middle School. He entered The Westminster Schools in ninth grade where he excelled academically and finished as a National Merit Scholar. He also participated in various extra-curricular activities including the varsity soccer team, musicals, and the Westminster Chorale. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1985. After graduating from Westminster in 1986, he went on to study at Davidson College where he majored in math as well as completing the pre-med requirements, helped reinstate the Kappa Sigma chapter on campus, sang in the Davidson Chorale, and was a North Carolina Fellow. He graduated cum laude in 1990 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

After spending a gap year delivering for Domino's and working at Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, he attended the Medical College of Georgia graduating with honors in 1994. He did his internal medicine residency at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, serving for an additional year as Chief Medical Resident.

In 1999, he began working as a primary care physician at the Lexington, Ky., VA Medical Center. While there, he trained medical students and residents as well as serving in various capacities with informatics programming.

In February 2014, he began working at the Franklin Community Based Outpatient Clinic of the Charles George VA in Asheville where he remained a physician until his passing.

On Dec. 27, 1993, he married Laurie Frances Crawford at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. They were blessed with five children born between 1997 and 2009. Dedicated to his family, he worked with his wife Laurie to homeschool their children.

He loved activities with his family including singing, gardening, cooking, volunteering with course decoration for both the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and the World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park, raising livestock, building small construction projects, and hiking. He also had a lifelong love of road trips, first with his college friends and later with his family.

He grew up at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta where he was active in the choir and youth group and participated in a number of mission trips. He and Laurie were members of Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky, and for years he led family worship in the home. In 2015, he and the family began worshiping at Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Franklin where he led Bible studies and participated in worship.

He is preceded in death by his father and is survived by his mother, Helen Ross Tolbert, of Atlanta, his wife of 28 years, Laurie Crawford Tolbert, and their children Griffin Ross Tolbert, Thomas Jackson Tolbert, Rachel Hilsman Tolbert, Benjamin Llewellyn Tolbert, and Bonnie Frances Tolbert, all of Franklin, North Carolina. He is also survived his brother Julian Hudson Tolbert (Jolene) of York, Pennsylvania, his aunt Susan Ross Sawyer of Atlanta, his cousins Cindy Sawyer Mollard (Roland) and Cathy Sawyer Rice (Scott), his mother-in-law Mabel Griffin Kichline, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private family graveside service was held at Arlington Memorial Park on Friday, Jan. 7, followed by a memorial service at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta.

A Celebration of Life scheduled for a later date in Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Mountain Grove Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1772, Franklin, NC 28744; Water Mission, [watermission.org](http://watermission.org); YMEN, [ymenchicago.com](http://ymenchicago.com); or Answers in Genesis, [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org).

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).



Thomas Ross Tolbert, M.D.

### Harvey Len Peacock

Harvey Len Peacock, 91, went on to Glory on Dec. 31, 2021.

He was born on Aug. 30, 1930, in St. Petersburg, Fla., to James Dewey and Rinnie Kate Adcock Peacock. He was a veteran, serving in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He had a 35-year tenure with Florida Power serving as the general line superintendent at Florida Power's largest satellite office. He had the ability to repair almost anything and was always willing to help others even if he found it difficult to accept help for himself. He was never happy sitting on the sidelines since he was a "doer" at heart.

He lived an extraordinary life. A member of First Pentecost Church in Franklin, he was definitely a child of God. The way he lived was a testimony that he loved and served his Lord Jesus. He was a member of a Bible study group while he was able to attend and read and studied the Bible daily. His love and loyalty to his family will long be remembered. He was a deep thinker who wasted very few words. He was faithful, reliable, and tough.

He loved road trips, especially through the Nantahala Gorge and to Gainesville, Ga., via all the backroads through the small towns. Harvey was a "pig" on a mission. All who knew him best knew exactly when he would stop. His main goal for the road trips was to stop for lunch at precisely 12:00 or for dinner at precisely 5:00. A clock could be set with Harvey's stomach. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking and golf. He also raised and trained hawks. He called his favorite hawk "Slewfoot" because it had a broken leg at the time he rescued it.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Carolyn Sellers Peacock; his son, David Peacock and spouse Jo Lynn of Franklin; his grandchildren, Alicia Nicole Peacock and Chelsea Ray Cerisoli; his step-grandson, Nazir Tavlan; and his great-grandson, Lincoln Zane Peacock. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and three sisters.

