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Snow combined with freezing temperatures caused several downed trees across the county with some falling on power lines causing power outages. Duke Energy reported 4000 homes without power on Sunday night and Haywood Electric which serves the Otto and Scaly communities reported 1,000 outages.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Storm Izzy sweeps thru Macon Sunday

Teresa S. Tabor – Editor

The Southeast and the mid-Atlantic region braced for a winter storm last Saturday with reports of possible snow accumulation ranging from a couple of inches in the valleys to up to 20 inches in the higher elevations. Forecasters were also ambivalent about when and where the snow would begin to fall.

In light of the possibility of a potential storm, Macon County declared a state of emergency in order to be in position for federal help should the storm prove to be destructive in its intensity. Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor also declared a state of emergency for the Town of Highlands.

With all eyes on the weather, the state of North Carolina was preparing for the worst. NCDOT crews and contractors used hundreds of trucks Thursday and Friday to apply brine to roads from the mountains to the coast in advance of the winter storm. Brine, a cost-efficient mixture of salt and water, lowers the freezing temperatures on pavement and helps prevent ice from forming on roads, according to a release from the NCDOT. After pre-treating the roads, crews then prepared the plowing equipment to clear the roads of snow and ice for post-storm responses. Other crews prepared chainsaws and other tools that would remove any downed trees.

N.C. Governor Roy Cooper signed a state of emergency on Thursday to activate state resources to respond to the storm

See **STORM** page 2

Upcoming retreat jumping off point for new mayor

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

An opportunity for Town of Franklin's planning and local government community to participate in evaluating past goals and establishing new ones is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21-22. As new Town of Franklin Mayor Jack Horton explained, an informal dinner starts the retreat on Friday evening at The Lodge at Cat Creek and then all-day meetings will be held Saturday at Town Hall.

"There is a big list of topics to discuss," said Horton. "We will be talking about infrastructure, budgets, finances, teamwork, and issues we might have talked about last year ... where we are on them. Some things to address are the skate park, the Whitmire property [a little over 12 acres off Highlands Road that the Town owns], litter issues and the cleanliness of our town, intergovernmental cooperation with the county and our sister town of Highlands, and working with the state and the

See **RETREAT** page 5



Franklin mayor Jack Horton, with the help of his wife Lydia, took his oath of office in December after being the sole candidate for mayor in the November municipal election.

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Storm causes abbreviated Cold for a Cause

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Snow days in Franklin

Photos by Vickie Carpenter & Betsey Gooder


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STORM

Continued from page 1

and to allow for the possibility of federal reimbursement. He also activated about 200 National Guard personnel to be located in western and central counties to help with transportation-related issues. The Guard made use of utility vehicles, trucks and 4-wheel drive ambulances that could move through the snow. National Guard and DOT teams also staged at winter trouble spots on interstates to help keep traffic moving.

Utility companies prepared for significant power outages by bringing in extra crews, including many from other states.

Macon County Emergency Services Director Warren Cabe kept the public abreast of storm developments sending out statements regarding power outages and road conditions. According to a statement issued Sunday morning, the average snowfall totals ranged from 5 to 8 inches with reports of trees and utility lines in roadways with trees leaning "precariously" over the travel lanes. He admonished drivers to use extreme caution or better yet, not to travel at all.

Duke Energy reported almost 2,200 power outages on Sunday morning and Haywood Electric reported almost 1,000 outages mostly in the Otto and Scaly Mountain areas. By nightfall, Duke was reporting 4,000 outages.

By Monday, Duke was still reporting around 1,989 outages, and Haywood was down to 14 outages.

With snow continuing to fall throughout the night on Sunday, following a pause Sunday afternoon, the new snowfall combined to create slick conditions on Monday.

More than 2,000 N.C. Department of Transportation crews and contractors with more than 1,800 trucks and other motorized equipment worked around the clock worked on Sunday to get roads clear across the state. Crews targeted interstates and major highways first and then will transition to primary and secondary roads. In Western North Carolina, crews worked overnight and are continuing to plow snow-covered roads.

NCDOT's de-icing operations staff were busy overnight Sunday through Monday, using more than 5,800 tons of salt and 550 tons of a salt/sand mixture. Those numbers are likely to continue to increase.

Macon County schools were closed on Monday due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, but roads were too treacherous to allow buses to run on Tuesday and Wednesday making both days official snow days instead of remote learning days.

In the likelihood that Western North Carolina may experience more wintry weather in the coming days, North Carolina Emergency Management officials recommend these tips to prepare for winter weather:

- Always keep at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food and a supply of medication in your home.
- Keep cell phones and mobile devices charged in case of power outages.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand for weather radios and flashlights.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and ensure generators are operated outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal indoors or use a gas grill indoors.
- Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio or a weather alert app on your phone to receive emergency weather alerts.
- Store an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit and road map.
- Make an emergency supplies kit for your pet and include medical records, leash and feeding supplies, enough food and for several days and pet travel carrier.
- Do not leave pets outside for long periods of time during freezing weather.

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Winter storm forces 13th annual Cold for a Cause to end early

Winter Storm Izzy blew into Western North Carolina over the weekend, bringing several inches of snow to Macon County. Just as nightfall set in on Saturday, volunteers with the 13th annual Cold for a Cause event called for the annual donation drive to end a little earlier for the safety of volunteers and those planning to donate.

Tim Crabtree, owner of Motor Company Grill and Crabtree General Store and Jacob Reiche, owner of Smart Pharmacy, had each volunteered their time to be suspended high above the Georgia Road in Macon County in a crane the use of which was donated by Sanders Crane Services. Volunteers stayed on hand to receive donations of coats, jackets, canned goods and other items to benefit Macon County Care Network including the Rotary Club and local Boy Scouts.

For the second year, the event was held at Franklin Plaza, in hopes the traffic visibility would boost donations of canned goods, blankets, and coats

Pictured clockwise from top: Local pharmacist Jacob Reiche takes a selfie from his perch high above the parking lot in the Franklin Plaza; an aerial view from the crane bucket; business owner Tim Crabtree is all bundled up for his stint in the bucket of the crane; the use of which was donated by Sanders Crane Service.

for those in need in the community.

More than \$2,500 was collected along with three full-to-the-brim box trucks of donations. Even though the event ended early, the total donations were about the same as last year.

For the past 13 years, more than 6,000 pieces of clothing and blankets, and close to 10,000 pounds of food and personal care products have been donated annually. The event, which was started by Patrick Jenkins as a way to give back to the community, has grown each year to become one of the largest collection drives for CareNet.



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RETREAT

Continued from page 1

federal agencies that have a presence in our area. Plus, we will look at festivals and things like urgent needs such as recruiting additional employees who are retiring or moving on.”

Public Works Director Nathanael Moore has taken a position in Greensboro, N.C., and Town Clerk/Human Resources Director Travis Tallent will be taking a job in Greenville, S.C. Those two positions are ones that will need to be filled soon.

“We’ve got quite a few things on our plate,” said Horton, “but there are opportunities as well. We will talk about a comprehensive plan, where we are now and where we want to be in the next 12 months. And then we will establish short-term and long-term planning for objective goals.”

Horton became the Town of Franklin’s mayor in the latter part of 2021; the previous mayor, Bob Scott, decided not to run again after serving four, two-year terms. Horton has spent most of his adult life serving in local government.

“I was born in South Carolina and grew up in Mecklenburg County and graduated from high school there,” said Horton. “After serving in the Navy, I went to college and graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor’s and master’s in political science. I started in 1976 as a college intern in local government in Swain County in Bryson City. Then they offered me a job as the county tax collector. In 1978, I was the first county manager in Swain County.”

Horton was in Bryson City until 1981 and he met his wife, Lydia, a native of Bryson City, while she was working at a bank there.

“We got married within the year [1977] and she’s been my

greatest supporter and we’ve been very blessed.”

Horton left local government to work in the private sector in Waynesville for a few years.

“But then I was itching to get back into local government, so I became a town manager in Huntersville, near Charlotte, for a few years. Then Macon County was looking for a county manager, and I worked here from 1985-91 before becoming a Haywood County manager for 15 years. I left there in 2006 and was in Caldwell County in Lenoir for two years.”

When the Macon County manager retired in January 2008,

“We need to maintain the growth and the atmosphere by looking at projects and evaluating them in a way that considers quality of life.

– Franklin Mayor Jack Horton

Horton returned to Franklin “for good. There is the saying, ‘I wasn’t born here, but I got here as soon as I could.’ That’s me.”

After Horton retired as Macon County manager in October 2013, he was encouraged to run for a spot on the Town Council. He was elected in 2019, and then, “Bob Scott convinced me I should run for mayor, so here I am.”

The Hortons have two grown sons, Adam, who resides in the Greensboro/Winston-Salem area, and another, Seth, in Durham. The couple also has three grandsons.

Horton indicated that although he has had a busy career, he has his work cut out for him as mayor of Franklin.

“There are several things I hope we can achieve as a team, and one is to get a better handle on and do some improvements

on our infrastructure for water and sewer. This will be a big part of our focus in the next two-to-five years. We also want to create an environment for businesses ... recruit and retain new employers to give residents more opportunities ... create a local environment that is business friendly. To do that we have to have good infrastructure and a housing market that is available and affordable. We also need to be able to support local businesses. Most people who grew up here have to go away to get good jobs. They need to be able to have the option to live and work where they were raised.”

All that said, Horton recognizes that an open-the-flood-gates approach to local business growth would be counterproductive.

“We don’t want to become another metropolitan area that people are fleeing from,” he noted. “We need to maintain the growth and the atmosphere by looking at projects and evaluating them in a way that considers quality of life. Just as important as creating jobs is smart growth. Business growth and quality of life sometimes come in conflict with each other, but we’re

seeking to strike a balance.”

Horton said he believes his education and long career in serving local communities has equipped him to be a mayor.

“I’ve learned over the years that the people you go to church with, meet in the barber shop, see at the grocery store, these are your neighbors who you are directly responsible to. Most people who run for public office on the local level have a heart for the people they represent. By and large, I’ve found over my three-plus decades that people in local leadership are sincere and want to do the right thing. My goal is to look at what I can do in this position to make things better than how I first found them. It’s not about getting credit or glory or accolades. It’s about getting things done.”



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

The Town of Franklin purchased the Whitmire property in East Franklin for \$1.5 million in November 2004. Recently the tract was approved for a skate park in addition to the disc golf course. The property will once again be a subject of discussion at an upcoming retreat.

