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Franklin High School students have chosen the court for Mr. & Ms. FHS 2022. Members of the court were nominated by teachers and were voted on by their respective classes. Mr. & Ms. FHS will be crowned in a ceremony at the Mr. & Ms. FHS dance set for March 5. Pictured (front row, L-R) are Gracie Elliott, McKayla Sanders, Tori Ensley, Taylor Moss, Corey Burrell, Savannah Mira-Knippel, Anya Valentine, Megan Davis, Claire Holland, Cynthia Rios, Olivia Owle, McCall Sanders, Boston Stringer and Cali Queen; (back row, L-R) Patrick Faetz, Max McClure, Ty Handley, Israel Jackson, Devyn Blackburn, Luis Torres-Zamudio, Alex Kennedy, Isaac Jennings, Luke Vanhook, Dominic Faetz, Beau Paulson, Reed Raby, Daniel Riddle. Not pictured: Gabe Pangle. Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Council approves lease to Root & Barrel

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

For more than a year, the owners of Root + Barrel have been working with the town of Franklin in an attempt to lease a small portion of land between town hall and the restaurant to construct an outdoor dining patio. After more than a year of back and forth, the town council gave Franklin Town Manager Aimee Owens and town attorney John Henning Jr. the go ahead to draft a lease for Root + Barrel.

After being denied the option of expanding outdoor seating in April 2021, Greg Murphy, co-owner of Root + Barrel again spoke to members of the Franklin Town Council asking for an option to expand outdoor seating at the regular January meeting. During the February town council meet-

ing, Virginia Murphy, also a co-owner, made yet another attempt at persuading council members.

Murphy said the restaurant would like to be able to add 40 more seats in the alley. Normal full capacity inside is 150 — the patio would allow the restaurant to expand capacity while also serving patrons who routinely ask for additional outdoor seating options.

While the town is moving forward with drafting a proposed lease, which will charge the restaurant \$1,200 a year for the space, the town still has to provide a 30-day notice to the general public for a comment period. If final approval is given after the public hearing, Murphy believes

See LEASE page 2



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

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Commissioners table Nikwasi Initiative's funding request

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Board of Commissioners approved matching grant funds for the Nikwasi Initiative's development project in January with the contingency that the Initiative would secure letters of support from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mainspring Conservation Trust, and the town of Franklin as well as pledges that they will help meet the \$1 million match requirement. During the followup meeting in February, county commissioners were informed that the Nikwasi Initiative had failed to secure a letter of support from Mainspring, which was one of the pattern agencies the county was most concerned about.

Without a letter of support from all agencies required by the county, Macon commissioners voted to table the funding request.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians sent a letter to county officials in support of the development efforts by the initiative but in order for the county to give its support there needed to be letters from both the Town of Franklin – which did not take any action at its meeting Monday – and support from Mainspring Conservation.

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

grant requires a 20 percent match — which equates to \$1 million.

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

The funding would be used to consolidate more properties into the triangle surrounding the mound and to remodel the former Dan's Auto Service building, which the tribe purchased in 2017 as part of the eventual development of the area.

Macon County Commissioners pledged \$100,000 in January, contingent on joint support from the other stakeholders involved. The commissioner's vote to table discussions does not mean the end of the possibility of applying for the grant, however, additional support would need to be showed for commissioners to revisit the proposal.

When approving their support of the development on Monday night, the Town of Franklin did not allocate any funding toward the development, but acknowledges some may be needed in the future. Franklin Council member David Culpepper noted that the development around the mound has been continuous for some time now and he hopes that with better communication and more transparency, all parties involved can move forward for the betterment of all involved.

Town employees challenged to 'hike the A.T.' for wellness credit

**Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer**

Franklin native and Franklin High School alum Travis Tallent, who has served as Town Clerk/Human Resource Officer since Dec. 19, 2016, developed for 2022 the A.T. Challenge as a wellness initiative for Town of Franklin employees, according to Amie Owens, Franklin's town manager.

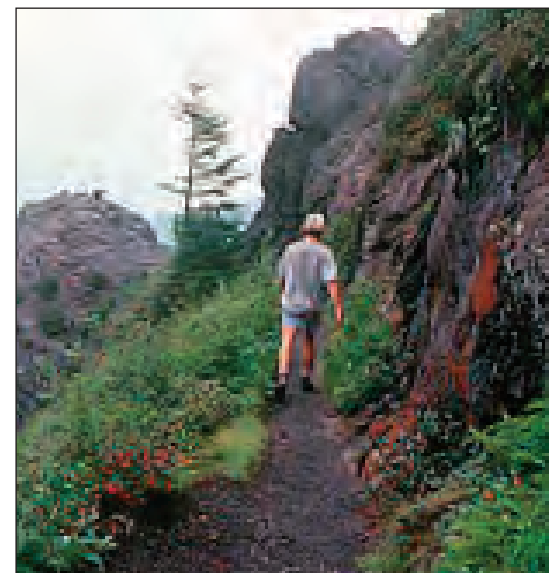
"Individuals participate by logging the miles either using their own fitness tracker or one that is provided by the Town," said Owens.

She explained that the Town of Franklin received a wellness credit from its insurance carrier to purchase fitness trackers, and the challenge began on January 1 and runs the entirety of the year until December 31.

"The goal is to walk or hike the equivalent of the Appalachian Trail (2,190 miles) in one year," she said.

The A.T., which runs from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine, is hiked by thousands annually, and Franklin is a resupply and respite stop for many of the hikers. However, in order to hike the entire 2,190 miles continuously, instead of accomplishing the A.T. in sections, individuals must take an average of six months off from their jobs.

"But we are going to challenge you to embrace the area that we call home — which happens to be one of most welcoming Appalachian Trail communities on the trail — and explore local trails, parks, and paths," conveyed Tallent. "This challenge will help en-



Franklin Town Clerk Travis Tallent developed a program in which town employees were given a wellness credit and prizes to hike the equivalent of The Appalachian Trail in a year. The A.T. is 2,190 miles long.

courage employees to get out and enjoy this wonderful area that we call home."

The A.T. Challenge encourages participating employees to hike and walk as many area trails as possible, including the A.T., Bartram Trail, Little Tennessee Greenway, Mainspring Conservation Trust properties, and more.

Fitness trackers record miles, and prizes will be awarded at the end of 2022 to employees who have completed the 2,190 miles.

"Travis spearheaded this effort and we are dedicated to continuing the commitment to employee wellness and health that he envisioned through this program," added Owens.

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Continued
from page 1

construction of the space would begin within a month, pending permit approvals.

In April 2021, Council member David Culpepper spoke in support of the project, specifically citing the town's comprehensive plan, which encourages the town to look at ways to transform alley ways into outdoor dining for local businesses.

"One element we talked about was converting alleyways into dining opportunities and this goes along with that perfectly," he said.

The town's comprehensive plan's top three improvement priorities include converted/improved alley connectors, 2nd floor business uses, and public art. The Root + Barrel proposed addressing the public art aspect and converted alleyway as approved by the town in the comprehensive plan. However, then-mayor Bob Scott said that he did not believe the space between the restaurant and the town hall building qualified as an alleyway. The only other alleyway located on Main Street before the red light is a connected walking path to access the parking lots off Stewart Street.

The proposed lease will include a one year rental fee of \$1,200 followed by \$1,500 the second year, and \$1,800 the third year.

The progressive increase lease discussed between the town of Franklin and Root+Barrel is very similar to the lease agreement made in 2014 with the Lazy Hiker Brewing Company.

On April 7, 2014, the town of Franklin signed a lease on the old town hall building with the Lazy Hiker Brewing Co. The partnership between the town of Franklin and the investors of Lazy Hiker was intended to revitalize that end of town and refurbish an old building.

Prior to the lease with the Lazy Hiker, the old town hall building had been empty since 2009. As part of the lease, from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, the Lazy Hiker agreed to make improvements to the property and building that had to cost or equal at least \$185,000. After that initial investment, the Lazy Hiker agreed to begin paying rent on the building on July 1, 2015. The Lazy Hiker paid \$1,250 per month to the town of Franklin to lease the building.

The Lazy Hiker would later purchase the building from the town for \$325,000.



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SCC gives dean's, president's lists

More than 270 students made either the dean's or president's lists in the fall semester at Southwestern Community College. To make the president's list, students earned a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.85 or greater. Dean's list honorees had a GPA between 3.50 and 3.849. All honorees completed at least 12 hours in the semester.

President's List

JACKSON COUNTY – Cherokee: Serena Hart, Serena Singh, Tamara Bennett and Leslie Sneed.

Cullowhee: Phoebe Sharpe, Patrick Cardona-Cosner, Roman Creasy, Jenea Gentry, Juliana Hill, Tashyla Hill, Amanda Holmes, Miguelangel Perez, Zebulon Sink and Wolfgang Watkins.

Glenville: Phillip Arnst.

Sylva: Caedmon Akers, Gabrielle Ardisson, Jennifer Bird, Christan Blount, Patrick Campbell, Tonia Cannon, Timothy Coddling, Michael Dux, Kaleb Franks, Dylan Lossiah, Judith Lowery, Tanya Messer, Matthew Nelson, Samuel Ogburn, Shalako Penland, Renee Provost, Darlene Robinson, Harley Smith, Wendy Suttles, Chrystal Wallace and Ross Week.

Tuckasegee: Megan Beck.

Webster: Shaina Prewitt.

Whittier: Austin Bradley, Wesley Burgess, Rachael Calangan, Robyn O'Neal, Isaac Quillen, Luke Templeton, Samantha Tilley and Heather Waldroup.

MACON COUNTY – Franklin: Corrie Babin, Audra Cloer, Aaron Coin, Mekenzie Cook, Nathan Crawford, Lucas Crisp, Jacquelyn Dills, Liam Gonzalez, Sarah Hanson, Kaylee Harris, Tara Henderson, Sarah Higdon, Cadence Houser, Michael Hunt, Caitlyn Lalande, Lake Ledford, Amanda Macumber, Helen Martin, Stephen Moore, Kaitlyn Obuchowski, Ella Pader, James Phythyon, Brandon Piper, William Pritikin, Kody Reeves, Briseyda Rios, Kaitlynn Roper, Ethan Timan, Sara Walker, Alyssa Way, Analee Webb, Jourgette Willis, Jessica Wilson and Sheila Yates

Highlands: Brooke Bird and Patrick Woods.
Otto: Dakota Allen, Leigh Castle, Jaclyn Mathis, Dawson Post and Ashley Powell.

Dean's List

JACKSON COUNTY – Balsam: Alexis Bumgardner.

Cashiers: Mindy Conner.

Cherokee: Siri Hicks, Kyra Lossiah, Kirstin Mathis, Anthony Saunooke and Pamela Swayney.

Cullowhee: Austin Davenport, Jaren Davenport, Raven Forbes, Antoine Lambert, John Lewis, Ethan Ramsey, Taylor Smith, Hailie Tadlock, Rachel Trantham and Allyson Vasquez.

Sylva: Elizabeth Brooks, Kristie Brown, Keaira Bryson, German Carcamo, MeKayla Cody, Laura Cook, Chase Davis, Krystal Dyer, Simon Faulkner, Shawn Forsythe, Damien Hebenstreit, Alexis Hopper, Cydney Jamaio, Mallorie Mahoney, Bennie Manning, Emily Marr, Jessica McCauley, Shoshoni Medina, Paige Monteith, Melissa Paquin, Mitchell Paris, Sarah Short, Jacqueline Stephens, Rachel Surrusco and MacKenzie White.

Whittier: Trish Dyer, Lori Leamon, Deven Silvers and Holly Silvers.

MACON COUNTY – Franklin: Harley Messtas, Amanda Barker, Haylee Bishop, Sarah Brendel, John Cabe, Channing Chastain, Veaceslav Cojan, Dakota Collins, Clint Colorado, Jakob Cress, Bethany Daniel, Miriam Deal, Dalton Drinnon, Ethan Elliott, Caroline Foster, Sarah Fregeau, Gracie Gentry, Karri Hand, Kaitlyn Henry, Ric Jiang, Elden Johnson, Serenity McDaniel, Angela Messer, Muhammad Patel, Brandon Penney, Amber Poss, Madison Rustay, Nicole Sadagursky, Adrianna Souto, Caleb Talley, Amber Trine, Marlene Vasquez, Megan Wilson and Peter Wright.

Highlands: Megan Parker.

Otto: Melissa Hribar, Randy Hughes and Olivia Johnson Wright.

Scaly Mountain: Nolan Stone.

Otto Fire Chief suffers severe burns fighting Saturday wildfire

On Saturday Feb. 12, around 1 p.m., Fire Services Captain Terry Rholetter was injured while engaged in battling a wildfire in the Mountainside Road and Big Ridge Road area of Highway 441 North. Rholetter was installing a fire control line when his position was overrun by flames. He was transported to a burn center in Augusta, Ga., for treatment of serious injuries. Rholetter also serves as the Chief of Otto Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

"He received several burns and was flown to Augusta Burn Center," Otto Fire and Rescue reported on Facebook on Sunday afternoon. "As of right now he is undergoing surgery which will be the first of many."