A Celebration of Life will be held Feb. 21, at First Pentecost Church at 2 p.m., including the VFW/American Legion Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).

### Deborah (Dusty) Ruth Morrow Geisenhof

Deborah (Dusty) Ruth Morrow Geisenhof, 67, passed away Jan. 7, 2022. Dusty, as she was known, was born in Salisbury, N.C., on Feb. 2, 1954, to Horace M. and Ruby Conley Morrow.

She is survived by her daughter, Sierra Womack (Charles) of Franklin, N.C.; a granddaughter, Brinkley Robinson of Franklin; and two brothers, Ed Morrow of Brevard, N.C., and Horace M. Morrow Jr. of Candler, N.C. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Richard Morrow and husband, Jay Geisenhof.

She loved children and taught preschool for over 30 years. She was also a very talented pianist and singer. She trusted the Lord to lead her and wanted to help others learn about Christ, and even though she loved plants and flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Victory Christian School 278 Victory Church Rd Sylva, NC 28779

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com).



Harvey Len Peacock



Deborah Geisenhof



# Deaths & Funerals

## Albert 'Garland' Frady

Albert "Garland" Frady, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022.

He was born in Clayton, Ga., to the late George Dewey and Mary Vianna Raby Frady. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, George Joel Frady.

He was born in the Persimmon Community of Rabun County, Georgia, where he attended school and learned farm skills. He moved with his family to Haywood County, North Carolina, in the early 1940s, helping his mom in their store and caddying at the Haywood Country Club. They moved to Macon County in the early 1960s, where he helped with the farm, milking cows and growing gardens. He was always ready to help others on their farms with hay season and mowing. He enjoyed being with his family and friends, fishing and taking trips, he even went to Niagara Falls and New Port News, Va. He moved to Fletcher with his mom in 1990 and then back to Cowee in 1994, then he started working at MCE/MCH. He was always a great help and a friend to all there. He enjoyed bowling tournaments, Special Olympics, and lately, the Night to Shine Proms. He always looked forward to the holiday season so he could have his favorite, chocolate-covered cherries.

He is survived by his sisters, Kathy Medford (Joel) of Franklin and Evelyn Long (Harold) of Arden, N.C.; his good friends, Dillon Ford and Conda Bradley; several nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, and many friends.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Jason Smith and Rev. Ronnie Branson officiating. Burial was in the Cowee Baptist Church cemetery.

The family would like to express a special thanks to MCH and Conda Bradley, for their loving friendship to Garland and his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to MCH at Macon Citizens Abilities, Inc. P.O. Box 698, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

## Arlef Arlen Welch

Arlef Arlen Welch, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late Oscar Franklin Welch and Lillie Ethel Daves Welch. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Johnny Welch, Bobby Welch, Virgil Welch, JD Welch, and Charles Welch; and his sisters, Betty Jane Meredith and Hetty Holbrooks.

He was a lifelong resident of Macon County and a member of Burningtown Baptist Church.

He is survived by his sister, Dixie Bates of Franklin, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for Arlef and his brother, Charles, who passed away on Dec. 18, was held Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Burningtown Baptist Church cemetery. Rev. Randy Drinnon officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials 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](http://www.maconfuneral-home.com).

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

## Bobbie Jo Smith Soleau

Bobbie Jo Smith Soleau, 68, went on to Glory on January 1, 2022. She was born on Aug. 4, 1953, in Monroe, Mich. She was the first born child of RJ and Donna Volpi Smith. Her family members will always remember her great love for them. Being the oldest, she always tried to "mother" her younger brothers and sisters and later doted on her daughter and her precious grandchildren. She and her husband, Rick, who was the love of her life, were married for 46 years and had a great life together.



**Bobbie Jo Smith Soleau**

Bobbie Jo knew and loved Jesus and enjoyed reading and studying the Bible. She was a member of Grape Baptist Church in Monroe, Mich., and attended Cullasaja Assembly of God in Franklin, N.C. She liked listening to gospel music and worshipping her Lord.

She loved pets. She was the owner of Moses, a quaker parrot, who was like a member of the family since she had him for 16 years. Her dogs, Sasha and Belle, were also very dear to her.