NOTICE TO ALL

VFW Post 7339 of Franklin will present our local author William “Bill” Trapani



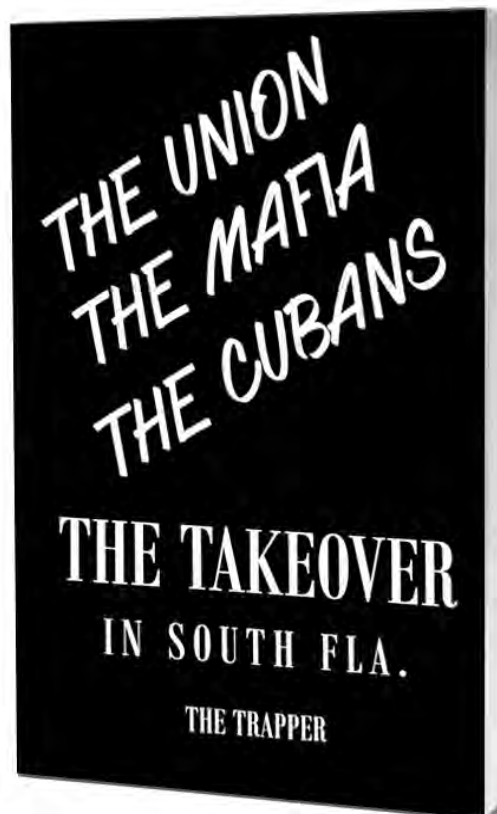
Bill will be selling & signing copies of his new book and will donate \$1 from each book sold to help the post

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Bill’s book, *The Union, The Mafia, The Cubans, The Takeover in South Florida* is an action book that takes place in Miami, Florida and the Islands.

Adult Reading



Covered bridge road trip a must-do in Pennsylvania Dutch Country

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Traveling to visit friends and family during holidays and while on vacation presents opportunities to experience historical, cultural, and natural sites. A recent trip through Lancaster County, Pa., offered up a chance to follow one of numerous driving options to see historic covered bridges, as well as countless farms operated by multi-generational Amish and Mennonite families.

Covered bridges evoke romance, nostalgia, curiosity, and more. Often referred to as “kissing bridges” because of couples using them as rendezvous points, they have also served historically as a spot for people to meet and discuss community issues. While covered bridges are not as prevalent in Macon County – except for the one on the Little Tennessee River Greenway – they are scattered throughout the countryside in other areas of rural America. Although bridges are rarely covered today and only about one in 10 of the original historic covered bridges still exist in the United States, the purpose of “covering” a bridge was to protect the wooden structural aspects from wear caused by weather conditions.

At least 25 bridges are included in a downloadable, PDF, numbered map and corresponding site list through discoverlancaster.com. Also included on the site is a suggested day-long itinerary.

Besides the name of the bridge, the list includes each bridge’s length as well as the



Number 4 on the Lancaster County, Pa., self-guided driving tour of covered bridges is Kurtz’s Mill, which is adjacent to walking trails at Lancaster County Central Park.

some of the covered bridges located throughout the region and at each one is an informational plaque worth stopping and reading.”

Often the bridge’s history involves someone or something significant to the region. All bridges on the motor tour were built from the middle to the latter part of the 19th century. Many of the bridges were submerged and some were damaged during the area’s catastrophic flooding in 1972 due to Hurricane Agnes, which caused more than \$2 billion in damage in Pennsylvania - including 68,000 homes and 3,000 businesses destroyed. Forty-eight deaths were reported.

However, all the damaged bridges were repaired and restored.

The covered bridge touring information through discoverlancaster.com also provides prompts regarding best routes to take as well as where to stop for foods, gifts, photos, and more. For example, a few of the bridges are located in the “charming” town of Lititz. Travelers are encouraged to explore the Moravian-founded town and partake of handmade chocolates and pretzels at a few traditional

waterway it crosses. Most bridges exhibit signage explaining when and how the bridge was built and by whom.

A native of Pennsylvania and a frequent visitor to Franklin, Dan Finnerty pointed out, “Having lived in York County for over 14 years, I’ve

occasionally visited Lancaster County a few times with church friends and family to view

viann-founded town and partake of handmade chocolates and pretzels at a few traditional



Amish life, historic stone structures, and picturesque working farms are just some of the sightings along the covered bridge driving tour in Lancaster County, Pa.

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shops.

Plus, at each covered bridge is either a full-parking lot or a pull-over area for one-to-a-few cars. Picture taking is popular, and a few bridges, such as Kurtz's Mill Bridge, are adjacent to designated walking trails. Some areas near bridges offer benches, picnic tables, or grassy areas ideal for picnicking.

Amish markets are aplenty on the route, and travelers can peruse hand-crafted toys, furnishings, quilts, accessories, and much more. Also visible are Amish one-room schoolhouses.

"It is always interesting to see Amish families traveling in their horse and buggies to and from their homes," said Finnerty. "Sometimes you can be fortunate enough to see workers in the field with horse-drawn plows or school children walking to and from school in

their distinct Amish clothing."

As is the case for many historic landmarks in these United States, anyone who finds themselves in or near Lancaster County, Pa. – no matter the season – schedule time to explore the many fascinating covered bridges, and view some of this country's most historic culture and pastoral landscapes at the same time.



At each covered bridge on the self-guided driving tour in Lancaster County, Pa., is signage that provides insight into the structure's history.

NCDOT opens application process for the 2022 NCDOT Mobi Awards

Communities and all government entities statewide are encouraged to enter this year's N.C. Department of Transportation Mobi Awards, which honor the state's best multi-modal projects.

The NCDOT Mobi Awards contest recognizes projects that serve at least two modes of transportation such as rail, aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, highways, public transportation and ferries. Examples include greenways, streetscape projects, transit service and bridges with walking paths. This marks the third cycle for NCDOT's biennial Mobi Awards, which were held virtually in 2020 due to the pandemic.

"We're pleased to announce the Mobi Awards because our state has so many great multi-modal transportation projects deserving of recognition," said Eric Boyette, secretary of the NCDOT. "The awards are a great way to highlight projects that are important to North Carolina's future as they connect people to places, provide alternative modes of travel and make the state more accessible, attractive and competitive."

People can enter the contest from today through Feb. 4 by filling out an online application form.

An esteemed panel of judges will select three finalists in each of the five categories (Rural, Small Urban, Urban, Large Urban and Innovation) and the public will be given

an opportunity to select one winner for the sixth category, Most Valued/Voted Project. The MVP winner in 2020 gathered more than 10,000 votes.

All winners will be announced at a May 4 luncheon event at the Raleigh Marriott City Center, 500 Fayetteville St., in Raleigh.

To be eligible, projects must already be constructed and operating. Projects entered for the first time this year must have been completed or operational between Jan. 1, 2017 and the application deadline of Feb. 4, 2022. However, participants with projects

entered in previous Mobi Awards cycles that did not win are eligible to re-enter this year's competition. Applicants need to re-apply on the portal as the application has changed.

The NCDOT Mobi Awards are hosted by the N.C. Department of Transportation and co-hosted by NC Go!, the North Carolina Triangle Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar and the N.C. State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education.

For more information on rules, eligibility and how to apply, go to connect.ncdot.gov/Mobi. Ticket information and sponsorship opportunities also can be found on the website. You can also learn more by watching our video about the NCDOT Mobi awards. Questions will be accepted by email at themobi@ncdot.gov.





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BBB scam alert: Getting a COVID-19 test? Make sure the testing site is real

This winter's spike in COVID-19 cases has more people than ever looking for tests. This has given rise to a new con: phony websites and suspicious in-person testing sites used to collect personal and insurance information.

How the scam works

Several websites appear after an online search for a COVID-19 testing site in your area, and a testing clinic affiliated with a local pharmacy or a pop-up run by a local group is selected.

In one version of this scam, you arrive at the testing site and are asked to complete a form with personal information, your driver's license and medical insurance cards are photographed. Then, a swab is done and a promise is made that test results will arrive within a short time. Unfortunately, the test is a fake and the results never arrive. It was an excuse to get your information.

In another version of this con, you complete an online appointment form with personal, insurance, and medical information. In some cases, a small fee is paid. But, on the day of the appointment, the pharmacy has no record of your reservation. Again, the phony form was a way of phishing for personal information.

One victim reported to BBB Scam Tracker this experience at a phony testing site.

"Not until I got home did I realize I provided way too much personal information. They used a swab of saliva and said I would be notified by email within 24 hours. It has now been two weeks with no results, and they are still there doing covid tests."

How to avoid COVID-19 testing scams

Understand the COVID-19 testing options in your area. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reminds consumers that no-cost COVID-19 tests are available to everyone in the U.S. at health centers and select pharmacies. If someone insists you pay for a test, especially if they claim it will cost you hundreds of dollars, it's a scam.

Only get tested at authorized testing sites or health centers. Visit your state, tribal, local, or territorial health department's website to find an authorized testing site in your area. In Canada, get information about testing for your province and see more resources for Canadians from BBB.

Watch out for lookalike websites. Scammers have become adept at creating websites that look just like websites belonging to well-known, trusted businesses. Before entering your personal information to an online form, make sure the website you are visiting is secure and there are no misspellings or unfamiliar names in the URL bar.

Be wary of unsolicited callers and messages. No legitimate company or health clinic will call, text, or email you without your permission. If you get an unsolicited message from someone, it's best not to give the caller or sender any personal details before confirming it's from a legitimate source.

Read the fine print on any documentation you are asked to sign. Question where the personal information is being kept as well as if it is secure, what lab is processing the results, and read the agreement carefully before signing. If anything within the agreement does not seem right, leave and find another testing facility.



Friends, family and members of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce joined Jamie O'Donoghue for a ribbon cutting of her new fitness studio, My Fit Journey.

Get healthy with My Fit Journey

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting celebration with Jamie O'Donoghue, owner of My Fit Journey, located at 421 NE Main Street.

"My Fit Journey is a training studio where we offer private personal training, group training, and group exercise classes. We offer a variety of group exercise classes designed for various levels of participants. We provide accountability, motivation, and support to all of our clients and members," said O'Donoghue.

My Fit Journey offers a positive environment where everyone is welcome. My Fit Journey members become part of a fit fam-

ily where everyone strives to assist each other in teaching and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"We are blessed to have the opportunity to assist people on their own personal wellness journeys. Establishing a good health routine looks different for each individual. Our family is thankful and blessed to own a small business in this wonderful town of Franklin. We look forward to assisting more community members with their fitness and wellness needs," said O'Donoghue.

For information on My Fit Journey Studio, contact Jamie at 828-342-4684 or via website at www.myfitjourney.fitness.