Macon County Emergency Management issued a statement on Monday: "An injury review has been initiated to document the incident and provide guidance for hopefully preventing a reoccurrence. We politely ask that

all respect the privacy of his family during this difficult time. Captain Rholetter is an accomplished and dedicated public servant and a very strong person and the firefighter family across North Carolina and beyond will work diligently to assist him and his family through the recovery process."

Mountain Valley Fire and Rescue and the North Carolina Forest Service along with Macon County Fire Services were initially dispatched to the incident with reports of structures in danger. Gusty winds and difficult fire conditions resulted in additional responses from Franklin, Cullasaja Gorge and Cowee Fire Departments from Macon County along with Savannah Fire Department from Jackson County.

Macon County Emergency Services warned on Sunday that burn conditions remain dangerous throughout the week with fuels being very dry and humidity being very low.

Nominations now open for chamber awards

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce announces nominations are being accepted for four prestigious awards, Citizen of the Year, The Duke Power Citizenship and Service Award, Youth Citizenship Award and Club/Organization of the Year.

The Citizen of the Year Award recognizes an individual who significantly contributes to the community and is an inspirational role model. This is the most coveted award given by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Duke Power Citizenship and Service Award recognizes and rewards leadership and/or involvement in volunteerism and community services to an individual, team or group. Recipients of the award help foster a culture of citizenship and service that acts as a catalyst for others to become involved in civic and social activities.

The Youth Citizenship Award recognizes a youth who has shown a strong interest in serving in their community and volunteering to help oth-

ers.

The Club/Organization of the Year Award is presented to the most outstanding club or Organization. The award is aimed at recognizing the club for its dedication and contribution in our community.

Nomination letters can be delivered to the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 98 Hyatt Road or emailed to LindaH@Franklin-Chamber.com. Nomination deadline is Friday, March 18 at 5 pm. A nomination form is available at the Franklin Chamber, or call to have one emailed to you.

The awards will be presented at the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on April 21. The Banquet will be held at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts beginning at 7 p.m. with dinner followed by the award presentations.

For more information contact the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce at (828)524-3161.

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NOTICE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATIONS TO TRANSFER LICENSES

(February 9, 2022)

On May 13, 2021, Northbrook Carolina Hydro II, LLC (Northbrook) and HydroLand Carolinas I, LLC (HydroLand) jointly filed applications to transfer the licenses for the Bryson Hydroelectric Project No. 2601 and Franklin Hydroelectric Project No. 2603. On January 21, 2022, Northbrook and HydroLand jointly filed a notice of withdrawal of their applications to transfer the licenses for the Bryson Hydroelectric Project No. 2601 and Franklin Hydroelectric Project No. 2603. The projects are located on the Oconaluftee and Little Tennessee rivers in Swain and Macon counties, North Carolina.

No motion in opposition to the notice of the withdrawal has been filed, and the Commission has taken no action to disallow the withdrawal. Pursuant to Rule 216(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the withdrawal of the transfer of licenses became effective on February 5, 2022, and these proceedings are hereby terminated.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary

Veterans gather at Historical Museum for Korean War installation

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

The Macon County Historical Museum on Main Street in Franklin, housed in a former turn-of-the-20th century general store, includes exhibits from every American time period as well as installations focusing on major wars. Missing, however, has been a display on the Korean War, which many people refer to as the “forgotten war.”

On Feb. 8, four local Vietnam veterans lent their support for the “opening” of a Korean War display that Johnny Curtis, one of their veteran “brothers,” organized and donated. The behind-glass exhibit is the product of much research into the service of Curtis’s uncle, Floyd Moffitt, and his own father, Charles Curtis Jr. Both men fought in the Korean War and Moffitt was killed while serving. “In fact,” said Curtis, “he was one of the first men from Macon County to be killed in the Korean War.”

Curtis’s father survived the war but never spoke about it. Curtis, who served for 10 years in the Air Force, including during the Vietnam War, had to delve into the two men’s involvement in the war by piecing together information, mostly found in photographs, found in his family’s possession. In fact, family photographs, along with copies of public archived photographs, are part of the display at the Historical Museum. Through his research, Curtis also learned about the uniforms, equipment, and sundry other related military items that soldiers like his uncle and father wore and carried, and Curtis was able to acquire several items for the museum’s display. What impacted him most were the photographs showing the extreme cold that the soldiers endured. The average temperature in Korea during the winter months is at or below freezing. “And some of the photos show them marching through the snow,” he said.

An etched glass plaque that reads “Dedicated to Korean War Veterans; Donated by the family of Charles Curtis Jr.,” is displayed amid a background collage of photographs and alongside such 70-year-old items as a “Personal Conduct for a Soldier” booklet, a



Johnny Curtis, far left, donated a Korean War installation at the Macon County Historical Museum on Main Street in Franklin and was joined by fellow Vietnam veterans Rick Norton, Rick Stough, Ron Norton, and Gary Shields.

mess kit, a helmet, and more.

Curtis is a member of the local Post 108 of the American Legion in Franklin. Because the Korean War exhibit honors the soldiers who served, a few of Curtis’s fellow Vietnam veterans and friends participated in the museum installation as a show of support. Also in attendance was veteran Sherry Newton representing the American Legion as the historian of Post 108.

“March 29 is a day set aside to honor our Vietnam veterans,” said Newton. “There are not many Korean War veterans still living, so it is important that our local Vietnam veterans help call attention to those who served in the Korean War, which also calls attention to those who served in the Vietnam War.”

After the Korean War installation, the five veterans – four of whom are Franklin natives – gathered on the third floor of the museum. There, Curtis as well as Rick Norton, Rick Stough, Ron Norton, and Gary Shields shared why the preservation and pro-

motion of historical events is so important.

Shields, who served two tours of duty in Vietnam, is a Macon County commissioner and a retired educator. He was the principal of Franklin High School for 21 years and pointed out that veterans would often speak to students and share the historical significance of the war. “I was told by a higher up when I completed my service in Vietnam: ‘You’ve served your country; now go home and serve your community. And the best way to do that is through education.’”

“People just don’t know much about the Korean War [which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953] because it was much shorter than the Vietnam War [November 1955 to April 1975] and so many fewer soldiers died,” said Rick Norton, who served one tour in Vietnam. “But it happened, and some of our fathers and relatives fought in it and we need to not let it be the ‘forgotten war.’ No history needs to be forgotten. This Korean War exhibit helps educate. Unfortu-

nately, students are getting less and less education in schools about this history and most any history.”

Sharing stories keep history alive

Shields explained that ten percent of Macon County’s population is made up of Vietnam veterans. Ron Norton, who served one tour in Vietnam, quipped that the “senior trip” for the Franklin High School class of 1967 men was a trip to Vietnam. Two from the class were killed in the war, and six total from Macon County. Their photographs and names are on a wall at Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 994, located at 249 Sloan Road in Franklin.

Norton added, “We had no idea what we were getting into. Some of us had heard stories from fathers or relatives who fought in the Korean War or in World War II, but many never spoke about their experiences there. When I got off the plane in Da Nang [the largest city in central Vietnam], I had to run for the bunker because the airport was being bombed.”

Ron Norton participated in fierce fighting during the Vietnam War and brought home a Chinese bayonet, which he kept for 30 years before eventually donating it to the Vietnam War exhibit at the Macon County Historical Museum.

All the veterans present on Feb. 8 spoke of experiencing or witnessing protests and animosity when returning from the war – in towns and cities outside of Franklin.

“Franklin and the community was so supportive of us vets,” said Norton.

The others in attendance agreed that people in Macon County showed appreciation for soldiers’ service.

But in pockets throughout America at the time, mostly in larger cities, protesters manifested their objections by spitting on soldiers, insulting them and calling them “baby killers” due to reports of civilian casualties in Vietnam, and burning the American flag.

Rick Norton shared, “People back home just had no idea what we experienced. And when you’re young, you’re impressionable and naïve. Just like Ron said, we had no idea

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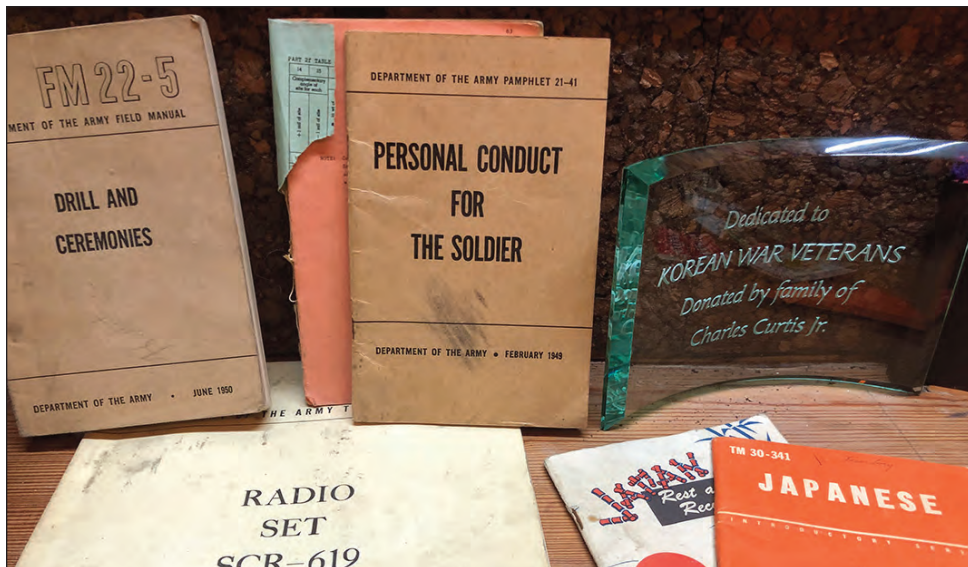
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The new Korean War exhibit at the Macon County Historical Museum includes 70-year-old uniforms, military literature and equipment, and plenty of photographs to provide a picture of the three-year war.



what we were getting ourselves into.”

While a soldier in Vietnam, Shields learned quickly that a logistics board showing who had died and which positions and areas were in need – depending on skills, etc. – often determined strategically where soldiers were placed in Vietnam. “It’s sobering ... as is having to go to ‘jungle school’ for two weeks. And I left the war when my tours were over, but the war didn’t leave me.”

“I was involved in constant fighting,” said Ron, “but whenever we could, we gave civilians food and others supplies, but that wasn’t getting reported to Americans. Just the bad stuff. War is terrible. Nobody hates war more than someone who has seen it.”

Rick Norton and the others lost friends and fellow soldiers. They have all dealt differently with the trauma of the war. Norton decided to visit Vietnam in 2018 and again in 2019. What he experienced was a modernized and thriving country with people that welcomed him wherever he went.

“I made new friends and I realized it wasn’t for nothing. I needed to go there for me and lose some hard feelings I had built up in my mind about that time in the war. I buried a bunch of demons by going there.”

Stough, who served two tours in Vietnam, agreed.

“I had a buddy who went back to Vietnam a year ago and he said it’s all built up, with hotels and golf courses. But the small outpost



that I helped defend, called Monkey Mountain, is still there and preserved.”

Stough spoke of having to lie still in the jungle surrounding the outpost.

“It was pitch black and we had no night vision goggles at that time.”

Focusing on the Positives

Rick Norton said that making friends with Vietnamese people when he visited the country a few years ago, connecting with other veterans, and supporting one another are all positive outcomes of a terrible war. He noted that what started locally as a \$500 veterans’ scholarship fund in 2012 to benefit the future generations of veterans in Macon County, Swain, and Jackson counties has climbed to \$150,000 in scholarship monies.

Said Ron Norton, “This scholarship fund and the exhibits at the museum are ways to let the community know that veterans are still here – and they have a camaraderie and are very involved in the community in different ways. Two of my grandchildren have received some of the scholarship money, and it helps them to know that there have been wars and that their grandfather actually fought in one of them.”

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Workshop teaches how to boost immunity with herbs and plants

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

On a cold but sunny February day, in view of the Little Tennessee River at a maintained greenway space behind Mainspring Conservation Trust's headquarters, a group gathered to learn from Cara-Lee Langston, M.S., about how to create teas, tinctures, syrups, and more using purchased and foraged herbs and plants.

Langston, a South African native, operates Wildcraft Kitchen in Clayton, Ga., and she explained that part of her formal education involved studying under Patricia Kyritsi Howell, who founded the BotanoLogos School of Herbal Studies, located in Clayton, and who also authored the book, "Medicinal Plants of the Southern Appalachians."

With an outdoor burner brewing a "forest tea" and another cooking elderberry syrup, Langston explained ingredients and processes to the nearly a dozen or so in attendance on Feb. 8. She also made "fire cider," and she provided the group with the "folk remedy" (also known as "kitchen medicine") recipes for all three.