She worked for Monroe County Mental Health Department in Michigan as an auditor/bookkeeper for nearly 20 years. Later, she worked for approximately 10 years for Macon County in North Carolina as an auditor/bookkeeper.

She is survived by her husband, Richard (Rick) M. Soleau; her daughter, Kathy J. Yensch (Brian) of Monroe, Mich.; her grandchildren, Brooke Lagace of Franklin, and Todd Lagace of Tampa, Fla.; and her siblings, James Smith, Arletta Uran, Tina Standifer (Earl), Donna Fussell (Ricky), and Roy Smith. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother, Robert Smith, and her sister, Betty Winkelman.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in Monroe, Mich.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com).

## James Lewis 'Jim' Bryson

James Lewis "Jim" Bryson, 74, passed away, Jan. 9, 2022, following a brief illness. A life-long resident of Jackson County, he was born May 13, 1947, and was preceded in death by his mother, Pat Bryson.



**James Lewis Bryson**

He served in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. Following his service in the Army, he was a heavy machine operator working on the Lake Keowee and Little River Dams. He retired from Con-Met Cashiers (Cashiers Plastics Plant) after 33 years where he began work as a truck driver before working in maintenance. He then worked for the McNeely Company delivering heavy equipment before fully retiring in 2012. He volunteered for more than 30 years with the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad.

He spent his retirement days maintaining the family property working to keep it well-manicured for all to enjoy. He built a beautiful fishpond and picnic area where he and others shared many wonderful memories.

Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Sandy Bryson; sons, Chad Bryson and Jamie Bryson; two grandchildren, Bradley Bryson and Cheyanne Bryson; a sister, Nettie Nash (Tom) and a brother, Sammy Bryson (Arlene); as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, PO BOX 919, Cashiers, NC 28717 or Whiteside Presbyterian Church, PO BOX 1550, Cashiers, NC 28717

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

Online condolences may be made at [www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com](http://www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com).

## Robert Raymond Boyd

Robert Raymond Boyd, 88, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Jan. 4, 2022.

He was born in Jackson, Mich., to the late Raymond Victor Boyd and Doreen Bundy Boyd. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Boyd of Franklin. He was owner of Bob Boyd's TV Service, the past president of Kiwanis in Franklin and loved karaoke.

He is survived by his companion, Linda Taylor; children, Marie Butterfield of Franklin, Lynn Smith of Gladwater Texas, and Susan Berry of Miami, Okla.; sister, Gwen Larson of Vaser, Mich.; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

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

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## Aric Almirola announces his retirement after 2022 season

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Almirola To Retire at End of 2022 Season

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. (Jan. 10, 2022) – The 2022 season will be Aric Almirola's 15th and final year as a NASCAR Cup Series driver. The 37-year-old racer will retire after the season finale Nov. 6 at Phoenix Raceway.

Longtime sponsor Smithfield Foods will continue as an anchor partner of Almirola and the No. 10 team of Stewart-Haas Racing (SHR), with 2022 marking the brand's 11th year with Almirola and its fifth with SHR.

"I truly enjoy driving racecars and I'm excited to race my heart out in 2022 for Smithfield and Stewart-Haas Racing," said Almirola, driver of the No. 10 Smithfield Ford Mustang. "But to be the best in this business, you've got to be selfish, and for the last 37 years my life has always revolved around me and what I needed to do.

"I want to be present. I want to be the best husband and father, and that to me means more than being a racecar driver. So, it's one more year where I'm all in on racing, where we'll do whatever it takes to compete at the highest level. But when the season is over, I'll be ready to wave goodbye. I've loved every minute of it, but it's time for the next chapter of my life."

Almirola made his NASCAR Cup Series debut on March 11, 2007 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, three days before his 23rd birthday. He teamed up with Smithfield in 2012 while at Richard Petty Motorsports for his first full year in Cup. The Smithfield/Almirola partnership is now one of the most tenured in NASCAR, and since the duo joined SHR in 2018, Almirola has represented Smithfield in the NASCAR Playoffs every year and scored two wins – Oct. 14, 2018 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway and July 18, 2021 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to have Aric as part of our Smithfield Family for more than a decade now," said Shane Smith, president and CEO, Smithfield Foods. "In addition to being an incredibly talented racer and devoted family man, Aric embodies Smithfield's values and has embraced our commitment to do good for our customers, employees and communities. He will always be family. We wish him all the best in his next chapter and look forward to another great year with him and Stewart-Haas Racing."