NCDHHS prioritizes services, supports for people with disabilities

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services published its Olmstead Plan, designed to assist people with disabilities who receive or are eligible for publicly-funded services to reside in and experience the full benefit of being part of day-to-day life in communities alongside those without disabilities. Developed with stakeholders from across the state, the plan's goal is to divert people from entering institutions and to support those wishing to leave.

The Olmstead Plan serves as a blueprint for how NCDHHS, the Office of the Governor and other governmental agencies and their partners, with support from the North Carolina General Assembly, make decisions about services to fund and support the health and well-being of North Carolinians with disabilities. The plan outlines an approach to the array of services and supports vital to community living. Access to housing, employment, home and community-based services and other supports are

addressed in the plan.

The plan incorporates years of work across NCDHHS and North Carolina to refine and re-define policies and programs so they more clearly align with the U.S. Supreme Court's imperative in the Olmstead v. L.C. ruling regarding community integration. The plan builds on the foundation of NCDHHS' Transition to Community Living and Money Follows the Person programs. It also expands the work to address social determinants of health that are at the heart of NCDHHS' Healthy Opportunities initiative.

In its first phase, the plan is a strategic framework with measurable targets for 2022 and 2023, including:

- Strengthen alternatives for community inclusion for individuals and families through increased access to home and community-based services and supports.
- Implement strategies to recruit, train and retain the frontline staff who provide

daily services that allow people to live, work and thrive in their communities.

- Transition people to more independent living situations from institutional and segregated settings and provide needed supports in the community for individuals who are at risk of entering these settings.

- Increase opportunities for supported education and pre-employment transition services for youth, as well as competitive integrated employment opportunities for adults with disabilities.

- Address disparities in access to services.

- Increase input to public policymaking from families and individuals with lived experience.

- Use data for making quality improvements in the provision of services.

The Olmstead Plan will direct the development of diverse work plans, aligning the activities of NCDHHS and other state agencies with its goals.

The Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory's (OPSA) 36 external stakeholders have met quarterly and in committee for 15 months, advising NCDHHS on all aspects of the plan. The NCDHHS Office of the Senior Advisor on the Americans with Disabilities Act and its contractor, the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), released an October 2021 draft that incorporated the insights, expertise and lived experience of the OPSA. The now final version reflects a review of 91 public comments.

A new OPSA will be formed to monitor and assess the progress and outcomes of the plan. This will include evaluation reports, integration with departmental strategic plans and alignment with other relevant entities. The Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs) Tailored Plans and Standard Plans play a key role in Plan implementation.

New Year's resolutions you can actually keep

(StatePoint) It's no secret that many people wait for a new year to commit to implementing better habits. They'll start eating more vegetables next week, they'll cut out wine with dinner next month, and they'll use their gym membership next year. These are things you've heard before, and likely even things you've said yourself. So how do you make resolutions you'll stick to?

Declutter. Have you ever intended to use a free weekend to clean and organize and then felt defeated by the enormity of the task? If you resolve to declutter, start with one room a month, slowly working your way through your space.

Create a sleep routine. Many people realize just how worn out and tired they are at the end of the year. When holiday breaks arrive, they may find themselves more inclined to relax and sleep than to celebrate. Starting in 2022, create a sleep schedule and stick to it. By sleeping enough each night, you'll likely wake up feeling refreshed, ready to take on commitments and energized to do more of the things you enjoy.

Read a dozen books. Setting overly ambitious goals can be a downfall for New Year's resolutioners. Create small, realistic goals for a better chance of really sticking to them. For example, if your resolution is to read more, make it your goal to read one book per month. By tying a number and timeline to your goal, you'll feel a sense of pride when you accomplish it and be motivated to continue.

Make meals at home. Many people start the year with the intention of "eating healthier," but don't define what that means and get off track fast. You might start by committing to cooking dinner at home once a week. After a long day of work, ordering in or eating out can be tempting, but by committing to cooking once each week, you'll save money and likely eat more healthfully. It can also be a fun activity to look forward to with your spouse, roommate or children. The same can be said about your morning coffee. Instead of making a daily stop at Starbucks, find a coffee you love and make it at home.

With smart strategies, you'll be able to see how your new habits have become a normal part of your daily routine by the end of the year.

Harris Regional opens pain clinic in Franklin

Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital provides comprehensive pain services across western North Carolina in Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties. Harris Pain Center, with locations in Sylva and Franklin, is now open and scheduling appointments. The Swain Pain Clinic, located in Bryson City, will open on Jan. 24 and scheduling appointments on Monday and Wednesday.

Services provided at the Harris, Swain, and Franklin pain clinics include diagnosis and treatment of a number of chronic conditions, including neck and back pain, headaches and migraines, fibromyalgia, cancer pain, diabetic and joint pain, arthritis, neuropathic pain, sciatica, and complex regional pain syndrome. Treatments include interventional pain procedures such as spinal cord stimulator implantation and management. Austin Albright, MD, Edward Lewis, MD, Todd Lipphardt, PA-C, and Widad Alami, PA-C, will evaluate and treat patients, by physician referral.

Dr. Albright is a board-certified pain management physician and physiatrist. He received his medical degree from East Tennessee State Quillen College of Medicine and completed his physical medicine and rehabilitation residency and pain management fellowship at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Lewis is a board-certified pain physician and anesthesiologist. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, where he completed his residency in anesthesiology. He is a member of the American Neuromodulation Society and the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Todd Lipphardt, PA-C, is a board-certified Physician Assistant through the National Commission of Physician Assistants. He received his Physician Assistant degree from Kettering College of Medical Arts.

Widad Alami, PA-C, is a board-certified Physician Assistant through the National Commission of Physician Assistants. She received her master's degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY.

"We are excited to offer interventional pain services across western North Carolina with locations in Sylva,

Franklin, and Bryson City. Dr. Albright, Dr. Lewis, and staff serve our communities with compassion and trust, offering a greater quality of life by targeting chronic pain," said LaCrystal Gordon, CNO, interim CEO, of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital.

The Harris Pain Center is located at 81 Medical Park Loop, Suite 202 in Sylva on the campus of Harris Regional Hospital adjacent to the Harris Regional Cancer Center. The Harris Pain Center – Franklin is located at 144 Holly Springs Drive at the Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin. The Swain Pain Center is located at 45 Plateau St. in Bryson City on the campus of Swain Community Hospital. To make an appointment call (828) 586-7366 (Sylva), (828) 349-5057 (Franklin), or (828) 488-4247. Visit www.myharrisregional.com or www.myswaincommunity.com for more information.

About Harris Regional & Swain Community Hospital

Harris Regional Hospital, established in 1925, is an 86-bed acute and specialty care facility serving Western North Carolina with more than 100 physicians practicing in locations throughout a multi-county region, including Harris Regional Hospital Medical Park of Franklin, an outpatient facility in Macon County.

Swain Community Hospital, established in 1950, is a 48-bed Critical Access Hospital serving a multi-county region with primary care, emergency medicine and subspecialty care including a pain clinic and a transitional care unit. Harris Regional Hospital and Swain Community Hospital began an affiliation in 1997 and joined Duke LifePoint Healthcare in 2014.

Harris Women's Care adds nurse midwife

Harris Regional Hospital announces the addition of certified nurse midwife Rachel Picher to Harris Women's Care. Picher has practiced in the region for the past few years, delivering babies and caring for families from Western North Carolina.

Picher received her Master of Science in nursing/midwifery at Emory University. She completed a Bachelor of Science in nursing at the University of North Florida and served as a registered nurse in the labor and delivery and mother-baby units before becoming a certified nurse midwife.

Picher joins Sabine Kelischek, MD, Ja'Pel Sumpter, MD,



Rachel Picher, CNM

Alvin Strasburger, MD, Jennifer Blattner, MD, Jessica Williamson, CNM, Anne Karner, CNM, Darci Walker, CNM, and Kathy Walsh, NP at Harris Women's Care with locations in Sylva, Bryson City and Franklin. Women's and Children's Care at Harris Regional Hospital includes management of high-risk OB by the providers of Harris Women's Care in Sylva, Franklin, and Bryson City; neonatology care provided by Bernd Holler, MD, the area's only neonatologist; specially trained nurses, respiratory therapists, and other clinical staff; Harris Pediatric Care and Swain Family Care.

The New Generations Family Birthing Center at Harris Regional Hospital named one of the country's 'Best Maternity Hospitals' by Newsweek, and comprised of Harris Women's Care and the NICU; Harris Pediatric Care in Sylva and Franklin; Swain Family Care in Bryson City; partnerships with area health departments; and certified lactation consultants providing breastfeeding support, childbirth and newborn care education, and sibling classes.

Harris Women's Care is located at 70 The Village Overlook, Sylva, NC.

Appointments may be made by calling 828-631-8913. For more information on Harris Women's Care, visit HarrisMedicalGroup.com/our-practices/harris-womens-care.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor

Let me give you an account of the worries of a mayor. Recent worries started at the first of last week with a vague forecast of an impending winter storm. National forecasters were talking about a low pressure area in the Pacific that would cross the U.S. dumping large amounts of snow in the South and Northeast.



Patrick Taylor

At first I thought those projections were exaggerations, but as the week progressed I, along with town staff, grew concerned. Nevertheless, Lamar Nix, our public works director, started preparations for a winter storm. By Friday, plowing equipment was attached to the trucks. Electric crews had chains on line trucks and were ready to respond to outages. Our fire department had chained up too, and the police had secured hotel rooms so officers could maintain shifts around the clock.

On Friday morning my worries increased after meeting with our town manager, Josh Ward, and Lamar Nix. They informed me that weather forecasters for Duke Energy were predicting heavy snow for all of Western North Carolina. Duke forecasters were predicting as much as 18 to 20 inches in areas at or above 4,000 feet. Since Highlands is 4,118, I became very worried.

If Highlands got 20 inches, the town would be in a disastrous shutdown similar to the blizzard of 1993. We all worried about potential risks to the health and safety of many residents. I worried that nothing could mitigate such a disastrous event.

I began going on the radio warning folks. I declared a state of emergency, a declaration that is essential for getting outside help and assistance. I started posting updates as events developed on my askmayorpat.com website.

The storm was to begin on Saturday night, but I didn't sleep well Friday night. I had worries about what was facing Highlanders in the coming hours. I really worried about massive power outages where utility poles would snap under the heavy snow loads. Lamar was concerned about that prospect too. If poles were destroyed, power restoration would take much longer.

On Saturday I continued to communicate with Josh and Lamar about preparations and the latest forecasts. I saw a Saturday forecast calling for 5 to 8 inches. It sparked my optimism that the storm would not be that bad. But then I looked further, that was the forecast for

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

A lot to agree on that is critical to our democracy

Let's talk about the upcoming elections – not the candidates, but the voting. Regardless of your political leaning, there are a lot that we can agree on that is critical to our democracy. For example:

All citizens who meet eligibility requirements should be able to register to vote.