"Everyone should focus on individual health and nutrition, so if there is an underlying health issue or if someone is taking medication, then it is a good idea to speak to a doctor before consuming natural medicines," said Langston.

Primarily, Langston addressed immune boosting opportunities with herbs and plants.

"Our metabolism slows down in the winter, and with 70% of the immune system housed in the gut, we should do all we can to naturally support the immune system – especially in the winter. I use folk remedies for preventative health care."

Langston pointed out that dried or fresh herbs can be used, and the ratio of a liquid or oil to the herb changes depending

on whether or not herbs are dried or fresh. Some ingredients used to make syrups or tinctures include vinegar, glycerin, water, tea, honey, natural oils, and more.

"A simple, healthy combination that anyone can mix together and add to tea, for example, is honey and turmeric," she said.

Warm forest tea was passed around for participants to sample. It included some items foraged by Langston, such as white pine, birch, and spicebush, as well as dried sumac and rose hips. She explained that most of the ingredients are high in Vitamin C and demonstrated, by showing clippings and encouraging participants to smell each one, why the combination of ingredients resulted in a healthful, immune-boosting tea.

"Cherokee and settlers often used these native ingredients," she said. "Humans are the only animals that don't produce Vitamin C naturally, so we have to get it from foods."

Sumac berries, which are bright red and readily available in this region, make a "wonderful sumac-ade," she said, "which tastes like lemonade but is healthier. The berries have a sour, lemony taste and are full of Vitamin C and antioxidants."

Plant, berry, and herb identification books assist in determining the right plants to add to teas, tinctures, and syrups.

"It is important to know which ones might be poisonous or cause illness," she warned. And many herbs, such as rose hips, can be either grown and dried or purchased from reputable sources. Her forest tea recipe is as follows:



On Feb. 8, near the Little Tennessee River Greenway, herbalist Cara-Lee Langston, M.S., demonstrated how to make natural, immune-boosting teas, syrups, and tinctures.

Winter Forest Tea

Makes 1 quart

- 2 cups chopped pine needles (2.5oz.)**
- About 12 x 8-10 inch twigs of spicebush (1.5 oz.)**
- About 12 x 8-10 inch twigs of birch (1.5oz.)**
- 1 Tablespoon dried rose hips**
- 1 Tablespoon dried sumac**
- 3 quarts spring water**
- Local honey (optional)**

Add ingredients to pot and cover with 3 quarts cold water. Slowly bring to a boil, then simmer 20-30 minutes or until desired strength/flavor is achieved.

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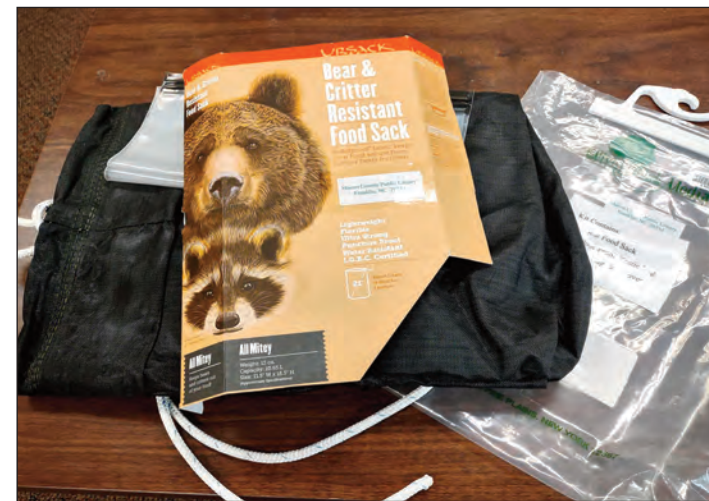
Hikers can check out 'bear bags' at library

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

A few years ago, the Nantahala Hiking Club purchased three Ursack Bear & Critter Resistant Food Sacks and donated them to the Macon County Library to be made available for use by day and overnight hikers who are library cardholders.

In recent years, bear populations have increased in Western North Carolina, despite reaching low populations prior to the 1990s. With increased wildlife numbers comes increased interactions between animals and humans, especially on the local hiking trails – most notably the Appalachian Trail. In order for overnight hikers to prevent bears from stealing provisions while they sleep, bear resistant containers are needed. Occasional overnight hikers who do not want to invest in a bear sack, which costs \$100 or more, can check out one of three bags out from the Macon County Library.

Bears have a highly developed sense of smell and are attracted to anything with a food-like aroma, including mints and toothpaste. Touted as constructed of tear and puncture-resistant fabrics to protect food from bears and other "critters," the Ursack Bear & Critter Resistant Food Sacks fit inside a backpack and then can be taken out and strung up high into a tree to keep existing provisions out



Three Ursack Bear & Critter Resistant Food Sacks are available for checkout at the Macon County Library for use by day and overnight hikers who are library cardholders.

of a bear's reach.

The bags "check out just like books," said Kristina Lynn Moe, adult services assistant at the Macon County Library. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road. Contact them at (828)524-3600 for more information.

Grandfather Mountain January weather report

January 2022 brought considerably more than a flurry of winter weather to Grandfather Mountain.

According to data recorded at the park's official National Weather Service reporting stations, the nonprofit nature park recorded at least nine days of snowfall, amounting to approximately 27.3 total inches. This does not include three days of missing data, due to inaccessibility from inclement weather.

The warmest temperature recorded last month was 61° Fahrenheit on Jan. 2, the third warmest January day in Grandfather's recorded history and five degrees shy of the mountain's record January high of 65°, recorded on Jan. 30, 2002.

The lowest temperature observed last month was 1° on Jan. 29. The lowest temperature ever observed on Grandfather Mountain in the month of January was -32° on Jan. 21, 1985.

The average high temperature for January 2022 was 35.1°, with an average low of 17.9°, for a mean of 26.5°. The mountain's warmest January on record was in 1974, with an average high of 47.8°, an average low of 34.2° and a mean of 41°.

On Jan. 17, the weather station near the Mile High Swinging Bridge recorded a wind gust of 85.7 mph, while the month's highest recorded sustained wind speed clocked in at 73.7 mph that same day.

The weather station near the Mile High Swinging Bridge reported 4.3 inches of precipitation in January, not counting snow and not including five days of missing data, due to inaccessibility from inclement weather. Precipitation, including snow, is also measured near the Nature Museum as high winds can make it difficult to record accurate observations at the top. Observations at this lower-elevation location indicated 7.57 inches in January, not counting the aforementioned



Snow surrounds Grandfather Mountain's Mile High Swinging Bridge in January. This past month, the mountain saw approximately 27.3 inches of snow, according to data from the park's National Weather Service reporting station.

Photo by Frank Ruggiero | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

tioned three days of missing data, due also to inclement weather.

The mountain's rainiest January was in 1998, when 11.8 inches were observed near the bridge. The driest January on record was in 1956, when .59 of an inch was measured at the top.

The park counted 13 total days of precipitation for January 2021, 12 days short of the record 25 days in 1979 and 1985.

Weather Reporting

The Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation records and reports data in two different ways:

- The park maintains an automated weather station at the top of the Mile High Swinging Bridge. The N.C. State Climate Office assists the foundation in calibrating the machines and ensuring overall accuracy of data.

- Grandfather Mountain has been an active member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Cooperative Observer Program since 1955 by reporting daily temperature, precipitation and weather events from locations near the Mile High Swinging Bridge and the Nature Museum.

For more information on weather at Grandfather Mountain, visit www.grandfather.com/visit-plan-your-visit/real-time-weather/.

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.



Grandfather Mountain is an ideal spot for winter birding. While many of the mountain's species of birds are transient, approximately 40 to 50 species call the mountain home year-round and can even be spotted during winter, such as this dark-eyed junco.

Photo by Judi Sawyer | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

The town board will hold its February meeting tonight [Thursday] at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. It will begin at 7 p.m. with public comment being the first agenda item. The agenda has a substantial list of items for board action.

A request will be made by John Lupoli to amend the cleaning contract for the restrooms at Town Square. His company maintains the facilities for the town. There has been an increase in cleaning costs such as water usage.

The board will receive an update from Kaye McHan of the chamber concerning a new landscape plan for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center. The facility is owned by the town and is leased to the chamber.

The board will consider a proposal for a second opinion from an attorney who specializes in land use and STR [short term rentals] issues. The review would involve the attorney examining the planning board STR recommendations and how they comport with existing residential ordinances. A letter from the attorney outlining the services to be provided and fees charged will be considered.

The approval of resolutions to apply for ARPA funds to replace a pre-clarifier tank at the water plant and for the Dog Mountain waterline and water tank replacement is on the agenda. A conflict of interest policy for grant applications is included. These procedural items need to be in place before we can begin the grant application process.

In my mayor report I will share my proposed procedures for conducting the public hearing concerning the planning board's STR recommendations. The hearing is scheduled on Feb. 24 at 5 p.m., at the Highlands Community Building. Let me briefly review my plans.

First, both verbal and written statements will be accepted. Speakers at the hearing will have three minutes to address the board. That timeframe translates into about 20 speakers per hour. Speakers will also be allowed to submit written comments. For people not able to attend the hearing, they will be able to submit written statements for the record within a given timeframe.

People wishing to comment will have to sign up to speak. Staff will be at the hearing site at 4:30 to start the list. There will be an email option for signing up. I will

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

It's important to focus on knowing the truth

I feel compelled to share some corrections I hope people who read Ms. Hastings's letter will consider. There is too much misinformation and, unfortunately, downright lies, so it is important to focus on knowing the truth.

Regarding the January 6 riot – Former President Trump call on his base to gather in hopes to overturn what has been called “the most secure election in U.S. history.” He had hopes to overthrow our democracy, thereby making our collective votes mean nothing. He is guilty of supplying the fuel the insurrectionists used to feed their flame. Amazingly, the RNC has recently declared the January 6 attack on the Capitol in which nine died, 150 law enforcement officers were injured, offices were ransacked, and rioters spread feces on our Capitol's walls “legitimate political discourse.” And, a quick fact check will show only social media users and Donald Trump say Nancy Pelosi rejected a request for 10,000 National Guard troops as a precaution. Republicans, even though asked repeatedly, can show no proof that request was ever made.

Regarding the election of 2020 – Election grants provided by the Center for Tech and Civic Life, a nonprofit that amassed hundreds of millions of dollars, including a huge donation from Mark Zuckerberg, was essential to preventing an election meltdown since a huge voter turnout was expected with mail-in ballots on a scale never before seen because of Covid-19. The money arrived as historically underfunded election department budgets were sapped from unforeseen purchases during the primaries and were forced to spend money on election workers, postage, and printing for the increasing number of voters who wanted to vote by mail. The money was granted to 2,500 jurisdictions. It was used primarily to pay staff. No special operators of left-leaning organizations were sent door to door to “help” mail-in voters.

Regarding the Biden presidency – Accomplishments – a stimulus package which funded vaccine distribution, direct payments to eligible Americans, bolstered unemployment benefits, expanded child tax credit, provided money to help schools, colleges, and universities reopen. An infrastructure bill which injects federal money into America's aging public works system to repair roads and bridges, renovate ports, and expand broadband access as well as replace every lead pipe in the U.S. Low employment rate – 3.9% in December. Forty federal judges confirmed. Shortcomings include inflation and gasoline prices. As James Carville said, “It's the economy, stupid.” President Biden needs to pay more attention to how those things are affecting all of us.

Regarding the Supreme Court – Through nothing but political chicanery, former President Trump and Mitch McConnell managed to seat three justices. To complain about a mistake Justice Sotomayer made that was quickly corrected is grasping at straws to make us forget the manner in which

Trump's chosen members were seated. Her mistake does not compare with the influence, good or bad, they will have on our country for the rest of their lifetimes.

Regarding the push towards Socialism – It seems that Republicans cry Socialism every time Democrats propose something they deem too expensive or too progressive. If we are going to take practical steps to address the extraordinary socioeconomic inequality and environmental degradation America's under regulated capitalist market helped, Americans must stop associating regulation with Socialism. Unfortunately, Republicans are not going to stop using this effective, though inaccurate, critique.

Regarding former President Trump's veracity – Veracity, an interesting subhead meaning habitual truthfulness. Does Trump possess veracity? Where to begin? Ms. Hastings sees a line between exaggeration and truth which might work for a three-year-old, but the leader of the free world? I think not. The following are attributed to him: Most traditional big lie – Trump didn't know about payments to Stormy Daniels. Most boring serial lie – The trade deficit with China used to be \$500 billion. Most dangerous lie – The coronavirus is under control. Biggest lie by omission – Trump ended family separation. Yes, he did sign a 2018 order, but it was his own policy he ended. The Crazy Uncle lie – Windmills cause cancer. The most hucksterish lie – The plan was coming in two weeks. The big health plan. Delay and maybe they'll forget it. The lie he ran from – He claimed more than 160 times he was responsible for the Veterans Choice Act. When, in fact, it was signed by President Obama in 2014. When finally asked about it in August 2020, he promptly left the room. Another needless lie – Trump was once named Michigan's Man of the Year. He never lived in Michigan. And, finally, the most depressing lie: Trump won the election ... but, even that's unraveling as he said last week, “Pence could have overturned the election,” appearing to acknowledge Biden won.