Almirola's decision to make the 2022 season his last was pragmatic. The Tampa, Florida-native is a husband and father of two, and as he and his wife, Janice, looked at life beyond racetracks on Sundays, Almirola determined that stepping back from racing would allow him to take new steps with his children as they pursue dreams of their own.

"Janice and I have spent many nights talking about it and the questions are the same as anyone else would have when you're going to stop doing something. Can I afford it? The answer I kept coming up with is that I can't afford not to. Will I regret it? I think I'll regret it if I don't," Almirola said.

"At the end of this season, we're going to have a 10-year-old in Alex and a nine-year-old in Abby, and I'm going to have a short window with them while they still think Dad is cool. I want to be there for them and to be a part of the things they're interested in. Before we know it, they're going to have car keys and they're going to be running off with their friends, doing the same things I did when I was 16 or 17."

Tony Stewart, co-owner of SHR with Haas Automation founder Gene Haas, first met Almirola in 2004 when they were teammates at Joe Gibbs Racing. Stewart was already a NASCAR Cup Series champion with the first of his three titles in hand (2002, 2005 and 2011) while Almirola was just beginning his NASCAR career after being selected as one of the first two drivers for Gibbs' diversity program.



Aric Almirola's best seasons have come with Stewart-Haas Racing. He finished a career-high fifth in points in 2018 and scored a career-best 18 top-10 finishes in 2020. This year will mark his last as he has decided to retire after the season finale at Phoenix Raceway on Nov. 6.

"I've watched Aric develop into a really good racecar driver and it was a proud moment when we were able to bring him to Stewart-Haas Racing," Stewart said. "He's really delivered for our race team and for Smithfield, always putting in maximum effort. I know he wants to go out on a high note and we're going to give him all the resources to succeed.

"That being said, we also want him to enjoy this season. Aric is a great husband and father, and this year will bring a lot of cool moments that he'll be able to share with his family. He's earned this opportunity to go out on his terms."

Almirola's best seasons have come with SHR. He finished a career-high fifth in points in 2018 and scored a career-best 18 top-10 finishes in 2020.

"It means a lot to be able to walk away on my own terms. It's been a great ride. I have been blessed beyond my wildest imagination and I honestly have no regrets," Almirola said.

"Do I wish I would've won more races? Sure, and there's still an opportunity this year. Do I wish I would've won a championship? Sure, and I've got a lot of drive to make that happen this year. I'm a competitive person. I want to win and I want to be a champion, but at the end of the day, I know that those things mean way less than being there for my family.

"I made it to the highest level of American motorsports as a professional racecar driver. It's been amazing, with a lot of ups and downs and everything in between. I wouldn't trade it for the world. But I'm ready to go back to being a fan."

Almirola's final season kicks off with the non-points Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum Feb. 5-6 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum before the official start of the 2022 campaign with the 64th annual Daytona 500 Feb. 20 at Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway.

### Richard Childress Racing Announces Breakthrough Partnership with 3CHI

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - A leader in natural, hemp-based consumable and therapeutic products 3CHI will sponsor Tyler Reddick during 2022 season.

3CHI, a company focused on innovation within hemp-based consumer products, is teaming up for a groundbreaking partnership with Richard Childress Racing, Tyler Reddick and the No. 8 NASCAR Cup Series team in 2022, the two organizations announced this week.

This is a significant partnership for both organizations as it marks the first category-specific team partnership in NASCAR and first hemp-based consumer brand sponsorship across all major professional sports.

The partnership will kick off with the DAYTONA 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. Tyler Reddick will drive the No. 8 3CHI Chevrolet Camaro in the Great American Race, as well as a significant number of races during the 2022 season as part of the multi-race, multi-year partnership.

"This is a unique opportunity to leverage a team partnership with one of the most iconic and innovative teams in NASCAR to help introduce 3CHI's vast array of products to a passionate and dedicated fan base," said Justin Journey, founder and chief executive officer of 3CHI. "We're looking forward to working with Richard Childress Racing to tap into the excitement of the sport and new Next Gen car, unique activation opportunities and technology involved."