Each voter should have access to voting whether they live in the mountains of WNC or the cities of Raleigh and Durham.

All voters should be able to vote by mail or vote at convenient early voting times.

Voters should not be intimidated or threatened at any point.

Each eligible voter should be able to cast one ballot; it should be counted the same as every other ballot and reported accurately.

Big businesses and big money should not influence a politician more than an individual's vote. Voting districts should be created using neutral standards (not Democratic, not Republican). Voter registration should be available at each state's motor vehicle agency.

Imagine, if you go to the polls to vote next November and you are denied the right to vote. How would you feel? Depending on your answer, then the Voting Rights bill deserves your support.

Jean Wright – Franklin, N.C.

Appreciates Gaston letter; questions Waldrop's analysis

I would like to congratulate Jim Gaston for a great letter skewering the incoherence of the Covid vaccination show. I was going to write something along the same lines but my letter would have been more prosaic and less memorable. Hats off to you for your artistry and common sense.

Also, I want to comment on Dave Waldrop's musings on Kyle Rittenhouse. According to Mr Waldrop's analysis it seems that Kyle showed up on the scene totally unprovoked and had no business being there. Did the three who were shot have any business being there or any of the others who were burning and vandalizing property? Something else left out of the analysis is the dereliction of the police. Who prevented them from keeping order? If the vested authorities do not do what they are supposed to do, someone will eventually do it for them. That's just a fact. I don't believe that Kyle went there to take the cops' job but to assist in the protection of a business that asked for his help. Too bad the cops just dialed it in that night because of political orders above them. Anyone with any feelings would mourn any killing whether in self-defense or in war. Self-defense or defense of others in danger is

war scaled down to a very personal level. When the law is not enforced or is only asymmetrically enforced people will depend on themselves for protection.

David Parker – Sylva, N.C.

Rep. Gillespie appointed to resources committee

On Friday, Jan. 14, N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) announced appointments to the Joint Legislative Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources. Representative Karl Gillespie (R-Macon) was appointed as a committee member, replacing former Representative Chuck McGrady.



Karl Gillespie

"I am humbled to be chosen as a member of this committee and appreciate the trust that the Speaker has placed in me," stated Rep. Gillespie. "I believe that I can draw from my experience in agriculture to have a positive impact on this committee. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we continue to make the best policy decisions for our state and its citizens."

With the latest appointment, Rep. Gillespie now serves on six committees, including: Agriculture, Appropriations, Appropriations-Education, Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, and Wildlife Resources.



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For better and worse, we're all connected

Lee H. Hamilton – Columnist

It's a cliché to say that everything's connected. But we live in a world where this is clearly true. Ideas, goods, services, workers, tourists, commerce, communications, drugs, crime, migrants, refugees, weapons, climate impacts... and, of course, viruses: They all cross borders constantly.

This is one reason I've come to believe that drawing a distinction between "foreign" and "domestic" policy, while often helpful, is also misleading. Globalization essentially means that we can't escape the impact of what's happening in other countries and regions around the globe, either at the policy level in Washington or on the street where you live.

This is often beneficial. The free movement of goods and services from this country to others builds our economy and creates jobs. Likewise, goods and services produced elsewhere and imported or used here have provided many American consumers with a quality of life that would have been unthinkable a generation ago. The relatively free flow of ideas, cultural life, and people with talent, skill, ambition, or all three, have enriched this country and many others.

Yet managing globalization is also a clear challenge, because it's not only the good stuff that goes along with it. The work of government—not just at the federal level, but in our states, counties, and cities and towns—is to find ways of promoting what's good and mitigating what's bad.

Sometimes, this takes global coordination. The UN Climate Conference taking place in Scotland is one clear example. Climate change affects everything, from the kinds of plants and animals you might see in your backyard to the behavior of the oceans and global wind currents. The Glasgow meeting is aimed at accelerating governments' action on ratcheting back the human-made causes of climate change and at finding ways for nations and communities to adapt to the changes that we're too late to prevent.

Sometimes, this demands clear-headed national strategies. All countries need goods and services from other countries: food, cars, entertainment, manufacturing parts. And economists would argue that our inter-connectedness on these fronts has, on the whole, served both the US and the world well, raising standards of living, lowering costs, and expanding the array of choices available. Yet when factory

workers are thrown out of work, farmers are disrupted by competition from overseas, or over-dependence on the global supply chain proves to be a vulnerability, as during the pandemic, these demand thoughtful policy change from the federal government, whether it's pursuing trade talks, developing support for re-training programs, or buttressing small-scale agriculture and local supply chains.

And at the local level, the forces of globalization clearly require a community response. Maybe it's finding ways of assimilating and educating migrant workers or refugees. Maybe it's helping small farms connect with local markets that will boost their chances of success and help feed surrounding communities. And maybe it's promoting home weatherization and other energy-related policies that help reduce carbon emissions.

The point is that the forces of globalization are with us whether we like it or not, and we can't ignore them. We're affected by what takes place everywhere else, and both at home and in the halls of power we have to understand and manage it. It's inevitable that we'll face challenges and disruption. Our task is to recognize the opportunities and spread the benefits.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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

TAYLOR

From previous page

Saturday night, the forecast called for another 5 to 8 inches on Sunday. I went back to worry mode. My hope for this being a "weather nothing burger" faded.

Saturday night I waited for the power to fail. On Sunday morning with the snow continuing I waited for that massive power failure. I worried about the power all Sunday and into the night. On Monday I worried about the power, but Josh and Lamar continued to report nothing more than minor spot outages.

We were all amazed by the good fortune Highlands had, at least 11 inches of snow yet the power grid held. We were lucky this time.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the storm. Plowing roads and clean up will continue for some time. I now have other worries, like more snow tomorrow. I am also now free to worry about the 7 p.m. ZOOM town board meeting tonight [Thursday].

One thing I do not worry about is our town workers. They are fully committed to keeping the town operating. I can't say enough about their dedication and support.



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Mainspring earns national recognition for conservation excellence

North Carolinians have demonstrated strong support for saving the open spaces they love, and, for the last 25 years, Mainspring Conservation Trust has been doing just that in the Southern Blue Ridge. Now, Mainspring announces it has renewed its national land trust accreditation – proving once again that, as part of a network of over 450 accredited land trusts across the nation, it is committed to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in its conservation work.

"The tedious process of reaccreditation ultimately pays dividends, ensuring that Mainspring is consistently following the latest Standards and Practices set forth by our accrediting body, The Land Trust Alliance," said Executive Director Jordan Smith. "Renewing our accreditation shows Mainspring's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in the Southern Blue Ridge."

Nationally accredited since 2010, Mainspring is required to provide extensive documentation and is subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation in order to achieve this distinction. Accredited land trusts now steward almost 20 million acres - the size of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

"It is exciting to recognize Mainspring's continued commitment to national standards by renewing this national mark of distinction," said Melissa Kalvestrand, executive director of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. "Donors and partners can trust the more than 450 accredited land trusts across the country are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship."

Mainspring is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States, according to the Land Trust Alliance's most recent National Land Trust Census. A complete list of accredited land trusts and more information about the process and benefits can be found at www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

Founded in 1997 under the Land Trust for the Little Ten-



Tusquitee Bottomlands

nessee, Mainspring has conserved more than 29,000 acres in the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia, including the now Needmore

Game Lands, Pinnacle Park, Old Cherokee Watauga Town and significant working farms. Learn more at www.mainspringconserves.org.

WCU School of Engineering receives nearly \$1.5 million for program

A program to foster the development of future technology entrepreneurs, housed in the School of Engineering and Technology at Western Carolina University, has gained monumental support through an almost \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Over the next six academic years, WCU will use the money for scholarships to recruit 30 students for instruction and support in an educational combination of traditional engineering skills and innovative entrepreneurial and business acumen.

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency promoting science for advancement of health, prosperity and welfare through research conducted by America's colleges and universities.

"We are calling our program 'Fostering Leaders in Technology Entrepreneurship' to reflect both the nature of instruction and the overall goals," said Paul Yanik, an associate professor in the College of Engineering and Technology, which houses the School of Engineering and Technology. "Students will work in teams as they vet ideas, develop prototypes and produce original technology innovations. The program will provide intensive mentoring by peers, program faculty, university career placement and other



The new engineering entrepreneurship program will provide students the opportunity to work in teams as they vet ideas, develop prototypes and produce original technology innovations.

resources, as well as industry experts."

As an interdisciplinary program, the students will use the advanced prototyping capabilities of WCU's Rapid Center, a

university-based high-tech facility that partners with regional industry and businesses to develop new products and processes. Students will be able to take advantage of the

industrial experience of WCU faculty, who will serve as program mentors.

"As students grow in their traditional engineering knowledge and skills base, they will also cultivate habits of creativity outside that field," said Chip Ferguson, interim dean and a professor in the College of Engineering and Technology. "They will build entrepreneurial self-efficacy and business acumen through curriculum-integrated projects of their own conception, engage in a process of constructive criticism and refinement that weeds out less viable ideas, while advancing promising ones."

As the westernmost public university in North Carolina, WCU provides leadership and partnership opportunities for a largely rural mountain community. A program such as this is expected to enhance regional economic development through the creation of engineered products and technology-based employment opportunities, a generation of a qualified technical workforce, and encouragement of venture capital needed to foster the growth of local industry. It also actively seeks to involve underrepresented groups, expanding their involvement in the engineering field.

For more information on WCU's School of Engineering, call (828)227-2775.

Nantahala Health Foundation provides \$30,000 for Youth Conservation Corps

The Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy has received a \$30,000 investment grant from Nantahala Health Foundation to fund their Macon County Youth Conservation Corp for the summer of 2022.

Grant investment funds from the Nantahala Health Foundation will be used to provide summer employment for six, 16–18-year-old Macon County youth and two young adult crew leaders.

“This funding is essential in our effort to build a summer employment program for local area youth to learn outdoor leadership, along with trail building and maintenance skills,” said Executive Director Brent Martin.

This will be the second summer the organization has conducted the program and they are seeking funds for a second crew in the summer of 2022 as well.

The Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that maintains the 110-mile-long Bartram Trail in Macon and Graham Counties, North Carolina, and Rabun County, Georgia, along with 20 miles of approach trails. Established in 1977, the organization built the trail during the late '70s and '80s to honor the 18th century naturalist and artist William Bartram, who explored the area in 1775, describing the landscape and its plants, along with Cherokee villages and the Cherokee people he encountered. For more information about the conservancy, call Brent Martin at (828)371-0347 or email brent@blueridgebartram.org. More information at www.blueridgebartram.org.