Regarding Voter IDs to vote – I have no objections.

Maybe Ms. Hastings needs to get her information from someone other than Bill O'Reilly, who agreed to paying a \$32 million settlement for sexual harassment.

I, too, as Ms. Hastings, love my country. I hate to see it destroyed by those who ignore the role former President Trump had in the January 6 attack. It's peculiar how the narrative about the insurrection has changed in a little more than a year. The facts, however, stay the same. It was an attack on our democracy.

I hope sharing my information will help “round out your views.” To keep praying for our great nation and to be diligent to know the truth is an admirable way to also end this letter.

Margaret James – Franklin, N.C.

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America is at a crossroad

America is a long-standing (yet young) republic founded on democratic principles. We elect our representatives at the local, state and national level. All genders, all nationalities have the right to vote.

Still, we find ourselves at a crossroad in 2022. Will we abolish the horrible Citizens United law which has allowed corporations and the super-rich to have excessive influence on elections? Will some states deny people of color the right to vote? Will we teach our constitution? Will we amend it to protect our electoral process? Will we prevent another coup attempt? Will we work for a more perfect union or destroy the one we have?

Will we value the free press? Will we protect copyright/patent laws? Can we keep the military apolitical? Can we make the Supreme Court work for all Americans?

A brief biological note: No human being has ever had any say in his/her genetic makeup. That is determined by a biological mother and father. So, how could evolution or creation theory suggest that any race is superior? I will not worship a god that makes someone superior to me.

In Luke 17:21 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you." He does not say that it is within any government. Are we treating our fellow world citizens like we want them to be a part of the kingdom of God? Tracy Chapman sings, "Heaven's Here on Earth." The great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy wrote a fine book entitled "The Kingdom of God is Within You." Will we heed their call to humane action?

We must commit ourselves to treating our neighbors as God would have us to. Wearing Christian symbols is okay, but they must accompany Christian deeds. We must make this earth more like the heaven we imagine and dream about. Christians must focus less on political action and more on individual impact on the world. Is the kingdom of God within you?

Dave Waldrop – Webster, N.C.

American citizenship used to mean something

I'm saddened to see what was once thought as being a proud American and was never questioned of its truest meaning has become something which has lost all meaning; the progressives or moderns who want nothing of the past, seek a definition of "nothingness." When a country has free and open borders and has no definition of what kind of person it allows, it becomes no longer a country. A nothingness which has lost all uniqueness and value towards its people.

America's culture and people once had a special pride or distinction they call their own. It's not that we are better than others, but America had grown and admired the values of sacrifice that makes a nation special above most all others. A freedom of pursuing Life, Liberty, Justice and Equality for all, which has shown itself as no other throughout this world. Those who seek and want this and are willing to stand and sacrifice for these values are to be welcomed as

citizens. If anyone doesn't believe in these values and only looking for what they can get, should not be considered a value to any nation. And likewise, any leadership within a nation that places no value towards those coming into the country places no value towards its own citizens. Humanity only becomes of value if used to empower oneself, and nothing else!

The turning of heads in allowing human trafficking, drugs and gangs. Even Nancy Pelosi stating she has no idea where lawlessness comes from, which is like saying I've birthed children but have no idea how I got them. Lawlessness has increase tenfold, while American citizens carry the enormous weight of what leadership seems gladly to welcome.

The most honored and sacred privilege any nation has, is the truest meaning of citizenship and the privilege and right to vote. The "privilege" is living within the unified efforts of a free people with common values, and within this privilege we place value to "citizenship" of a unified people with equality towards each other and a willingness to die for values we all stand for. So if America strives for anyone and everyone to vote, whether a criminal or illegal or anything but an American citizen we no longer are America, and it's no longer founded upon the truest sense of equality, justice or truthfulness to its citizens. Many have fought and died for these values we once held dear. To be a citizen and to vote are not freely given, otherwise it's of little value and cheapened.

Throughout the world many had looked to us as an example, though not perfect, but now is viewed as deeply corrupted, and leaderships lacking in truthfulness and being just. I question whether a "we the people," led government can withstand this selfishness of leadership, because many have become not much different. We once were unified upon common values of Divine origin, and have replaced the Divine for self. And as in leadership, not much will stand in our way to get what we want. I stand as well as others for the God of truth within justice, equality and all goodness and love within the only One who is the essences or foundation of what this is. Where else do you find your truth, justice, equality and Love, what is it you teach your children where this comes from? If not from the Divine then we truly have become "nothing" and have no other place to go.

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard – nds13@frontier.com

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TAYLOR

From previous page

call in order the people on the list and keep the time.

All public comments will be recorded. Written statements will be copied and distributed to town commissioners.

I will be seeking advice and guidance from commissioners concerning hearing procedures. I have also consulted with the town attorney.

The Highlands Planning Board recommendations can be reviewed at the Town of Highlands website. After the meeting tonight, the hearing procedures will be posted on the town website some time Friday.

Finally, the hearing on the 24th will be just that, a forum where commissioners will hear and receive public feedback concerning the proposed STR recommendations. There will be no final action taken concerning the recommendations at the hearing. Board action will occur at later meetings.

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Local Fellowship of Christian Athletes collect for tornado victims

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Although the sound of a tornado is often described as an approaching train, Western Kentucky's Dec. 10, 2021, "long-tracked" tornado sounded like a roaring lion, according to some. The devastating EF4-rated tornado passed through 11 counties, 167 miles, for almost three hours and reached an estimated peak wind speed of 190 mph. Close to 100 people died, hundreds more were injured, and thousands of people lost their home and belongings.

News of the tornado was shared nationwide and Franklin native Teresa Zoellner took notice. For the past several years she has been involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), a 60-year-old, worldwide middle and high school organization aimed at reaching out – "being the hands and feet of Jesus for people in need."

Zoellner first became involved as a parent volunteer and then joined the local FCA staff, working out of an office at Macon Middle School and overseeing close to 100 involved students between Macon Middle School and Franklin High School.

"I've always had a heart for giving," said Zoellner, "and this community [Macon County] has a heart for giving. Whenever I put something on social media about needs here or needs in other areas, people respond. And I have worked with hundreds of kids in FCA over the years, and time and time again I've been so impressed with their hearts."

The FCA members at the middle and high school learned before the Christmas holidays that the December Kentucky tornado ravished several of the state's communities. Zoellner connected with a pastor in the town of Breman, Ky., and learned of needs. The members began to set in motion a plan to gather basic necessities. By mid-January, the group had a truck full to deliver. And, on Jan. 22, Zoellner drove a truck to the Kentucky community to distribute the donations.

"More than 100 blankets and coats, at least 75 boxes of food as well as baby food and supplies, and clothing for all ages were full to the rim in that truck," said Zoellner. "Macon County is so generous."

When she got to Kentucky, Zoellner met with the pastor, also a volunteer fireman, who was on the front lines on the evening the tornado hit. He had to leave his wife and children hunkered down in a closet in their home in order to venture out into wind and rain and help pull debris off people, load the injured into ambulances, and provide whatever other emergency services were needed. He told Zoellner that he even held a man as he died.

"He told me the tornado sounded like a roaring lion that got



The devastating EF-4 rated tornado passed through 11 counties, 167 miles for almost three hours and reached an estimated peak wind speed of 190 mph. Close to 100 people died, hundreds more were injured and thousands lost their home and belongings.

louder and louder. The tornado missed his house, and he immediately went out to help. People were screaming. Homes were gone. He told me about one home that was completely gone except for the closet; the family stayed in the closet and they were unharmed, but when they came out of the closet their whole house was gone. He told me everyone is struggling with trauma. People lost everything."

By the time Zoellner rolled into Breman in mid-January, much debris was piled high along roadways, but she could see the countless foundations where homes used to be.

"I took pictures back to show the FCA members because they need to see where their donations are going and how the donations help people," she said.

For ongoing local needs, FCA maintains a food, clothing, and basic supplies' closet at Macon Middle School. Sometimes the need is a power bill that requires paying. Zoellner will allocate some of the \$30,000 to \$40,000 annual funds to take

care of miscellaneous needs. Raised funds are realized mainly through private or church-based monetary donations and fundraisers, such as golf tournaments at The Club at Mill Creek or lock-ins at The Factory.

"We rely on what God provides," she said.

In the past, other disasters have motivated Zoellner's FCA efforts.

"Whenever the fires were in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., [2016] we packed a U-Haul full of donations for people in need there. And last year, in November, we took stuff up to the coal mining areas of West Virginia; a friend had alerted me that some people needed coats, blankets, and food."

For more information on how to become involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, contact Zoellner at 706-490-2454.



The community of Breman, Ky., was hard hit by the tornado that swept through on Dec. 10.



Debris was piling up and salvage operations were underway in Breman, Ky., when Zoellner was able to deliver the supplies collected by FCA through the generosity of the people of Macon and Rabun counties.



Teresa Zoellner with the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes spearheaded a collection drive to take supplies to tornado-ravaged Breman, Ky. Along with water, paper products and other necessities, Zoellner took more than 100 blankets, 100 coats, 50 packs of diapers, and 75 pairs of socks and gloves. Zoellner set up a trailer near Big Lots in Franklin to collect supplies and by mid January, was on her way to deliver the supplies.



A warehouse was set up to accept and distribute supplies to storm victims.

Many homes were damaged beyond repair and others were completely destroyed by the December tornado that swept through three states.



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 3 - 13. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 7

James Robert Walsh, was charged with failure to appear for a misdemeanor. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Hugo Perez, was charged with assault on a female. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

February 8

Eric Christopher Gibson, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Clarissa Anne Smith, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and resist/obstruct and delay law enforcement officer. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

February 9

Justin Johnson Stanfield, was charged with burglary/breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods and obtaining property by false pretenses. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Jaric Thomas Keener, was charged with assault on a female and interfere with emergency communication. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Joshua Clifford Marks, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Dana Marie Henry, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

Amanda Joy Lomas, was charged with larceny, breaking and entering, aid and abet driving while license revoked impaired revocation and larceny of a motor vehicle. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

February 10

Robert Charles Tallent, was charged with breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods/property and larceny. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

February 11

Carl Floyd, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Sawyer James Canner, was charged with flee/elude arrest, reckless driving with wanton disregard, failure to heed light or siren and flee/elude arrest. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Kayley Elizabeth Crisp, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

William Jason Cochran, was charged with possession of

methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest. Marcus Cody Waldroup, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 3

Bradley Kevin Jones, was issued an order for arrest for possession of LSD and drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Derek Gene Camp, was charged with trafficking heroin, felony possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. E.D. Kirkland made the arrest.

February 4

Jonathan Andrew Wyles, was charged with statutory rape of a child under 15 and indecent liberties with a child. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

February 5

Michael Dewayne Jenkins, was charged with assault on a female. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

February 7

Lance Edward Hughes, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Janelle Catherine Johnson, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 10

Brian David Dills, was charged with false pretenses/swindle/confidence game. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 7

Andrew Douglas Anderson, 35, of Dills Branch Rd., was charged with failure to appear for violation of a court order and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Jessica Ann Normand, 42, of Ajuga Dr., was charged with failure to appear for assault inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

February 8

David Charles Roberts, 41, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear on a felony. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set. Samuel D. Plaster made the arrest.

February 9

Amanda Angienete Pearl Buchanan, 26, of Gene Crowe Dr., was charged with failure to appear for trafficking opium or heroin by transportation, trafficking opium or heroin by possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of heroin and issued a true bill of indictment. No bond was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Steven Dale Eplin, 41, of Qualla Town Rd., Cherokee, was charged with civil non-support. A \$11,555.90 bond was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Michael Jerome Drakeford, 40, of Old Glory Ridge, Whittier, was charged with civil non-support. A \$200 bond was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Susan Ashley Welch, 36, of Slan Rd., Elizabeth, Tenn.,

was charged with carrying a concealed gun, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

Joseph William Ferro Grier, 39, of Rock Quarry Rd., was issued a warrant for arrest for probation violation, communicating threats, interfere with emergency communications and assault on a female. A secured bond of \$12,500 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Jacquelyn Ruth Stewart, 35, of Golf Estates Rd., Franklin, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and possession of heroin. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Mark C. Junaluska made the arrest.

February 10

Steven Lee Capps, 36, of Silvermine Rd., Bryson City, was charged with possession/displayed/altered/fictitious/revoked drivers license, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Krystal Leann Ogle, 32, of Clarence Hall Rd., was charged with possession of stolen goods/property and failure to appear for felony conspiracy. A secured bond of \$4,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

February 11

Sheyenne Victoria McClellan, 22, of Cullowhee, was charged with larceny after break/enter, break or enter a motor vehicle, attempted larceny, attempted break/enter a motor vehicle, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering and entering of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Derrick Blaine Blakley, 34, of Wayehutta Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Ronald E. Ferris made the arrest.