3CHI focuses on bringing natural science and new innovation to the hemp industry and has earned thousands of consumer testimonials to their benefit and enjoyment of 3CHI products. 3CHI produces products made by the industry's best scientists, using the highest quality natural and organic hemp.

Everything produced by 3CHI follows all federal requirements for full legal compliance. 3CHI's production and distribution of its products strictly adhere to a policy of safety above all else and sales are for responsible adult use only to consumers aged 21 and older.

"This is a first-of-its kind partnership, both within motorsports and within the sports industry as a whole," said Torrey Galida, president of Richard Childress Racing. "We're proud of our role as industry leaders in this category and look forward to introducing a pioneer in hemp-based consumer products to NASCAR, as well as educating fans about

3CHI's innovative, science-based products.”  
For more information, visit 3CHI.com.

**MHR Launches Into 2022 With Major Changes; Aligns With Chevrolet, Alliance With GMS, Expands To 2 Trucks**

ROSEVILLE, Calif. (Jan. 11, 2022) – McAnally-Hilgemann Racing is launching into 2022 with major changes, as the team advances its NASCAR Camping World Truck Series program.

MHR, entering its third full season in the series, is expanding to a two-truck operation and is aligning with Chevrolet as it fields Chevrolet Silverados beginning this season.

The team has moved into a 57,000-square-foot shop that is part of the GMS Racing operation in Statesville, North Carolina – as part of an alliance that has been formed be-

close proximity to facilities such as the chassis dyno, fabrication shop and paint shop – providing easy access to key resources, as part of the new alliance. Engineers from the two teams are working together in that relationship, as well. The GMS Racing campus includes the operations for Petty GMS Motorsports, a two-car, full-time NASCAR Cup Series team formed in 2021.

“This is an amazing opportunity for us,” McAnally said. “We were confident going into this alliance that it would be very beneficial for MHR. A meeting we had with GMS owner Maury Gallagher bolstered that confidence even more.

“We look forward to working with Mike Beam, Tom Ackerman and Bill Wheeler, along with Summer English,” McAnally said. “They have made this a great move for MHR to have our own facility at the GMS complex.”

in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West – winning the series championship in 2019.

**Construction underway to prepare The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for Clash at the Coliseum**

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, a living memorial to all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I, has been a civic treasure for generations of Angelenos. The legacy of events and individuals hosted in nine-plus-decades reads like no other: the only venue to host two Summer Olympics (Xth Olympiad in 1932, XXIIIrd Olympiad in 1984) and soon a third (XXXIVth Olympiad in 2028); home to college football's USC Trojans since 1923 and the UCLA Bruins (1928-1981); professional football's Los Angeles Rams (1946-1979 and 2016-2019), Raiders (1982-1994) and Chargers (1960);



Construction is underway in preparation for the NASCAR's Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum at Los Angeles Coliseum in Los Angeles, Calif. At right, pictured at the ground-breaking is (L-R) Dave Allen, President of Auto Club Speedway, Derek Muldowney, President of Design and Development for NASCAR, Kevin Daly, Assistant General Manager at LA Memorial Coliseum, and Michael Waltrip, former NASCAR driver and Fox Sports commentator. Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images

tween the two teams.

“This is a great opportunity to be part of Chevrolet’s racing program in the Camping World Truck Series and to work with a team the caliber of GMS Racing,” said team co-owner Bill McAnally. “We’re excited to make these advances as we build and expand our operation with a second full-time truck.”

Derek Kraus – a 20-year-old from Stratford, Wisconsin – will continue with the team, driving the No. 19 MHR Chevrolet Silverado.

Colby Howard, also 20, of Simpsonville, South Carolina, has joined the team and will drive the No. 91 MHR Chevrolet Silverado. MHR announced that Gates Corporation is coming on board and will serve as the primary sponsor on that entry.

Mark Hillman, who joined the team last year and served as crew chief with Kraus on the No. 19, becomes the team manager and will also be Howard’s crew chief on the No. 91. Champion NASCAR crew chief Shane Wilson has come on board at MHR to serve as the crew chief for Kraus in the No. 19.