The Youth Conservation Corp provides summer employment for 16-18-year-old Macon County youth to learn outdoor leadership, trail building and maintenance skills.

About Nantahala Health Foundation

Working as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration, Nantahala Health Foundation seeks to partner with nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary to achieve better health and wellness outcomes for all. By working to address the upstream, root causes of health inequities and by removing barriers to positive social determinants of health, NHF's success is seen best in partnerships with regional change-makers. Since its establishment in 2019, NHF has awarded nearly \$3.13 million in support to some 148 programs throughout the region. Visit NHF's website to join the Healthy Future Movement.

Grandfather Mt. has flurry of winter activities

The temperature is dropping, and friends are calling, looking for something to do.

Fortunately, Grandfather Mountain offers plenty of activities and adventure in the wintertime to keep friends and family engaged.

Winter is known as Grandfather's “quieter” time of year, not simply due of the stillness and serenity of the natural environment, but because it offers an opportunity for guests to have the park to themselves before the crowds return once more in the spring and summer.

While visitors can most certainly take in the views of picturesque, snow-draped mountains from November through March — even catching a glimpse of the Charlotte skyline on a clear day, some 80 miles away — periods of warmer weather pop up intermittently between the windy and snowy days that allow guests to hike along sunny trails or brave the lofty heights of the Mile High Swinging Bridge.

Nevertheless, the cooler weather also presents its own opportunities and plays a factor in bringing out the wildlife around Grandfather Mountain, including species that are truly wild — and wild at heart. The resident animals in the park's environmental wildlife habitats are invigorated by winter weather, and many, especially the resident river otters and Western cougars, can be seen frolicking in the snow — with exception of the resident black bears, who den during the colder weather.

Meanwhile, deer, squirrels and other critters can often be seen roaming and foraging through the park, as well, including birds that cannot be seen elsewhere in the Southeast during the winter months.

Red crossbills, pine siskins and other



Surprising to many, Grandfather Mountain has many milder days during winter that make for some of the best hiking weather of the year. Pictured here is the park's Black Rock Trail, a one-mile hike that culminates in stunning views of the WNC High Country. Photo by Landis Taylor

northern species of birds winter in high-altitude forests of Red Spruce and Fraser firs, such as those found on Grandfather Mountain. These species attract birding enthusiasts to the mountain from across the region in order to catch a glimpse before they head back to their northern ranges in Canada and elsewhere. For more information on winter birding, visit www.grandfather.com/winter-birding/.

Grandfather Mountain is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the winter months, with ticket sales ending at 3:30 p.m. Trails close at 4 p.m. For current weather conditions, phone the Entrance Gate at 828-733-4337, and for updates on park closures and tips for winter visits, visit www.grandfather.com/winter-visits/.

The nonprofit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, call 800-468-7325, or visit www.grandfather.com to book a trip.

Amateur radio club to participate in Winter Field Day on January 29

The Franklin Amateur Radio Club will participate in the annual Winter Field Day, which is an exercise in emergency radio communications in a winter environment in order to maintain operating skills in amateur radio. This is an annual happening across all 50 states.

The event begins at noon on Jan. 29 at the East Franklin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 2057 Lakeside Drive.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to visit the occasion, see amateur radio stations in operation and get the chance to talk on one of the radio systems being operated. Several stations will be operating inside the fellowship hall and weather permitting, portable stations will operate on the church grounds on solar or batteries—off the grid.

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a “ham” to explore the opportunity to learn how to become licensed to take part in this hobby, which has 780,000 hams in the United States. World wide there are an estimated 2 million licensed hams.

The Franklin Amateur Radio Club cordially invites the public to attend.



During wintertime, the Mile High Swinging Bridge remains one of Grandfather Mountain's top attractions, offering clear, panoramic views of the WNC High Country — and without the haze of most summer days. Photo by Frank Ruggiero | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests January 10 - 14. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Franklin Police Department

January 10

Davin Lane Eldridge, 35, was charged with larceny and stolen property. A \$500 bond was set.

January 13

Michael Adam Crisp, 28, was issued a fugitive warrant for probation violation. A \$2,000 bond was set.

Caleb Troy William Davis, 27, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. A \$1,500 bond was set.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 10

Alexander Caine Smith-Cabe, 25, of Rickdale Rd., Whittier, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set.

Amanda Jo Dixon, 32, of Country Club Dr., was charged with failure to appear for failure to report crime against a juvenile. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Thomas Kadeen Pridgen, 30, of Hiland Trace, Alpharetta, Ga., was charged with failure to appear for driving while intoxicated. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Justin Ray Queen, 21, of Stillhouse Branch Rd., Bryson City, was charged with resisting a public officer, second degree trespass, injury to personal property and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Missey Fern James, 50, of Althea Ridge Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Andrea Dyan Standingdeer, 39, of Enoch Sampson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Clarence Roosevelt Wheeler, 45, of Sylva, was charged with failure to appear for possession of stolen vehicle and reckless driving drive wrong way on dual lane. A secured

bond of \$40,000 was set.

January 11

Demetrius Shamus Kline, of Greene St., Augusta, was charged issued a fugitive warrant for state of Georgia. No bond was set.

January 12

Luis Agguire Vallejo, 40, of Tsali Crossing, Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for failure to stop at stop sign, no operators license, no liability insurance, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Tonya Lynn Maney, 32, of Darkridge Rd., was charged with probation violation and possession of controlled substance on jail premises. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

January 14

Leah Jordan Szittal, 33, of Cullowhee was charged with child support purge. A secured bond of \$200 was set.

Vladimir Barahona, 33, of Scotts Creek Rd., was charged with possession of open container, no operators license and concealing a firearm after consuming. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Victoria Lynn Tucker, 41, of Dalphon Jones Dr., Charlotte, was charged with larceny. No bond was set.

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 \$8.00
21 \$8.20	22 \$8.40	23 \$8.60	24 \$8.80

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Valley River Arts Guild is offering classes for Wooden Carpenter's Wheel Barn Quilt, 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., 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.

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate three-mile hike on Sunday, January 23, in Warwoman Dell. The group will meet in the north end of Ingles parking lot in Clayton, Ga, at 1 p.m. and carpool to Warwoman Dell, about 5 miles from Hwy 441. Bring food and fluids as needed. There is no charge. Reservations are not needed. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Current Covid protocols will be observed. For more information, or in case of foul weather, call hike leader David Stearns, (828)349-7361.

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held 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.

Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 86 E. Hickory Knoll Rd. For more information, call the church at (828)369-9300 or Jannie at (813)305-9433.

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.

Trout Unlimited Chapter #373 will hold an in-person meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Sylva United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Dale Collins of the Tuckasee Fly Shop will be the speaker. Local trash pickups will be planned and a meal will be provided. This meeting is open to everyone.

Jackson County NC NAACP Branch #54AB postponed the MLK Day Freedom Caravan due to hazardous weather forecasts. A new date will be announced at a future time. For more information, leave a message at the Jackson County NC NAACP Branch, (828)331-1803 or email jcnacp54ab@gmail.com.

Dorothy and John Crawford Senior Center is now offering limited in-person classes at the Robert C. 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 For more information, visit Frankluptowngallery.com.

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

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

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

more information, call (828)342-8126.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Centers in Cullowhee and Franklin have an educational parenting program to earn "points" to use to obtain free items for your family. The centers carry formula, diapers, wipes, baby items and clothing up to size 6, as well as strollers, car seats, high chairs, pack n' plays, etc. Donations are always welcome. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or smppcc.org

Crawford Senior Center Zoom Classes will include exercise, tai chi, and others. For more information, or to register, call the Senior Center at (828)349-2058.

Uptown Gallery on Main Street hours through December are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 pm and Wednesday and Sundays by appointment. The Uptown Gallery is located at 30 E Main St Franklin. For information call the gallery at (828) 349-4607.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. Katherine RB Greysen will speak on "Radical Intuition." On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and 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

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church Sunday In-person Worship is held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. or on Facebook at Franklin First United Methodist Church, either live or later on recorded video. 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.firstumcfFranklin.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 Untied 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.

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

Snow Hill Untied 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.

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

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.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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'Challenge' raises \$4K for AARC

Brittney Lofthouse
Contributing Writer

As of Monday night, the Betty White Fundraiser for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center (AARC) in Macon County had raised \$4,084, exceeding the non-profit's goal of \$3,000. More than 100 people have donated so far.

Film and television star Betty White would have turned 100 on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. To celebrate her life and legacy, the #BettyWhiteChallenge was launched on social media after the star's death, and people around the world have been donating to their local animal shelters and nonprofits in her honor.

The actress, who rescued numerous dogs in her lifetime, started working with the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association in 1966 and joined the board of trustees in 1974.

In 2006, she was honored as the City of Los Angeles' "Ambassador to the Animals" for her lifelong work for animal welfare. In 2017, White received the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal for her "commitment to wildlife and efforts to create a sustainable planet," specifically through her charitable work with zoos and animal rescues. She supported animals through her fan club, Bets'



The late Betty White was a lifelong advocate for animals.

Pets, which donated its dues to animal rescue charities.

The Catman2 Shelter in Jackson County is also accepting donations posting on their Facebook Page, "In honor of beloved actress and animal advocate Betty White's 100th birthday, please consider donating to Catman2! Even a few dollars will help us continue providing a safe haven for cats in need. Last year, we rescued 176 cats and kittens, 96 wild critters through our wildlife rehabilitation program. ... We have a single employee and a tiny group of regular volunteers who help carry on our mission to save and improve the lives of cats in WNC."

Master storyteller performs in Franklin



Master storyteller Elizabeth Ellis stopped by the Macon County library on Saturday to present a program of humorous and poignant tales. Ellis captivates her listeners of all ages with her humor, honesty and Southern-style wisdom. Ellis also told stories at Cartoogechaye Elementary School on Friday through the Arts Council's Artists-in-the-Schools program. More than half a million children have been mesmerized by her stories during her 35-year career as a teller. For more about Ellis, visit elizabethellis.com. For information on the Arts Council of Macon County and its programs, contact (828)524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.

Photos by Betsy Gooder



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Grant provided for WCU summer reading program

The Western Carolina University Speech and Hearing Clinic will be expanding its recently launched summer reading program to reach a larger number of children with language and learning impairments, thanks to a \$13,000 grant from the N.C. Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation.

The latest funding from the organization, which has a long history of providing support for childhood language and learning centers through the nationwide RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, follows a previous grant of \$5,000 that enabled the clinic to start the program.