February 12

George Michael Martinez, 19, of Fairfax Park Place, Lake-land, Fla., was charged with failure to appear for no operators license and speeding. A secured bond of \$100 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

Jessica Lynn Holliday, 33, of Mockingbird Lane, was charged with failure to appear for unsafe passing yellow line/No operators license, defrauding drug/alcohol screen tests, violation for out of county and misdemeanor probation violation for out of county. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

Jessica Ann Normand, 42, of Ajuga Dr., was issued an order for arrest for assault and battery. A secured bond of \$500 was set. Ridge A. Parris made the arrest.

February 13

Melinda Murphy Howell, 50, of Wrights Creek Rd., Cherokee, was issued an order for arrest for felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$70,000 was set. Robert D. Nicholson made the arrest.

Criton Douglas Shook, 52, of Shoal Creek Rd., Whittier, was charged with maintaining a vehicle for a controlled substance, trafficking methamphetamine by possession, trafficking methamphetamine by transportation, trafficking opium or heroin by possession and trafficking opium or heroin by transportation. A secured bond of \$650,000 was set. Robert D. Nicholson made the arrest.

Paul Michael Branks, 63, of Blue Berry Place, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. No bond was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Holly Springs Community Development Club Breakfast Meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:30 a.m. at the community building, 2720 Cat Creek Rd.

Jackson County Branch of the NC NAACP Branch 54AB February Membership Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. The topic is "Censoring School Books." Email jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online. All are welcome.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 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.

Yoga at the Library will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 5:15 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. Register ahead for this free class at <https://beyondbendingyoga.com/schedule/>

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and will meet Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m., at First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin.

Depression – From Surviving to Thriving free class will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. Register ahead by visiting <https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/> or call the library, (828)524-3600 with your name and phone number.

Valley River Arts Guild will be Offering Classes for Clay Hanging Heart Pocket, Class is suitable for children, Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 to 11:30 am. Making Hand Built Clay Mugs, Saturday, March 5, 2-4 pm., at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Trout Unlimited Chapter #373 will meet Tuesday, March 1, in the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church, 77 Jackson Street in Sylva, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for a meal and a meeting. Speaker is Ken Brown of WATR (Watershed Association of the Tuckaseegee River). A weekday cleanup is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 3 to 5 p.m. Meet at the CJ Harris Launch on River Rd. See us at <https://www.facebook.com/tuckaseechapter373>

Macon County Schools Preschool Program is currently taking applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications are available at the Macon County Board of Education, Iotla Valley, Cartoogechay and South Macon; or email valerie.norton@macon.k12.nc.us. Applications are due by Wednesday, April 20.

American Legion Post 108 Bingo is held every Wednesday evening at the Post, 614 West Main St. from 4 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

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

Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club Wednesday afternoon games are held from 1 to 4 p.m. Arrive no later than 12:45 p.m., at the Robert C. 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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Feb., 20, 11 a.m. Alexander III & Bishka Ravenell Alexander will be sharing on "Spiritual Sovereignty Part II." On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and 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.

First Alliance Church Sunday Service is held at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, Feb. 13, Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on "Knowing We Have Eternal Life". The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next-door to Trimont Christian Academy). For more information, call the church office at (828) 369-7977.

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.firstumcfranklin.org>

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

Prentiss Church of God is holding Sunday worship service in its sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Services are also streamed online on the Prentiss Church of God Facebook page. Prayer and Worship service is the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

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

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.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship An inclusive faith community that celebrates life in all its joy and mystery. Inspiring and sharing journeys of love, learning, justice, and hope. For information, call (828)342-0546.

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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Local artist musician Eric Hendrix releases new acoustic CD

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Many people in the Franklin community may know Eric Hendrix from his Eric's Fresh Fish and Wine Market on Highlands Road. However, long before Hendrix opened the boutique stores in Franklin and Sylva, he was honing his skills as a musician.

The self-taught guitarist has released his second acoustic CD, "On This Road," for sale at his store in Franklin and in Sylva and online at CDBaby, HearNow, Amazon. The album cover features "then and now" photography. On the front is Hendrix 23 years ago on porch steps playing an acoustic guitar with guitars propped around him. On the back, is Hendrix in 2021. Both shots, the original and the restaged one, have him looking contemplatively to his right, and his new album includes contemplative and meditative songs about life, family, and relationships.

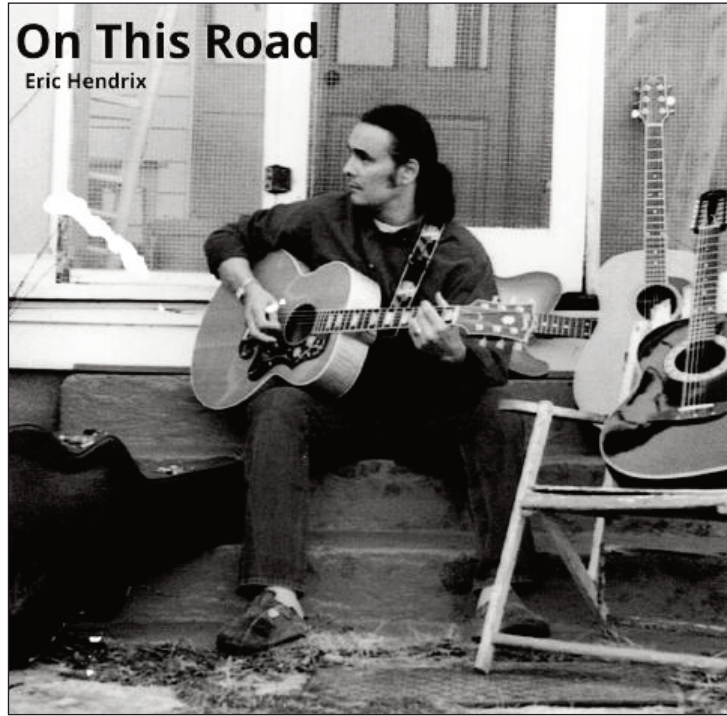
"I write with a poet's desire to capture and convey complex thoughts in a single line," he said, "and because of this, any of my songs can be read out loud as a poem. Each becomes a vehicle to initiate an exchange with the listener."

Hendrix's poetry comes through in his songs, such as "The Dillsboro Bridge," which he explained is "a defiant challenge to life and death. It captures the universal resentment of death, and the hope of resurrection, in whatever form it takes, while at the same time placing faith in the resignation of letting go and celebrating life's good moments and cherishing the memories of those we have lost."

"Midnight Train" was inspired by North Carolina poet laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, who passed in 2017.

"In the song I address the challenges we all face as we make our way to life's final destination, a journey more accepted than understood – carried there on a morning train," said Hendrix.

Although Hendrix did not record any songs on the new album with his wife, local artist Norma Hendrix (see Macon County News, Aug. 5, 2021), he often plays with her as she



Eric Hendrix's new "On This Road" album cover features "then and now" photography. On the front is Hendrix playing a guitar 23 years ago while the back of the album is a restaged photo of Hendrix in 2021. Hendrix has been playing since he was a kid.



is a flutist and a singer. They have lived in Franklin for almost 40 years in a historic family home.

"My home region, with its mountains and valleys, windy roads ... fuel my stories with the images I carry with me throughout any given day."

For many years, Hendrix has played his acoustic guitar in venues large and small: churches, restaurants, taverns and cafes. The pandemic suspended many opportunities in the past couple of years but Hendrix is making plans to perform

his new album locally and regionally.

He admits that the last two years have been challenging, but they have also provided an opportunity for his musical expression.

"The album has been a long-term project fraught with the distractions and struggles all artists grapple with when they attempt to balance their art and work," he said. "But in the end, it offers a cohesive statement of determination to stay life's course and find peace."



Open call for vendors for spring festival

Artisans, Crafters, and Food Vendors are invited to submit their application for the Greening Up the Mountains Festival to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Greening Up The Mountains Festival is the premiere spring festival for Western North Carolina. The festival, sponsored by the Town of Sylva, will once again take place in historical downtown Sylva. This year's festival seeks artisans and crafters selling their own handmade products. Arts, Crafts, and Food Vendors from the expanded Appalachian area are encouraged to apply. Visit the festival's website, www.greeningupthemountains.com to review the 2022 Vendor Policies and download your application. Applications will be accepted through March 15. For more information, please email the event coordinator at greeningupthemountains@gmail.com.

Musical celebration of Black History Month Feb. 20

An all-music celebration of Black History Month will be held Sunday, February 20, at 3:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Chapel in Franklin. Sacred and secular music from around the World and here at home will be performed by the band Bluejazz and The Ubuntu Choir of the Great Smoky Mountains. Audience members will be invited to join in on many selections.

Bluejazz, a fairly new and highly versatile Franklin band, spans music styles from blues and jazz to pop and Motown. Delphine Kirkland is lead singer, with Scott Crowley on bass and vocals, and Dave Stewart on guitar and vocals. The band performed last month as part of Western Carolina University's Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration.



Founded in 2009, our region's Ubuntu Choir members share a passion for harmony singing, joyfully blending their voices in a cappella music from diverse traditions and cultures. The local Ubuntu group is directed by Tom Tyre, who is a member of the Natural Voice Network in the United Kingdom. The Choir is a member of the Worldwide Ubuntu Choir Network.

Admission is by donation. Audience members are asked to come healthy and wear masks. The Chapel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is on Church Street at Harrison Avenue; wheelchair access is from the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. This event is produced by the Arts Council of Macon County; for more information phone 524-ARTS or email arts4all@dnet.net.

Local author shares poignant story of abuse as way to help others

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Published last year by Christian Faith Publishers, “Cracks in the Red Glass” is by local author Pamela K. Keyser, who decided to tell her story of surviving a hellacious childhood to becoming a “joy-filled woman” in hopes that individuals with relatable stories might be helped by her “tale of courage, healing, and hope.”

Keyser’s plight began when she was five years old and she realized her parents were having issues with alcohol. After her parents divorced, her mother “spiraled into heroin abuse.” The ensuing years involved Keyser being kidnapped and raped by her mother’s boyfriend and time spent in and out of children’s homes and/or with various relatives. Her “worst abuser” was her stepmother. “She was physically abusive, and I ended up having to live with my father to finish up high school.”

But, she added, “One of the blessings is that I knew I wasn’t okay and I looked for help. If I hadn’t done that, I would have continued to seek people who were abusive because that’s what I was used to.”

Keyser uses the pseudonym “Sadie” throughout the book, but the raw story that throws graphic punches is hers. Because she chose not to sugarcoat the abuse aspects, reasoning that “rape has become just a four-letter word – a word no one wants to talk about because it is an ugly word,” she provides

alerts to readers in case they want to skip over descriptive portions.

The book’s title, “Cracks in the Red Glass,” alludes to metaphor and imagery based on an incident that happened with her stepmother, who she refers to as “the lady.”

“I was standing with her watching some black men carry some furniture back and forth from a delivery truck to the house, and I asked her if I could get them water. She said to give them water in the red plastic glasses. The older gentleman drank his down and I gave him my red glass to let him drink that, too. Then she told me, in front of the men, that the red glasses couldn’t come back into the house. I kept the red glass that one of the men drank out of and I considered it a ‘win’ for me. So the red glass became a symbol that I could get through [all the pain and abuse]. The ‘cracks’ are symbolic of emotional cracks. I realized that goodness could prevail. I kept

the glass, and when I needed courage, I would drink from it and look through it to see a rosy hue. It became my talisman. I realized after that that kids [in abusive situations] will find solace wherever they can.”

The book’s chapters serve to outline Keyser’s life – what happened that was abusive and how her life was redeemed in many ways.

“Surrounding myself with good people was the first thing I did as an adult,” she said. “I got into therapy and I married a man who has encouraged me and loved me.”

She continued, “My story is a lot of people’s story, especially with so many parents on heroin these days. I see so many kids whose parents are addicted. Kids in homes where there is addiction and abuse are raised with so many defense mechanisms. As adults, they will have to dismantle those mechanisms.”

Keyser’s story does have a happy ending.



“I was a hurt, wounded, scared child,” she wrote in the introduction, “but I came through, got therapy, surrounded myself with honorable people, and healed. I’ve been married for 47 years to a wonderful man who helped me when I’ve asked. ... As a child, if anybody had told me that I would be married long-term and filled with joy, I would have laughed at them or perhaps cursed them.”

She has also raised two children and she and her husband have 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The book took at least a year to write. She had written a different version prior to Cracks in the Red Glass and that original version took 10 years to write.

“I think this book shows the aftermath and how I crawled out of the ‘secrets.’ As long as I had secrets, I held myself in shame. This book was the last step in setting me free. I have broken the chain of abuse and addiction, and if nothing else I can be proud of that.”