Wilson first worked for McAnally as a crew chief just over 20 years ago, on a team that won back-to-back championships with driver Brendan Gaughan in what was then the NASCAR Winston West Series. The team advanced to the truck series – with Gaughan scoring two victories and winning the rookie title in 2002 and adding six more wins in 2003, while finishing fourth in the championship standings.

The new MHR shop is located on the GMS campus; in

McAnally noted the success GMS Racing has had since it was formed in 2012. GMS Racing has won five titles across multiple series, including the 2016 and 2020 Camping World Truck Series championship.

“We have great respect for what GMS Racing has accomplished,” McAnally said. “We’re working hard to achieve that kind of success, as we contend for wins and championships in the Camping World Truck Series.”

In making the expansion to a two-truck operation, MHR has purchased equipment from GMS – including 13 Chevrolet Silverados that were raced in competition last year.

McAnally’s history with Chevrolet can be traced back to the start of Bill McAnally Racing, when McAnally raced in local divisions at All American Speedway in Roseville, California. He captured his first NASCAR championship in a Chevrolet – winning the late model division title in NASCAR’s Weekly Racing Series at Roseville in 1990.

McAnally moved up to the NASCAR Winston West Series, which became the NASCAR K&N Pro Series West and later came under the ARCA banner. Overall, BMR has won 11 NASCAR K&N West/ARCA West championships – a record for the series and for NASCAR Regional Touring overall – and scored 106 overall wins in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series/ARCA Menards Series.

McAnally-Hilgemann Racing was formed at the beginning of 2020, when McAnally partnered with Bill and Mona Hilgemann to field an entry in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series on a full-time basis, with Kraus as the driver. Prior to that, Kraus had raced for BMR three seasons

hosting three NFL Championships and two Super Bowls; home to the Los Angeles Dodgers (1958-1960) and the 1959 World Series; appearances by U.S. Presidents Franklin D Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan; and international dignitaries such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, and Nelson Mandela.

On March 29, 2008, the LA Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox set a Guinness World Record for the largest attendance ever at a baseball game with a crowd of 115,300. Other historic events include Billy Graham’s appearance in 1963 in front of 134,254 guests (still an all-time Coliseum record), Nelson Mandela’s 1990 triumphant return to the United States, the first ever Papal Mass by Pope John Paul II in 1987, and the 1976 Bicentennial Spectacular.

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THEME:  
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### ACROSS

1. Cause for a duel
5. Nelson Mandela's org.
8. "\_\_\_\_\_ in the shade"
12. Andean people's chew
13. "White Wedding" singer
14. Like a haunted mansion
15. South American tuber, pl.
16. Type of cotton fiber
17. Desired forecast?
18. \*"The Underground Railroad" author
20. Like West Wing office
21. Not silently
22. "When We Were Kings" subject
23. Hand over (2 words)
26. Barbecued
30. The Jackson 5 1970 hit
31. Repressed
34. "Alice Doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ Here Anymore"
35. State of dishonor
37. Three, to Caesar
38. Brightest star in Cygnus
39. Performer's time to shine
40. "No.1 Ladies Detective \_\_\_\_\_" book series
42. African migrator
43. \*"The Night Watchman" author
45. \*"Little Women" author
47. Poor man's caviar
48. Analyze
50. Canter or gallop
52. \*"A Farewell to Arms" author

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56. Latin dance
57. Club on the links
58. Kind or courteous
59. Los \_\_\_\_\_, CA
60. Round feed storage
61. Not odd
62. Colonial times laborer
63. Band performance
64. Theodores, to friends
9. Length times width
10. Call someone, in the olden days
11. Poetic "ever"
13. Apple invention
14. Food contaminant
19. Run off to wed
22. Jean of Dadaism
23. Out of style
24. Find repugnant
25. Burn with coffee, e.g.
26. \*Ursula K. Le \_\_\_\_\_
27. Jargon
28. It happens at a certain time and place
29. First novel, e.g.
32. Near in space or time
33. Not a win nor a loss
36. \*"Song of Solomon" author
38. \*"Chronicles" author and songwriter
40. \*NY Times bestselling author Atkins or playing card
41. Gambling venue
44. Smidgins
46. Young swan
48. Eagle's nest
49. Young salmon
50. \*"Miss Lulu Bett" author
51. Highest adult male singing voice
52. Snake's warning
53. Take as a wife
54. Got A+
55. Desires or cravings
56. Sticky substance

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