The program, christened Camp LEAD (Language/Literacy Engagement And Development), was originally scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020, but was postponed to 2021 because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Seven local school children from grades 3 and above participated in the program this past summer, with the number of participants expected to increase to about a dozen in 2022, said Johanna Price Vinyard, WCU associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, who directs Camp LEAD.

"There are some other wonderful supports and resources for children's literacy development during the summer in our community; however, these programs focus on children ages kindergarten through second grade," Price Vinyard said. "We saw a need for older children and adolescents, especially those who have language-based disabilities. We're grateful for the Scottish Rite. Their support makes Camp LEAD possible and reaches a group of children for whom there are limited services in our community."

Camp LEAD is a four-week summer program designed to support school-age children with speech, language or reading impairments, including dyslexia. "We base our instruction on research-supported principles and implement learning activities in a positive, supportive and fun environment. Each child's goals will be based on his or her individual needs," Price Vinyard said.

"Our overall goal is to reverse the 'summer slump' in reading that children often experience. Last summer, every client made progress in literacy-related skills, as well as other language and speech skills," she said.

Funding from the N.C. Scottish Rite Mason Foundation will allow Camp LEAD to add another communication sciences and disorders faculty member to provide clinical supervision to WCU graduate students as they work with children participating in the program.

"That's another thing I really value about Camp LEAD – the opportunities it offers our grad student clinicians to work intensively with a group of clients over the course of a month," Price Vinyard said. "This provides our students with valuable hands-on learning experiences in a clinical setting."

With the pending expansion of the summer program made possible by funding from the N.C. Scottish Rite Masons, the organization's long-term goal is to develop a year-round program of support for the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic, said C. Dan Killian, head of the Valley of Franklin chapter of N.C. RiteCare.

"Scottish Rite Masons are a select group of Master Masons



Members of the N.C. Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation present a \$13,000 grant to representatives of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Western Carolina University. From left are Andrew Norton, a 2002 graduate of WCU, Valley of Franklin representative for N.C. RiteCare; Traci Rice, a 1997 graduate of WCU and chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders; Lori Anderson, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences; and Dan Killian, head of the Valley of Franklin chapter of N.C. RiteCare.

who want to extend their knowledge and practice of Masonic principles. Among these is charity," Killian said. "Their special charity is support of childhood language and learning centers in 35 states."

Through its RiteCare initiative, the organization supports more than 1,700 centers and clinics across the United States, with four in North Carolina, now including the Speech and Hearing Clinic at WCU, he said.

"These centers are committed to helping children who are exhibiting problems with language development or whose academic progress is being affected by delays in spoken or written language," Killian said. "These children exhibit normal intelligence and demonstrate the potential to achieve. Their delays are not caused by such other primary disabilities as severe as emotional problems, deafness, blindness or intellectual disability."

WCU's College of Health and Human Sciences relies upon private contributions to help meet its mission of offering quality academic experiences to students, and critical health care evaluations and treatments to underserved members of the surrounding community, said Lori Anderson, the college's dean.

"We are truly grateful for the support of individuals and organizations such as the N.C. Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation," Anderson said. "The generosity of these partners provides scholarship assistance to our students, funding for innovative learning opportunities and the additional resources necessary to expand the services provided to the people of our region by the clinics in our college."

Camp LEAD programming for the summer of 2022 is scheduled for June 6 through July 1. The camp is an in-person clinic program that follows all COVID-19 guidelines in place at the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic. There is no fee for Camp LEAD, to be held in the Health and Human Sciences Building on the west campus of WCU.

The camp is designed for children who have completed third grade or higher and have been diagnosed with speech, language and/or reading impairment (including dyslexia). It will meet each weekday morning from Monday, June 6, through Friday, July 1. Drop-off is from 8:45-9 a.m. daily with pick-up at noon. Snacks will be provided, although children may bring their own snacks if preferred.

For more information on Camp LEAD, contact WCU's Speech and Hearing Clinic at 828-227-7251.

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How to safely manage insects on indoor plants

Melinda Myers – Contributor

Winter can be hard on gardeners and our indoor plants. Low light, shorter days and dry air stress our houseplants while helping insects thrive. Don't despair if insects have moved in and your plants are struggling with yellow or speckled leaves. Instead, invest a bit of time and effort managing these pests and keeping your plants looking their best.

Start by making sure your plants receive the proper amount of light and water. A healthy plant is better able to resist and recover from insect infestations. Check the plant tag, internet or plant book for the recommended growing conditions.

Make needed adjustments in your plant's care. Then take a closer look at the upper and lower leaf surfaces and stems of the plants for clues to the cause of the problem. Here are some of the more common indoor plant pests and organic options, safe for children and pets, for managing them.

Fungus gnats are those small fruit fly-like insects that flit around your house. They feed on plant roots and organic matter in the soil. They usually don't harm the plants, but certainly are annoying.



Adult fungus gnats live for just seven to ten days, but the female can lay up to 200 eggs in the cracks and crevices of moist soil, so populations grow quickly. Photo credit courtesy of Summit Responsible Solutions

Just sprinkle an organic insecticide that contains the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* on the soil surface. This naturally occurring bacterium only kills the larvae of fungus gnats, black flies and mosquitoes.

Aphids are common pests of indoor and outdoor plants. These small teardrop shaped insects suck plant juices, causing the leaves to yellow, brown, wilt or become distorted. They secrete a clear sticky substance known as honeydew.

Mites cause similar damage, but are too small to see without a hand lens. If you suspect mites, shake a leaf over a white piece of paper and watch for specks, the mites, moving across the paper. Don't wait until you see webbing to control these pests. At that point there are thousands of mites making it difficult to control.

Both these types of pests can be managed in the same way. Start by placing plants in the sink or tub and knock the insects off the plant with a strong blast of water. Follow with several applications of insecticidal soap to kill the adults. Repeat as needed. Or suffocate all stages of the insects with a lightweight horticulture oil.

Bumps on the stems and leaves of plants that can be easily scraped off with a thumbnail are scales. Their shells protect the adults and eggs from predators, weather and most insecticides. A similar pest, mealybug, has white waxy



Melinda Myers

strands on its body for protection. Mealybugs can be found on stems, leaves and area where leaves and stems meet.

Both types of insects suck the plant juices, causing leaves to yellow and plants to decline. And just like aphids and mites, they secrete honeydew. Both are difficult to control and require persistence on your part.

For mealybugs, remove the hard scale covering with your thumbnail or old toothbrush. Use a cotton swap dipped in alcohol to dissolve its waxy covering and kill the insect. Then spray with insecticidal soap to kill the immature insects. This takes time and persistence to control these pests.

Or apply a lightweight horticulture oil, like that used for mites and aphids, to suffocate both the adult and immature stages of these pests. Continue to watch for outbreaks and treat as needed.

No matter what products you choose, natural or synthetic, make sure they are labeled for the plant and pest you are treating. And always read and follow label directions carefully.

Investing time in managing pests as soon as they appear means healthy and more attractive plants to brighten your indoor décor now and for years to come.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for "Birds & Blooms" magazine. Myers's web site is www.melindamyers.com.



Aphids, a common pest of indoor and outdoor plants, suck plant juices, causing leaves to yellow, brown, wilt or become distorted. Photo credit by Melinda Myers, LLC



Deaths & Funerals

Lesta Louise Bidwell Mason Slocum

Lesta Louise Bidwell Mason Slocum, 94 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Jan. 17, 2022.

She was born in Knoxville, Tenn., to the late Edward Bidwell and Betty Sneed. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husbands, Carroll Mason, and Perry Slocum; and siblings, Bob Bidwell, Bill Bidwell, Nevada Akridge, Eula Bidwell, Remale Sexton, and Cal Bidwell.

She was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, a past Grand Matron, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and a choir member.

She is survived by her children, Betty Jean Keeler (Charles) of Pendleton, S.C., Robert C Mason of Franklin, Louis "Mick" Mitchell Mason (Maxi) of Otto, N.C., Sam Phillip Mason (Janice) of Franklin, and Darrell Keith Mason (Lisa) of Franklin; siblings, Carolyn Henson of Knoxville, Tenn., and Elizabeth Galyon of Greenback, Tenn.; eight grandchildren, and numerous great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends and loved ones at Ridgecrest Baptist Church on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m.

Rev. Guy Duvall and Rev. Steve Reeves will officiate.

Burial to follow at Ridgecrest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Tom Keeler, Zac Mason, Sean Mason, Jerry Sanders, Everett Stiles, and Caden Mason.

Honorary pallbearers will be David Snyder, Joe Taylor and the deacons of Ridgecrest Baptist Church.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Lesta Slocum

Catherine Sanders

Catherine Sanders, 97, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Dec. 21, 2021.

She was born in Los Angeles to Ewing Montgomery and Mattie Belle Scanland. In additions to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years, Robert Sanders; son, Robert Sanders; daughter, Catherine Sanders; and siblings, Elizabeth James, William Montgomery, Adelaide Martin, and Frank Montgomery.

She is survived by her children, James Sanders (Shirley) of Franklin; daughter, Adelaide Monterastelli (Tom) of Spring City, Tenn.; seven grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.

Gary Lynn Hohenberger

Gary Lynn Hohenberger, 67, passed away January 15, 2022.

No public services are planned.

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

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com



Gary Lynn Hohenberger



Deaths & Funerals

Dale Edward Curtis

Dale Edward Curtis, 58, of Otto, N.C., passed away on Jan. 13, 2021.

He was born in Macon County to the late George Edward Curtis and Wilba "Toots" Jamison Curtis. He was a lifelong resident of Otto, and a member of Asbury Methodist Church. He was a people person and a good storyteller and writer. He loved the mountains and was proud of his Otto roots, always telling stories of his time at Otto school. He learned to cook from his mom and enjoyed continuing her traditions.



Dale Edward Curtis

He is survived by his wife, Kelley Vaughn Curtis; and many special family members including cousins, aunts and uncles.

The family will receive friends and loved at ones at Macon Funeral Home, on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with service beginning at 12 p.m. Rev. Eric Henson, and Rev. Jessica Henson will officiate.

Burial to follow at Rush Cemetery.

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

Ethel Lois Waldroop

Ethel Lois Waldroop, 90, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus, on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late George and Lola Hasting Jones. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Oarn Waldroop; daughter, Helen Jenkins Wilson; granddaughter, Christy Waldroop; and siblings, Grady Jones, Zeb Jones, Burt Jones, Wiley Jones, Myrtle Mincey, and Bessie Jones.

She was a member of Tellico Baptist Church. She loved to sew, quilt, and take care of her dogs and cats. Spending time with her family was what she enjoyed most.