Keyser’s book is available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles.com, and at bookstores. An e-book version will be out in about six months.

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

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Deaths & Funerals

Pamela Faye 'Mama Faye' Swanson

Pamela Faye "Mama Faye" Swanson, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

She was born in Macon County to the late Lawrence Sylvester Cochran and Ollie Lee Pendergrass Cochran. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John William Swanson; and siblings, Correna Hooper, Harold Clifton Cochran, Charles Blanton Cochran, Elise Sanford, Verlie Mae Chambless, and Emma Jean Lazenby.

She lived most of her life in Macon County and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Ramona Murray (Chris), Michael Richard Ford, Christopher Henry Lawrence Ford (Laura), and Anthony Lee Rutherford, all of Franklin; brother, Tommy Cochran of Franklin; 15 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Tuesday, Feb 15, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Darian Cochran and Rev. Radford Penland officiating. Burial followed at Burningtown Baptist Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Brian Penland, Colton Cochran, Camden Cochran, Kyler Cochran, Jonathan Ford, Steve Combs, Dalton McDowell, and Timothy Chase. Honorary pallbearer was George Pritchett.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Mt. Harmony Baptist Church.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

John Luther Chambers

John Luther Chambers, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.

He was born in Waynesville, N.C., to the late William Frank Chambers Sr. and Marjorie M. Lankford Chambers. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother-in-law, Robert. G. Thompson.

He was a Freight Auditor and owned his own business, Carolina Brokers and Audit Company, for more than 30 years. He had strong Christian values and was a member of the Franklin United Methodist Church. He was very kind, ethical and extremely family oriented. He lived for his wife and daughter. He met his wife in Asheville, N.C., in 1963 at Blanton Business College and they were married in 1964. They lived in Charlotte, N.C., for 50 years before relocating to Waynesville and later Franklin. He enjoyed family time and traveling.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Bobbie Smith Chambers; daughter, Bunnie Chambers; sister, Geraldine Thompson; and brother, William Frank Chambers Jr. (Rita).

Friends and loved ones are invited to a celebration of life on Saturday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 83 River Run Dr., Franklin.

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



Pamela Faye Swanson



John Luther Chambers

William 'Bill' Hyman Norris

William "Bill" Hyman Norris, 79, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Alex and Beulah Rogers Norris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, William Neal Norris; and siblings, LT Norris, Clarence Norris, Elizabeth Phillips, Betty McCall, Jerry Norris, and Joe Norris.

He retired from General Motors as a line repair assembler. After returning to Franklin, he worked at the Macon County Recycling Center. He was a member of the Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church. He will always be remembered for using his music to share his testimony. He loved working around the house and gardening, especially growing potatoes with Alan Nichols and Belva Edwards.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Frances Gail Carpenter Norris; daughter, Sheila Stanfield (Manse) of Lebanon, Tenn.; and one brother, Harry Norris of Scaly Mountain, N.C.; grandchildren, Matthew and Sara; step grandchildren, Pandey, Stephanie, Renee, and Derick; numerous step great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Funeral service was held at Macon Funeral Home Friday, Feb. 11 with Rev. Aaron Phillips officiating. Burial was in the Sanders Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Macon County EMS Community Care Program, 104 E. Main St., Franklin, NC 28734, in memory of Bill Norris and in appreciation of the wonderful care given by Joey Gibson.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



William Hyman Norris

Reggie Perry

Reggie Perry, 56, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.

He was born in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., to the late Bud Perry and Patricia Perry. He moved to Franklin at a very young age. He was friends with everyone in town. He was a jokester and enjoyed making people laugh. His family considered him a professional spoiler of his grandchildren.

He is survived by his son, Trae Perry (Bethany); sister, Melissa Jenkins; grandchildren, Ayden, Annaleigh, Ryan, Sylas and Tytus; niece, Meghan; and nephews, Jared and Nathaniel.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Macon Funeral Home.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Reggie Perry

Frank A. Mathis Jr.

Frank A. Mathis Jr., 89, of Franklin, N.C., passed on to be with our Lord on Feb. 8, 2022. He was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., to the late Frank A. Mathis, Sr. and Mary Teresa McCormick Mathis. He attended Palm Beach High School, Palm Beach Junior College, and Georgia State College. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as Military Police.

For decades, he was a citrus grower and manager of many orange groves throughout the state of Florida. He was an avid fisherman and orchid grower in his spare time. He was a devoted husband, father, uncle and friend to many throughout the years.

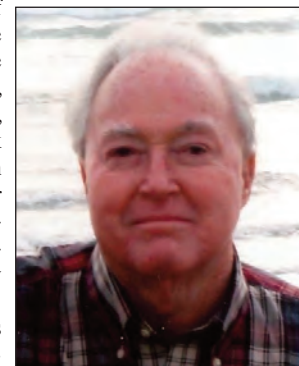
He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 52 years, Evelyn, and son, Frank III.

He is survived by his daughters, Linda Orr of North Carolina and Lisa (Stan) of California; 10 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

A graveside funeral will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m., in Woodlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling arrangements.



Frank A. Mathis, Jr.

Marylou Ragsdale Oudshoff

Marylou "Ms. M" Ragsdale Oudshoff, 90, of Franklin, N.C., passed from this life on Feb. 6, 2022. Born in Kirksville, Mo., on Dec. 31, 1931, she was the daughter of Hazel Baker and Alva M. Ragsdale.

Known as "Ms. M" by the many children and the parents she came in contact with, she was a retired bus driver for Macon County Schools. Her father was a Seventh Day Adventist minister missionary, and she spent much of her childhood in the Philippines. There she received a good portion of her education.

She is survived by her children, Kamella Rees of Franklin, Debbie Adams (Mike) of Clermont, Fla., Todd Marriott of Franklin, Steve Kierstead (Terri) of Mooresville, N.C., and Kevin Kierstead (Teri) of Longwood, Fla.; her sisters, Judy Tanner, Barbara Turner (Selwyn), and Kay Rogers all of Graton, Calif., and Arlene Hannawalt (Gary) of Yuma, Ariz., along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John Oudshoff; her son, Daniel Kierstead; and her grandson, Brandon Marriott.

Memorial contributions may be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, 851 Lake Emory Road, Franklin, NC, 28734.

No public services are planned.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Marylou Oudshoff



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Deaths & Funerals

Henry Coleman McMahan

Henry Coleman McMahan, 75, passed away Thursday Feb. 10, 2022. A native of Macon County, he was born Jan. 5, 1947, to the late Tim McMahan and Pauline Waldroop McMahan. He enjoyed being outside feeding the birds and chickens. He worked with Franklin Sheet Metal and retired after 26 years. He was a member of the Bible Baptist Church in Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Linda Guest McMahan; two sons, Randy McMahan (Stephanie) of Franklin and Gregory Joe McMahan of Franklin; two grandchildren, David McMahan (KJ Morris) and Lori McMahan Parham (Jeremy); seven great-grandchildren; and a brother, Robert "Bob" McMahan.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Ray McMahan; and his great-grandson, Carter Prince.

A private graveside service was held Saturday, Feb. 12, at Ridgcrest Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

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

Jeffrey Kama

Jeffrey Kama, 59, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Jan. 16, 2022.

He was born in Phoenix, Ariz., to the late Charles Kama and Juanita Dean. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Otis Dale Wright.

He loved to fish, enjoyed reading psalms, listening to Elvis and was the best cook. In his memory, his family asks that you celebrate his life by dropping a line on his birthday, May 18.

He is survived by his daughter, Kristen Brauer; sons, Ricky Kama, Sammy Kama and Jeffrey Kama Jr.; sister, Kim Queen; nephews, Michael and Nicholas; niece, Katie Queen; great niece, Alisha Sumner; and grandchildren, Daniel Houston and Eddie Houston.

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

Albert H. Weirick

Albert H. Weirick, 80, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022.

He was born in Miami, Fla., to the late Joe and Beatrice Jones Weirick. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Leona Mason Weirick; and brothers, James Weirick, Sonny Weirick, and Clyde Weirick.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He attended Trinity Church and was a member of the America Hemerica Society and the Western Carolina Dahlia Society.

He is survived by his children, Damon Weirick (Lisa) of Herndon, Va., Chantal Sheehan (Tim) of Inman, S.C.; stepchildren, Shelba Kyker (Keith) of Florida, Steve Mason (Alice) of Franklin, Mark (Laresse) of Franklin, Rhonda Duvall (Terry) of Franklin, and Robin Chastain of Franklin; sister, Marilyn Tanner of Ocala, Fla.; grandchildren, Mariah, Caitlin, and Collin; one great grandchild, Declan; and many step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

A service was held on Saturday Feb. 12, at Trinity Church with Pastor JD Watson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Beverly Joan Valentine Allen

Beverly Joan Valentine Allen, 87, of Franklin, N.C., died Feb. 9, 2022, at home after a three-year battle with ovarian cancer.

She was born on March 16, 1934, to Harry Valentine and Harriet MacQueen Valentine in Hampton, N.J. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Allen.

Survived by children of a blended family, daughters, Nancy Cobb, Lisa Allen, and Joyce Hilton; sons, James Whiteley and Robert Allen; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1982 she moved to North Carolina where she worked at Fontana Village and the Library in Robbinsville, N.C. She moved to Franklin in 2002. When she retired, she discovered her true love of finding, repurposing, and selling furniture and other unique treasures. She volunteered at the Humane Society Thrift Store and the Friends of the Library Bookstore. She attended the Spiritual Light Center.

She loved to spend time gardening, working in her yard, decorating her home, finding treasures to fix up, and writing short stories. She loved music and dancing. She loved nature and all animals. She knew the names of most trees, plants, and birds. She was smart, kind, artistic, loving, stubborn, curious, sincere, honest, vivacious, courageous, caring, fun, humorous, nurturing, independent, open-minded, welcoming, compassionate, joyous, bossy, demanding, progressive and spiritual.

She never stopped in her quest for knowledge and from that never stopped teaching herself and others how to live, love, and find joy.

No funeral or memorial service is immediately planned. The family will notify loved ones in the future when a service is scheduled.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to pbsnc.org/donate or Four Seasons Hospice Care <https://fourseasonsfdn.teleioscn.org>.

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

Joseph Mark Bradley

Joseph Mark Bradley, 71 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

He was born in Macon County to the late Claude and Ruby Higdon Bradley. He was an Army veteran and served in Vietnam. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, reading, and rock hounding.

He is survived by son, Matthew Bradley (Kristen); grandchildren, Hailey, Layla, Peter, Emma, and Paul; sisters, Tava Welch, Debbie Lefevre; brother, Brent Bradley; and many close nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed.

A service was held Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Gary McCoy officiating.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Beverly Joan Allen



Jeffrey Kama



Joseph Mark Bradley



View obituaries online at

themaconcountynews.com

JCSO gets grant to expand K-9 program

AKC Reunite, the largest non-profit pet identification and recovery service provider in the United States, has announced that 100 grants have been donated to police departments throughout the nation through its AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop matching grant program. Funds were raised by contributions from AKC clubs and community members, with AKC Reunite matching donations at a three-to-one ratio.

The 100th Adopt a K-9 Cop grant was given to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in Sylva, sponsored by The United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) with AKC Reunite matching the funds raised three-to-one. The USPCA has been a top participating sponsor in the program.

The Adopt a K-9 Cop program allows AKC Reunite to match funds from AKC Clubs, AKC affiliated organizations and the public, three-to-one, up to \$7,500 per grant through the Canine Support and Relief fund. These donations help police departments throughout the United States purchase K-9 police dogs. Many of the police dogs acquired with the help of these grants are used as patrol dogs as well as detection dogs, helping to locate narcotics, explosives and/or evidence.

"We are thrilled to have donated 100 grants through the AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop matching grant program," said Tom Sharp, AKC Reunite CEO. "K-9 police dogs are a vital asset to law enforcement agencies nationwide and these grants help local police departments acquire police dogs, contributing to increased safety in their communities."

"The United States Police Canine Association is excited to assist the AKC Reunite program, which helps provide funding for new and additional police canines to law enforcement across the country," added Don Slavik, Executive Director for the USPCA.

A total of 100 Adopt a K-9 Cop grants have been awarded since the inception of the program. Learn more about how to get involved in AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop program and see pictures and stories of dogs already donated at <https://www.akcreunite.org/k9/>.

AKC Reunite

The way home for lost pets.

AKC Reunite, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club®, is the largest non-profit pet microchip identification and recovery service provider in the United States. Since 1995 AKC Reunite has helped pet owners reunite with their lost animals via identification and 24/7 pet recovery specialists, enrolling over 9 million companion animals and recovering more than 500,000 lost pets. AKC Reunite microchips are a popular choice of pet professionals throughout the country for permanent pet identification.

The AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund has donated more than \$9 million since 2002 for disaster preparedness and relief causes that impact our nation's pets, like the AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailer donation program. AKC Reunite also provides free recovery service enrollment for all active service, military, and law enforcement K-9 dogs. For more information visit www.akcreunite.org or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/akcreunite).