She is survived by her son, James Waldroop (Pat) of Franklin; sister, Rosalee Williamson of Franklin; and grandchildren, Travis, Landon, George, Danny, Edith, and Jennifer; and numerous great grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Tellico Baptist Church. Rev. Morris Tippet officiated. Burial was in the Tellico Baptist Church cemetery.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Allen Wayne Elkins

Allen Wayne Elkins, 74, passed away Dec. 7, 2021.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 3, 2022, at LifeSpring Community Church, Franklin, at 2 p.m. Rev. Don Moffitt will officiate and the American Legion Post 108/VFW Post 7339 Honor Guard will conduct military rights.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Edward Anthony Kruebbe III

Edward Anthony Kruebbe III, was born on April 14, 1941, and joined the Church Triumphant on Jan. 12, 2022.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He joined the U.S. Navy (serving from 1959-1964), attended LSUNO, and received a bachelor's degree in Sociology. He retired after 40 loyal years to Shell Oil Company and moved from his home in New Orleans, La., to Franklin, N.C., in 2005 to enjoy his retirement in the mountains with his loving wife of 57 years, Charleen. He attended the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin.



Edward Kruebbe III

He is survived by his loving wife, Charleen W. Kruebbe; his daughters, Karen Kruebbe and Dawn Kruebbe Dussor; his grandchildren, Samantha Dussor, George Dussor Jr., Brett Belwood, Jonathan Belwood and Cheyenne Belwood; and his siblings, David Kruebbe, Gail Kruebbe Ordes, Nancy Kruebbe Redondo and Thomas Kruebbe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ianthe Lynn Lasseigne Kruebbe and Edward Anthony Kruebbe, Jr.

Always thoughtful and generous and a firm believer in God, he spent his last eight years with Alzheimer's but was well cared for and, in spite of memory issues, he always loved his family and occasionally remembered their names, but always remembered their faces. He will be dearly missed.

Services will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin on Jan. 20, at noon for visitation and service at 1 p.m. He will be interred on Jan. 21, at 10 a.m., at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, 962 Old US Hwy 70, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Flowers may also be sent to Macon Funeral Home.

Jason Aubrey Hill

Jason Aubrey Hill, 42, of Otto, N.C., passed away Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. He was born in Kansas City, Mo., the son of Robert Dean Hill and Jeannine Jacobs Hill. He was a chef, and also worked for a lawn maintenance service. He loved guns and gun ranges, classic cars, the outdoors and bowling. He was a loving son and brother.



Jason Aubrey Hill

He is survived by his mother, Marvis Jeannine Jacobs Hill; father, Robert Dean Hill; a sister, Anita J. Sellaro; niece, Alena Sellaro and nephew, Austin Sellaro.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. Dennis Ledford officiating. The family will receive friends from 12 to 2 p.m., prior to the service. Burial will follow at the Newman Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Hill family. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Assistance available for help with heating costs

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is encouraging eligible North Carolinians to see if they are eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program or the Crisis Intervention Program if they need assistance with heating bills.

Households can apply online through the ePASS portal at epass.nc.gov or by submitting a paper application through mail, fax or dropping it off at their local Department of Social Services, without having to go into the agency to apply. Individuals may also contact their local DSS by phone to apply.

"We know many of our neighbors are still dealing with economic hardships due to the impacts of COVID-19, but assistance for heating bills is available to help keep people and families safe and warm as the weather gets colder," said NCDHHS Senior Director for Economic Security Carla West.

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program is a seasonal program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. LIEAP applications for this winter have been on-going since Dec. 1, 2021 for certain, eligible populations. Applications for all other eligible households began Jan. 3, 2022 and will be accepted until March 31, 2022 or until funds are exhausted. To be eligible for the LIEAP program, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Have income equal to or less than 130% of the federal poverty limit
- Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts and cash on hand, at or below \$2,250 (resources will not be counted for 2021-2022 LIEAP season)
- Be responsible for their heating cost

The Crisis Intervention Program is a year-round program that assists individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis. A household is considered in crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life threatening or health related emergency and assistance is not available from another source. CIP applications will be accepted now until June 30, 2022 or until funds are exhausted. To be eligible for CIP, a household must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Have income equal to or less than 150% of the federal poverty limit
- Have an energy related crisis
- Have a utility statement that shows how much is owed to alleviate the crisis

For more information on these energy programs and specific eligibility, visit the LIEAP and CIP websites at:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>; or

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/crisis-intervention-program>



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What's happening at the Next Gen Test at Daytona

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

Only a week away from formally being enshrined in the NASCAR Hall of Fame, two-time Daytona 500 winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. spent last Tuesday and Wednesday testing the Next Gen race cars at Daytona International Speedway for his former team, Hendrick Motorsports.

Earnhardt, 46, drove the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet normally piloted fulltime by 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Larson, who was in Oklahoma participating in the Chili Bowl national midget race.

Earnhardt ran the full two day test - participating in a mock sprint race on Tuesday along with drafting practice and single car runs. After one full day in the car, Earnhardt was smiling and eager to share what he'd learned about the new generation of race car – good information he plans to talk about as an analyst on NBC Sports' broadcasts of the upcoming season.

It was obvious Earnhardt had strong reactions to the new car and remains very optimistic about the potential it has in competition. He offered interesting details and comparisons about the new and previous cars - the feel and the competitive expectations.

"At Daytona, I never drove one of the cars with those big spoilers on the back," Earnhardt said, noting the 7-inch spoiler on the 2022 cars. "So, I was pretty taken aback when we were drafting just how much drag is on the car."

As for the steering, he said, "It's very 'surgical.' Somebody used that term yesterday and I think that's a great way to describe it, very delicate, very small movements of the steering wheel are going to give you the same reaction in the car that a big movement or a lot of movement in the wheel would have in the old car."

"All these guys that drove with manual steering box, you get muscle memory. And when your car gets loose you got an idea, it's instinctual how much you have to turn the wheel to correct that slide or catch the car. You know what to do, but you have to relearn all that with the rack and pinion [on new car]. You can't rely on that muscle memory or instinct, but some guys will to a fault and make those adjustments they did all those years and that could get interesting and maybe a little messy in the race."

Earnhardt, who finished on the podium in the GT class during the 2001 Rolex 24 at Daytona, will be back at the annual Daytona sports car season-opener later in January working for NBC Sports. But he said he has no plans to race. He recalled racing with his father in that 2001 Rolex and how the sports car regulars told the NASCAR drivers, 'you only have push 80 percent in the race.'

"Now having worked the race with NBC the last couple years, those guys are [doing] qualifying [laps] every single lap of that race," Earnhardt said. "These are the best road racers in the world in this race. I got no business out there. I don't."

"It's gotten more and more difficult I think for the non-IMSA guy to go into that world and be competitive in that world because of the talent and the ability and the speed, the pure speed of those guys is just ramped way up in the 20 years since I ran. I admire their ability and speed they maintain for 24 hours – the pace they run is pretty incredible to be honest with you."

Earnhardt was fifth quickest on Wednesday, answering his top five position in Tuesday's late Test session.

"This has been fun," he said. "I was kind of wondering about my broadcasting and how to do a better job, how to do the best job, and certainly for me having had some time in the car was a big benefit for me."

"I feel so much better about going into the booth today



Dale Earnhardt Jr., driver of the #5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet drives in the garage area during the NASCAR Next Gen Test at Daytona International Speedway on January 12, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

than I did a couple days ago, having not been behind the wheel of the car."

Denny Hamlin's Woes

With only about an hour and a half left in Tuesday's Next Gen Test session, Hamlin pulled his No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota into the Daytona garage and parked.

"We blew up," Hamlin said. "It started getting a little weak at the end but overall I was pretty happy with how the car was handling and drafting. Overall, a good test."

Despite the early exit, Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner and a perennial championship contender, put in a hard day's effort at the high-speed office – leading laps in the mock race, drafting and looking solid in single car runs. Disappointed not to finish the two-day test, the team was at least encouraged by the work on Tuesday.

"I was pretty happy with it overall and not a lot I would change - not a lot I could change," he added with a smile.

Next Gen Car, Next Generation Sponsor for RCR

Richard Childress Racing announced a new sponsor for driver Tyler Reddick's No. 8 Chevrolet just before testing began at Daytona International Speedway Tuesday. The 3CHI - a company that specializes in hemp-based products - will be primary sponsor on Reddick's car for the Daytona 500 and several other races this season.

The official news was a good birthday present for Reddick, who turned 26 on Tuesday, and a historic day for NASCAR, really. This is the first hemp-based consumer brand to partner with a NASCAR team and be featured in this high-profile way.

The 3CHI brand "follows all federal requirements for full legal compliance," the team said in announcing the news, assuring that the company's "production and distri-

bution 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," RCR President Torrey Galida said. "We're proud of our role as industry leaders in the 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 his part, Reddick couldn't have been more pleased to start off the year with another new sponsor. Although the two-time NASCAR Xfinity Series champion is still looking for his first NASCAR Cup Series victory, he has six top-five finishes in two fulltime seasons - including runner-up finishes at Homestead, Fla. and the Charlotte ROVAL last year.

"This is a pretty good birthday present," Reddick said smiling. "I'm good with it."



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Team Penske Ford looks on from the garage during the NASCAR Next Gen Test at Daytona International Speedway on January 12, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

"Everyone has a huge opportunity in front of themselves to take advantage of this brand new car or take advantage of this 'reset' if you will," Reddick said about the Next Gen cars and his opportunity to turn laps on Wednesday.

"We're all starting over, if you will. We all have to go through the learning process all over again."

"Everything's different, it's completely different," he said.

NASCAR encouraged from two-day Next Gen test

The second day of testing the Next Gen car on the Daytona International Speedway high banks went as smoothly as teams could expect – with many cars swapping out drivers for the day and a fresh leaderboard of fast times.

NASCAR Cup Series rookie Harrison Burton was fastest on the day with a lap of 195.304 mph, followed closely by his Ford teammate and fellow series rookie Austin Cindric (195.152 mph) – their speeds reflective of the two-car drafting they did for much of the day. Cindric's Team Penske teammate Ryan Blaney was third (191.898 mph) in a closed session that ended about an hour early of the originally scheduled 5 p.m. checkered flag.

Blaney, Ty Dillon, Daniel Suarez, Landon Cassill, Todd Gilliland, Chris Buescher, David Ragan and Tyler Reddick were among the 17 drivers turning laps on Wednesday – swapping seats with teammates in the team cars.