Lots of momentum heading into the DAYTONA 500

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Embracing new challenges and incorporating as much fun and entertainment as possible, the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum jump started the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series season in front of a packed house at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Fans not only were dancing to the beats of Pitbull, Ice Cube and DJ Skee but also the rumble of NASCAR's Next Gen car, which made its competition debut.

Upwards of 70% of the tickets sold to the Busch Light Clash were from first-time NASCAR ticket purchasers. Plus, the event pulled the highest TV Rating for the Busch Light Clash since 2016. With smiles on their faces and loads of momentum at their backs, the NASCAR Cup Series turns their attention to the Great American Race, the DAYTONA 500, on February 20, 2022 at Daytona International Speedway (2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio), the first point-paying event of 2022.

Front Row Motorsports driver Michael McDowell is the defending winner of the 2021 DAYTONA 500; his first NASCAR Cup Series victory. The most recent winner at the 2.5-mile track is Team Penske's Ryan Blaney who grabbed his first victory at Daytona last August.

Team Penske's Joey Logano grabbed the checkered flag at the LA Memorial Coliseum for the 2022 Busch Light Clash, his second victory in the exhibition non-points paying event. Logano will look to become the sixth different driver to start the season with a win in the Clash and the Daytona 500; joining Bobby Allison (1982), Bill Elliott (1987), Dale Jarrett (1996 and 2000), Jeff Gordon (1997) and Denny Hamlin (2016).

NASCAR Cup Series schedule shaken-up for 2022

One of the first things that everyone is noticing this season is the shake up the NASCAR Cup Series schedule underwent for the 2022 season. From kicking the season off in Los Angeles, to adding a new track to the mix like World Wide Technology Raceway, the changes were made with the fans in mind.

For the first time since 1981, the NASCAR Cup Series season started somewhere other than Daytona. And of all places, NASCAR picked the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Not only was a track constructed, but an entire fan engaging experience was built around the annual season-opening non-points paying exhibition race, the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

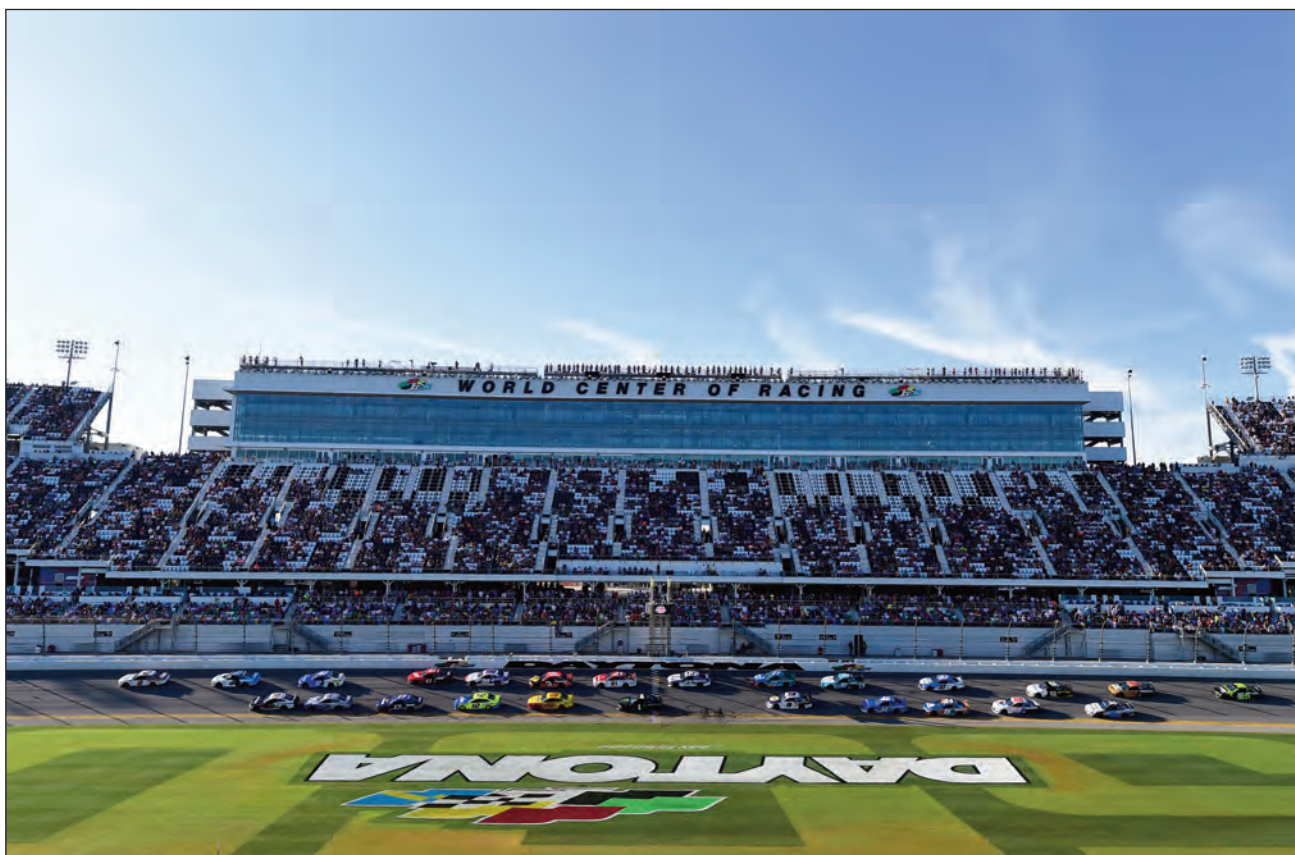
"First off just props to NASCAR and everybody involved, all the men and women that put a lot of the effort into making it happen," Chase Elliott said. "Building a racetrack, paving it and all the logistics that have gone into this. Props to everyone for making it happen. They did a really good job with it. The workmanship and logistics of how this has worked has really impressed me."

Some other great aspects to the schedule to keep eye out for in 2022 are the return of the 2-mile Auto Club Speedway, the newly revamped Atlanta Motor Speedway with steeper turns now reaching 28 degrees, the return of Homestead-Miami Speedway to the Playoffs and last but not least the addition of World Wide Technology Raceway. The NASCAR Cup Series will compete for the first time at the 1.25-mile track located in the St. Louis market.

NASCAR's Next Gen car has arrived

The wait is over. The NASCAR Next Gen car has arrived and is ready for action.

With more than two years in development, the NASCAR Cup Series Next Gen car, an entirely new racecar, and the seventh version of the stock car NASCAR has introduced since 1949, has arrived and will compete for the first time in a



The Great American Race is happening this weekend at the World Center of Racing in Daytona, Fla. The Daytona 500 will commence Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2:30 p.m.

points-paying NASCAR Cup Series race, the DAYTONA 500 (Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

NASCAR, drivers, teams and the entire industry have worked countless hours to get to this debut. With each version of the stock car NASCAR has introduced it has been an improvement from its predecessor, but the Next Gen car is a massive leap forward, as never in NASCAR's 73 prior years has this much time and energy been spent to bring a car from concept to reality.

While the Gen 6 car provided outstanding competition during its time in the series, NASCAR made the decision to overhaul the car with the help from the manufacturers and the teams and as a result, things like the H-pattern shifter, five-lug wheels, and even centered door numbers are no more. Instead, Next Gen is equipped with a sequential shifter, a single center-lock wheel nut, 670-horsepower engines, and car numbers just behind the front wheels. But that's not all, the Next Gen car also boasts rack-and-pinion steering which replaces the recirculating ball, an independent rear suspension upgrade from the full floating axle, carbon fiber-reinforced body panels, and a rear-end diffuser. All these updates were made in the spirit to increase competition on the track.

Cup Garage: New faces in new places

Much like the shuffling of a deck of cards, several drivers in the offseason made moves to different organizations in the NASCAR Cup Series making several new faces in new places in 2022.

The 2004 Cup Series champ and Las Vegas native, Kurt Busch, was one of the drivers to join a new team for the 2022 season as the 42-year-old will be bringing his expertise of over 750 NASCAR Cup Series starts to 23XI Racing's newly formed No. 45 Toyota team with crew chief Billy Scott. 23XI Racing is Busch's seventh different organization he has driven for in the NASCAR Cup Series; joining Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing, Team Penske, Phoenix Racing, Furniture Row Racing, Stewart-Haas Racing and Chip Ganassi Racing. Busch won the Daytona 500 in 2017 and is looking to become the 13th different driver in the series history to win multiple Daytona 500s.

Announced last season, Brad Keselowski has joined Roush Fenway Racing and in process purchased an ownership stake in the company and starting in 2022 the organization has been rebranded to Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing (RFK Racing). The 2012 NASCAR Cup Series champion, Keselowski, will pilot the No. 6 Ford with crew chief Matt McCall on the pit box. Keselowski is still looking for his first Daytona 500 victory, one of the last few jewels left to add to his crown of achievements in the sport. His best finish in the Great American Race is third back in 2014.

A vacancy in the No. 2 Ford at Team Penske provides the perfect opportunity for NASCAR Xfinity Series champion (2020) Austin Cindric to take the next step in his career and into the NASCAR Cup Series fulltime. The son of Team Penske's President Tim Cindric, Austin will drive the No. 2 Ford with the guidance of crew chief Jeremy Bullins. Cindric made his NASCAR Cup Series career debut in last season's Daytona 500; he started 39th and raced his way up to a 15th-place finish.

With Trackhouse Racing's acquisition of the Chip Ganassi Racing assets at the conclusion of the 2021 season, the organization expanded to a two-car team and signed Ross Chastain to be the driver for the newly formed No. 1 Chevrolet team. Chastain will be working with crew chief Phil Surgen this season and the pair will make their debut this weekend as both look for their first Daytona 500 victory. Chastain has made three Daytona 500 starts and posted his career-best finish of seventh in last season's race.

Another graduate into the NASCAR Cup Series this season is Harrison Burton. The second generation racer spent the last two full seasons with Joe Gibbs Racing in the NASCAR Xfinity Series earning the Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors in 2020 and making the Playoffs both seasons (2020-2021). Now the 20-year-old will have his shot at driving the famous Wood Brothers Racing's No. 21 Ford with crew chief Brian Wilson at his side. Burton made his NASCAR Cup Series career debut last season at Talladega Superspeedway where he started 39th and finished 20th. This weekend will be his first attempt at competing in the Daytona 500.

Following in his father David Gilliland's footsteps, Todd Gilliland will take the reins of the No. 38 Ford for Front Row

Motorsports in the NASCAR Cup Series in 2022. Gilliland has spent the last three full seasons competing in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. This season, Gilliland will be working with crew chief Seth Barbour. Gilliland will be making his series career debut this weekend at Daytona.

Kaulig Racing has made the fulltime jump to the NASCAR Cup Series in 2022 and will have Justin Haley piloting the newly formed No. 31 Chevrolet Team with a rotation of drivers (AJ Allmendinger, Daniel Hemric and Noah Gragson) sharing the seat time in the No. 16 Chevrolet. Kaulig Racing made big splash in the NASCAR Cup Series after winning the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road Course race in their first part-time season in the series.

One other group to keep your eye on this season is The Money Team Racing (TMT Racing) a newly formed race team by boxing legend Floyd Mayweather. TMT Racing will have Tony Eury Jr. as crew chief and Kaz Grala as the driver of the No. 50. The team will look to make their series debut this weekend at Daytona.

Locked In: Qualifying on the front row for Daytona 500 has its perks

Daytona 500 Qualifying commenced on Wednesday, Feb. 16. This week, seven former Daytona 500 pole winners are entered in the event – Chase Elliott (2016, 2017), Alex Bowman (2018, 2021), Austin Dillon (2014), Martin Truex Jr. (2009), Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (2020), William Byron (2019), Greg Biffle (2004) – and will once again try to lock themselves in on the front row.

Bill Elliott, Cale Yarborough and Buddy Baker lead the NASCAR Cup Series in Daytona 500 poles with four each. Alex Bowman (2018, 2021) and Chase Elliott (2016, 2017) lead all active drivers in the series in Daytona 500 poles with two each. Elliott is also one of just five drivers to win consecutive Daytona 500 poles all-time; joining Fireball Roberts (1961-1963), Buddy Baker (1979-1980), Bill Elliott (1985, 1986, 1987), and Ken Schrader (1988, 1989, 1990).

The fastest two drivers in Qualifying are locked into the Daytona 500. While some competitors will argue their starting spot is of no consequence in the Daytona 500, the pole position is the most proficient starting position in the Daytona 500 field, producing more winners (nine) than any other position. The Daytona 500 pole starting position has a winning percentage of 14.3%. The most recent driver to win the Daytona 500 from the pole is NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Jarrett in 2000. NASCAR Hall of Famers Bill Elliott (1985, 1987) and Cale Yarborough (1968, 1984) are the only two drivers to accomplish the feat of winning the Daytona 500 from the pole more than once. But starting in the back doesn't totally discount a driver's chances at winning either, 18 of the 63 Daytona 500s have been won from starting spot outside the top 10. Matt Kenseth won the Daytona 500 from the 39th starting position in 2009, the deepest a Daytona 500 race winner has started.

How the Daytona 500 starting lineups are decided

Single-car qualifying has two rounds, with the top 10 qualifiers in Round 1 moving on to the second round. The fastest two cars in Round 2 will lock in as the front-row starters for

Sunday's Daytona 500

The rest of the starting grid will be decided by the Duels. First, the single-car qualifying results will set the lineups for the Bluegreen Vacation Duels races on Thursday evening. Cars finishing first, third, fifth, seventh, etc. in single-car runs will comprise the field for Duel 1. The cars in even-numbered finishing positions in single-car qualifying will comprise the field for Duel 2.

Then the results from the Bluegreen Vacation Duels will set the starting lineup for the Daytona 500. The finishers from Duel 1 will line up on the inside row in order of their Duel finish. Meanwhile, the finishers from Duel 2 will line up on the outside row in order of their Duel finish.

If more than 40 cars are entered for the race, the two fastest open cars, without a charter, in single-car qualifying will lock their way into the race regardless of the results of Thursday's duels. The final two spots of the 40-car field will be determined by the best finishers of the qualifying races.

Dueling for a good spot in the Daytona 500

On Thursday, Feb. 17, NASCAR Cup Series drivers that do not qualify on the front row (first & second) of the Daytona 500 will have the opportunity to compete for their starting position in the Great American Race in the Bluegreen Vacations Duels at 7 p.m. on FS1 – two 60 lap (150-mile) qualifying races. The qualifiers will be divided up evenly into each Duel event depending on their qualifying position.

This season 42 teams will vie for just 40 eligible spots. The 36 of the 40 eligible spots are already taken by the Charter cars leaving just six spots for the Open teams. The Open teams hoping to make the 64th running of the Daytona 500 are Beard Motorsports' No. 62 with driver Noah Gragson, TMT Racing's No. 50 with driver Kaz Grala, MBM Motorsports' No. 66 with driver Timmy Hill and No. 55 with driver JJ Yeley, NY Racing Team's No. 44 with driver Greg Biffle and Team Hezeberg's No. 27 with driver Jacque Villeneuve.

A total of 43 different drivers have won the NASCAR Cup Series Bluegreen Vacations Duels, led by NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt with 12 Duel victories – seven more than the next competitor. Ten active drivers have won at least one of the Duel events, led by Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Denny Hamlin (2008, 2014, 2017) and Kyle Busch (2009, 2013, 2016) with three victories each. The other eight active Duel winners are Chase Elliott (2017, 2018), Joey Logano (2019, 2020), Kevin Harvick (2013, 2019), Kurt Busch (2011), Ryan Blaney (2018), William Byron (2020), Austin Dillon (2021) and Aric Almirola (2021).

From 1972 to 2004 the Duels were scheduled for 50 laps each and during that time frame eight of the Duel events had a driver lead 100% of the laps from flag-to-flag – NASCAR Hall of Famer Darrell Waltrip was the first to accomplish the feat in 1988; he was later joined by Dale Earnhardt (1991,1998), Davey Allison (1991), Ernie Irvan (1996), Bill Elliott (2000), Ricky Rudd (2000) and Jeff Gordon (2002). The race was moved to 60 laps in 2005 and ever since the most a driver has led in a Duel event is 86.7% (52 laps of the scheduled 60) by Aric Almirola last season.

No greater victory than the Great American Race
Known as the biggest race in NASCAR, the Daytona 500

holds a special place in every stockcar driver's heart. It's an instant catapult to fame for the victor. It's the pinnacle of a racer's career, the crowning achievement that all other drivers aspire to possess, and fans and media admire. The NASCAR Cup Series season-opener is unlike any other event and holds the prestige among its competitors due to its ever-changing difficulty to master, much less finish. And this year's Great American Race will undoubtedly bring all the action and excitement we have all grown to love and anticipate.

In total, only 40 different NASCAR Cup Series drivers have won a Daytona 500, and six of the 40 are active this weekend – Denny Hamlin (2016, 2019, 2020), Michael McDowell (2021), Austin Dillon (2018), Kurt Busch (2017), Joey Logano (2015), Kevin Harvick (2007).

NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty leads the series in Daytona 500 victories with seven trophies – (1964, 1966, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1981). Richard's father, Lee Petty, won the inaugural Daytona 500 on Feb. 22, 1959; he led 38 laps and won by two feet in an Oldsmobile. Front Row Motorsport's Michael McDowell won last season Daytona 500. Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin leads all active drivers in Daytona 500 wins with three trophies (2016, 2019, 2020). Lee Petty, who won the inaugural Daytona 500 (1959), and Trevor Bayne, 2011 Daytona 500 champion, are the only two drivers to win the Daytona 500 in their first appearance.

NASCAR Xfinity Series

Beef. It's What's For Dinner 300 is back to kick off the 2022 Xfinity Series in Daytona

The 2022 NASCAR Xfinity Series season is just around the corner and the stage has been set for Daytona International Speedway to host this weekend's Beef. It's What's For Dinner. 300 at 5 p.m. ET on FS1, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

Last year's action-packed season opener saw NASCAR Xfinity Series champion Austin Cindric hold off Brett Moffitt and Harrison Burton in a two-lap overtime to take the checkered flag. This victory marked his first on the 2.5-mile Daytona track.

The inaugural NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Daytona was on Feb. 13, 1982 and was won by NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt. He went on to win six more Xfinity Series races in Daytona (1986,1990,1991,1992,1993,1994)

Saturday evening's race will be 120 laps for 300 miles. Stage 1 will end on Lap 30 and Stage 2 will end on Lap 60.

The Xfinity Series' first practice will be on Friday, Feb. 18 at 4:35 p.m. ET on FS1 and qualifying will take place at 11:35 a.m. ET on Saturday, Feb. 19.



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Franklin, NC - Five Day Forecast

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
64°/41° 91%	53°/24° 19%	58°/27° 5%	60°/34° 3%	63°/45° 24%

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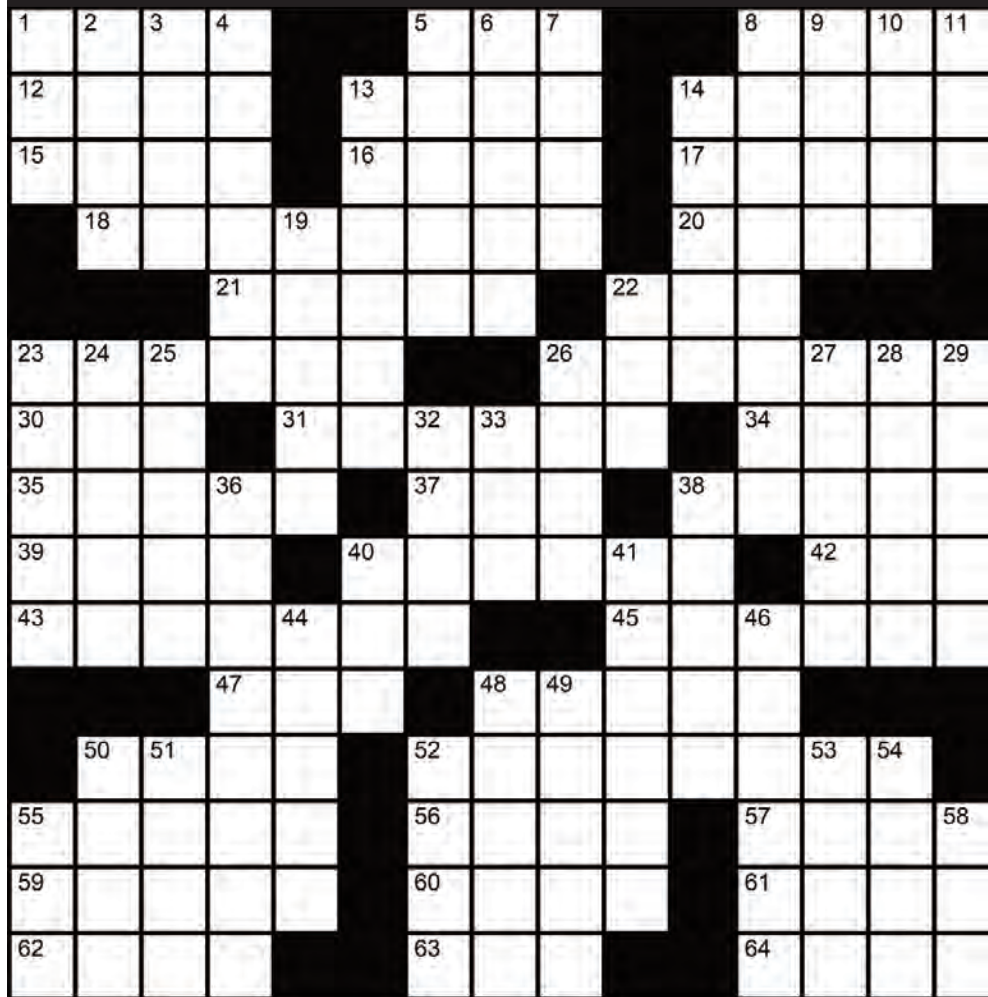
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: **KINGS AND QUEENS**

ACROSS

1. Outback birds
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca
8. Well, to Sofia Loren
12. Impose a tax
13. No way!
14. Malicious burning
15. ____ over
16. Radiant light
17. Ran easily
18. *"The King of Staten Island" star Pete
20. Goyim, alt. sp.
21. Mork from Ork, e.g.
22. Common furniture wood
23. "Der Ring des Nibelungen" composer
26. Petroleum product (2 words)
30. Shakespearean fuss
31. Loan shark
34. Village People hit
35. City in France
37. Street, in Paris
38. Show in progress (2 words)
39. Tiny purse
40. Was almost out of gas, e.g. (2 words)
42. *First H in HRH
43. Type of bag
45. Unguarded
47. Brick and mortar carrier
48. Resize a dress, e.g.
50. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
52. *Netflix royal drama (2 words)
55. Bridal veil fabric
56. One who hoes
57. Not far
59. Orderly arrangement
60. Drunkard, slangily



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61. Stare
62. Country club pegs
63. Drivers' licenses, e.g.
64. *2019 movie "Queen & ____"

DOWN

1. Not Moose or Shriner
2. Fitting reward
3. Iris holder
4. Forest spirit
5. Gingerbread sculpture
6. Kitchen garb
7. *Billie ____ King
8. *Queens neighbor
9. ESPN trophy
10. Denials
11. December 31st, e.g.
13. Lowest points
14. Plural of alga
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. Opposite of their
23. *Prince Charles' domain
24. Temples' innermost sanctuaries
25. Not stay in (2 words)
26. Perceive by touch
27. *The NBA's Kansas City-____ Kings (1972-75)
28. More unfriendly
29. *Late "Live" King of CNN
32. Russia's mountain range
33. Seek a seat
36. *The last "king" of Russia
38. Proprietor
40. *The ____ Queen, regal

41. Public disapproval
44. Cozy and comfortable
46. Two of these do not make a right
48. Near the wind
49. Potato soup partner, pl.
50. "She ____ a Yellow Ribbon"
51. Add to payroll
52. Native of Thailand
53. Lash mark
54. Member of National Socialist German Workers' Party
55. Giant pot
58. "Shiny Happy People" band

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CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	BMW	M850 Gran Coup	275
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Porsche	911	6,135
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Chevrolet	Sonic	59,039
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Golf SportWagen	56,048
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze LS	54,872
2018	Toyota	Camry	60,256
2015	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	15,349
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Buick	LaCrosse	104,189
2011	Cadillac	CTS Sedan Luxury	73,798
2011	Chevrolet	Impala	102,588
1983	Chevrolet	Corvette	61,350
1972	Chevrolet	Corvette	97,217

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier	23,547
2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe RST	4,798

2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	14,918
2021	Kia	Telluride S	8,173
2021	Toyota	Highlander	1,996
2021	Chevrolet	Suburban	388
2020	Chevrolet	Traverse LT	14,559
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Subaru	Outback Onyx Edition XT	27,594
2020	Subaru	Crosstrek Limited	14,430
2020	Hyundai	Palisade	34,462
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Yukon XL Denali	63,696
2019	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic	37,751
2019	Chevrolet	Express 2500	12,089
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Volkswagen	Atlas 3.6L V6 SE	71,947
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2017	Volkswagen	Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition	59,132
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	120,790

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD High Country	3,761
2022	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	489
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	15,112

2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	435
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	16,244
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Ford	Bronco Sport	209
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD	1,205
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 Custom	104,810
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	55,201
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2012	Chevrolet	Colorado LT w/1LT	117,555

OTHER

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2019	KAUF	Trailer	0



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