NASCAR Senior Vice President for Innovation and Racing Development John Probst spoke with the media following the final day of on-track activity and was encouraged about the state of Daytona racing heading into the Feb. 20 NASCAR Cup Series season-opening Daytona 500 (2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

"It's been a long two days and I would say that we were really happy with where we netted out here," Probst said. "I feel like this was a pretty good extension of the test that we did in Atlanta about a week ago. We were able to dial in the package a little bit more than when we were here in late 2021."

"Pretty happy with where the speeds netted out. I think if anybody was watching online, they saw that the group run we did yesterday was pretty darn good racing, and some of the drivers got out and said we're racing hard already. You know, there's no money or points or trophies on the line, so I think that when we come back here in February, we're ready to put on a really good show."

The Next Gen cars will move to the Phoenix Raceway mile for one final test before the Feb. 6 Busch Light Clash at The Coliseum (8 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) exhibition.

Villeneuve hoping for Daytona 500 start

Perhaps one of the most unexpected drivers to test at Daytona was 1995 Indy 500 winner and 1997 Formula 1 champion, Jacques Villeneuve. The 50-year-old Canadian drove the No. 27 Team Hezeberg Ford – turning in lap times Tuesday that were consistently mid-pack despite the fact he has not been in a NASCAR Cup Series car in years outside of a test at the Charlotte ROVAL last Fall.

He missed qualifying for the 2008 Daytona 500 after finishing 23rd in his Duel race. But the 11-time F1 race winner said his hope is very much to run in the Feb. 20 Daytona 500 and he was quite encouraged by the way these new Next Gen cars drove during this Daytona test.

He has four previous NASCAR Cup Series starts – the last in 2013 on the Sonoma, Calif road course. He had four top-five finishes in nine NASCAR Xfinity Series road

course starts with a best of third place three times – at Montreal in 2010 and 2012 and Road America in 2011.

Villeneuve raced fulltime in the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series last year, contending for the championship and winning two races.

"I've never stopped racing, it's just a question of opportunity and I'm living in Europe so it makes it a little more difficult to focus on racing here in North America," Villeneuve said, noting that he also does Formula 1 television commentary and has been expanding his family.

The small Hezeberg team he's driving for, was originally going to put one of its family members in the car, but that driver is not approved yet for the series, according to Villeneuve.

"Right now we're focusing on Daytona and hopefully we'll do more races," Villeneuve said.

"I felt great. I did a few laps on the ROVAL test, but to get back on the speedway, this is THE race. There's a few races in the world that stand out, the Indy 500, the 24 Hours of Le Mans and Daytona. So it's part of that very small group of special races and tracks to drive at.

"It would be amazing," Villeneuve added. "The last time



Erik Jones, driver of the #43 Petty-GMS Focus Factor Chevrolet, drives during the NASCAR Next Gen Test at Daytona International Speedway on January 12, 2022 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images

I was in the NASCAR garage was a lot of years ago. It would be extremely special because it's a very special race and hard to get in the show when you have to qualify on time or do good in the Duels, so it makes it a bit more stressful and making the show would be something special."

Logano's Lessons

Joey Logano, the 2015 Daytona 500 winner and 2018 NASCAR Cup Series champion, was upbeat about the Next Gen cars and the Daytona Test. And the Team Penske driver insists he has high expectations for 2022.

"The risk versus reward piece you have to think about a lot," Logano said of drafting – something drivers were really practicing on Wednesday's final day of testing.

"Nothing real crazy stood out, just finding little differences," Logano added, "You start stacking those things up, it becomes pretty different. But it's a bunch of little things, not one 'wow this is so different from the past.'"

"It'll be exciting," he said with a smile.

Logano, who has four superspeedway victories, three at Talladega, Ala. in addition to his Daytona 500 win – is traditionally strong on the big tracks and his insight on Wednesday was well-received.

"Taking what was the 550 package and wide open all around, there's only so much I can do or the team can do, so

this definitely opens the door for the cream of the crop to rise to the top.

"It's gonna be the best of the best that will win races and that's what it should be," he continued. "That's what our sport was built on and I think it will continue to move in that direction."

Daytona 500 officially a sellout

Daytona International Speedway President Frank Kelleher announced Wednesday morning that grandstand admission and RV Parking for the Feb. 20 Daytona 500 are officially sold out – nearly five weeks before NASCAR's grand season-opener.

"When I think about the Daytona 500 sold out a month in advance it helps every stakeholder in the industry. ... it's very powerful," Kelleher said.

The enthusiasm for the 2022 season was evident even this week during a two-day Next Gen Test session at the track. More than 10,000 people turned out Tuesday to watch the Next Gen cars get some practice laps before their official competitive debut in the Daytona 500.

And while much of the facility is sold out for the race, Kelleher reminded that there are still prime admission tickets to the Fanzone, which put you inside the track with access to the garage windows and close to the Luke Combs pre-race concert.

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ACROSS

1. Chunk of land
6. Sail alternative
9. Female sheep, pl.
13. Oak, in Spanish
14. Nucleic acid acronym
15. "____ under fire"
16. Permeate
17. Internet meme move
18. *Number of 2022 Grammy nominations for Doja Cat or H.E.R.
19. *Justin Bieber's stuff from Georgia
21. *Gaga's partner
23. Mauna _____, Hawaii
24. Cartoon Coyote's first name
25. Lawyers' grp.
28. Marine eagle
30. Like Roger Rabbit
35. Boisterous play
37. Ore deposit
39. Davy Crockett's last stand
40. U.S. city and lake
41. Tossed starter
43. F.B.I. operative
44. Group of nine singers, e.g.
46. Gardner's gear
47. In the middle of
48. Arctic-wear
50. Porcini mushrooms
52. In the manner of, in French
53. *Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, a.k.a. _____ Sonic
55. Decimal system base
57. *2022 Grammy nominations leader
61. *"Bad Habits" performer
65. Lacking sense
66. Unit of electrical resistance
68. Low landform
69. Grassy mound
70. Recent or new, prefix
71. Los _____, CA
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73. .0000001 joule

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1. LSD consequence?
2. City on the Tiber
3. *Swedish band with one 2022 Grammy nomination
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22. Will Ferrell holiday movie
24. Matrimony
25. *2022 Grammy event venue, Crypto.com _____
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27. Type of acid
29. *Grammy host's last name

31. Aquarium dweller
32. #3 Down's 1975 hit "____ Mia"
33. Means of communication
34. *Kanye's album
36. Source of pressure?
38. Facilitate
42. Profoundness
45. Tip of lion's tail
49. First aid one
51. Up and down playground attraction
54. Sergio of westerns
56. Very recently
57. Triathlon ride
58. Tolstoy's Karenina
59. New Mexico art colony
60. Inwardly
61. Dirty air
62. Common "pro" follower
63. Loads
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LOOKING TO MAKE A difference? We are a nonprofit that strives to help our clients maintain independence and dignity, while allowing employees to have a work-life balance that encourages self-growth. We are seeking motivated individuals to fill in-home aide positions. CNA certification not required. Opportunities available for full/part time in various counties. Call (828)586-1570, apply online at disabilitypartners.org or come by our Sylva office at 525 Mineral Springs Drive.

KENNEL ATTENDANT part-time (28 hours a week) honest, dependable, able to lift 50 lbs, own transportation, references and pass drug test. Apply in person Monday-Friday 11am-3pm. AARC 851 Lake Emory Rd.

COMPANION HEALTH CARE is looking for compassionate and caring individuals to work in homes. CNAs and PCAs part-time, flexible hours. If you enjoy caring for others, contact Heather (828)524-6444.

Community Fundraisers

HABITAT RE-STORE 56 W Palmer St., Franklin. Furniture, Lighting, Plumbing, Building Materials, Doors & Windows, Appliances & More! (828)524-5273. Sylva Re-Store, 1315 W. Main St. (828)586-1800. Hours for both Stores Mon./Wed./Fri./Sat. 10-4pm

REACH FOR BARGAINS in Heritage Hollow, open Tues.-Sat. 10am-3pm. Benefits Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Macon County. Information call (828)369-2040.

Rentals

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 2 bedroom octagon home on lake in Franklin, N.C. 2 miles to downtown. Great cell phone reception and internet. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, all new LVT flooring throughout. New bathrooms, new kitchen appliances, countertops and tile. Expansive decks on first and second floor have all been restored and painted. New vertical blinds throughout the entire home. This home is most suitable for 2 adults. Lawn care included. Credit application, employment application and references are required, as well as first, last and security deposit. This is a non smoking and no pet property. Annual rental only. \$1,200 per month. Interested parties please call: (828)524-3380 or (828)342-8118.

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

Real Estate

20.24 ACRES unrestricted and backs up to USFS land. Road in place, easy access yet very private. Gentle slope with nice views. Desirable Cartoogechaye township. Tract has been subdivided into six lots and recorded with county. \$299,000. Call or text (727)460-0714.

Misc. For Sale

MILITARY SURPLUS W/C Pants/Shirts, Jackets. Military Boots On Sale. Cold Weather Clothing, Field Gear, Sleep Bags, Packs, Bags. (828)349-3140.

Animals

VOLUNTEERS & DOG WALKERS Needed at Macon County Animal Services. 18 years and older. Call Debbie (941)266-7084.



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We always need volunteers at the shelter and the thrift shop!!!



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Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.2 LT V8, heads up display, leather, sunroof, navigation, too much equipment to list here!! ONLY 22,480 miles

2021 CHEVROLET TAHOE Z71



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

2011 CADILLAC CTS



V6, automatic, leather interior, panoramic roof and only 73,987 miles and clean Carfax! Absolutely perfect!

2020 GMC ACADIA



AT4-V6, leather interior, sunroof, remote start, heated seats, 7 passenger seating with 28,621 miles and factory warranty!

2021 CHEVROLET CORVETTE STINGRAY



This mid engine convertible supercar only has 1,894 miles. 0 to 60 mph in 2.9 seconds!! Must see to appreciate!!

2021 RAM 2500



Crew Cab, 4x4 with 3,647 miles! Full power package and factory navigation! Will not find one nicer!!

2021 KIA K5 LXS



Fully equipped sedan with power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, forward collision alert & braking, lane keep assist, wireless carplay and so much more!!

2011 CHEVROLET 1500 LTZ



Crew cab, 4x4 with 6.2. LT V8, leather interior, heated seats, remote start, no accidents and only 83,857 miles!

2022 TOYOTA TOYOTA LIMITED



V6, Auto, 4x4, leather, moonroof, navigation, toy package, heated seats and so much more!

2020 RAM 2500 LONGHORN



MEGA cab, 4x4, diesel, 23,284 original miles, every conceivable option and huge. towing capacity! Nicest one in town!



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