The Macon County

February 3, 2022 • 24 Pages





FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER



Volume 39 Number 37

The new Angel Medical Center, located at 124 One Center Court, Franklin, is slated to be completed in June with an official opening of early September. Construction began in May 2021. For more photos, see page 2. Photo by Betsey Gooder

Area law enforcement agencies work together to crack theft and drug cases

As a result of an ongoing investigation regarding stolen property from multiple residences in both Macon County and Jackson counties, detectives with the Macon County and Jackson County Sheriff's Offices' Criminal Investigations Units executed a search warrant on a N. Blane Branch residence Tuesday, Jan. 18. Stolen property and illegal narcotics were seized during this combined investigation. Numerous stolen items including tools, a golf cart, a CanAm all terrain vehicle and methamphetamines were seized on the N. Blane Branch property.

A suspect was arrested at the residence at the time the search warrant was executed. The homeowner of the residence is not suspected of having any involvement at this time and has cooperated with investigators.

Travis Scott Mason, 39, was formally charged by investigators for: Felony possession of stolen vehicle; felony possession of stolen goods (3 counts); felony possession of burglary tools; felony breaking and entering (2 counts); felony larceny (2 counts); felony larceny of motor vehicle; felony possession of methamphetamine; misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia; and misdemeanor damage to personal property

Mason was taken before Magistrate and a secured bond

See CRIME page 8



Andrew Williamson



Jamie O'Neal



Brach Brasier



Travis Mason



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Construction ongoing at new Angel Medical Center

Representatives of local media were on hand Friday for a tour of the construction site of the new Angel Medical Center. Located at 124 Center Court, Franklin, the facility is expected to be completed in June and open for business in early September.

David Sibilio, of JE Dunn Contructtion, contractors of the project, led the tour. The main entrance is situated in the middle of the building and the emergency room entrance is to the left. A helicopter pad is located nearby which will be the permanent home of Mama 2, an air ambulance helicopter associated with Mission Health in Asheville. The hospital will also have the capability of setting up a second helicopter pad should an emergency situation arise that would facilitate multiple response efforts.

The 82,500 square foot hospital will contain 30 beds in spacious rooms, three large operating rooms, one endoscopy suite and a 17-bed emergency room that will include three dedicated behavioral health beds.

"We are so proud of this true investment in rural healthcare and in the Franklin community," said Clint Kendall, CEO of Angel Medical Center. "This new \$68 million state-of-the-art healthcare facility will offer the most up-to-date clinical services and integrates the latest wireless technology available. It will provide larger rooms, better lighting and healing views, and the capacity to allow for the latest technologies to be incorporated into the hospital."

IN THIS ISSUE



Teen Challenge Men's Center gets new auto shop

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Thursday, February 3, 2022 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 37

New Facility Fact Sheet

• The new Angel Medical Center will be located at One Center Court, Franklin, NC. • The new facility will be located approx-

imately 1.5 miles from the current facility. • The square footage of the new facility is approximately 82,500.

• The new facility will have:

- 3 operating rooms

- 1 endoscopy suite

- A 17-bed emergency department

• The new facility will have a 30-bed capacity inpatient unit with 5 acuity adaptable beds, 20 medical surgical beds, and 5 observation beds.

• There will be more than 294 miles of electrical wire installed in the new building, which is approximately the distance from Franklin, NC, to Nashville, TN.

• The power required for the new building could run 200 homes.

• Electricity will travel around the building at more than 670 miles per hour.

• The conduit system in the building could hold enough water to fill 41 kids' pools, around 6,611 gallons.

• There will be 50,000 lbs. of copper installed within the new hospital.

• The new facility will have 479 tons of structural steel.

• The new hospital will have 59,000 sqft of vinyl flooring which equates to roughly 1.35 acres of flooring.

• The new Angel Medical Center will have of 65,000 linear feet of pipe, that's higher than the hot air balloon altitude record set in 1988!

• The total weight of all the sheet metal duct work will be just under 60 tons.







Command central for contractor's daily assignments



David Brilio with JE Dunn Construction conducted the tour.



One of 30 spacious rooms on the second floor.



Clint Kendall, CEO, addresses the tour group.

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Men's center builds auto shop - with a little help

Deena C. Bouknight **Contributing Writer**

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center has a new addition to its campus, located just off Highlands Road. According to Executive Director Mike Barres, construction on a new auto shop building began in June 2021 and was completed this past fall. The new shop will enable men enrolled in the program to not only learn to service the ministry's vehicles, but it also serves as an opportunity for men with automobile repair skills to refurbish and resell donated vehicles. Profits on such sales will be used to maintain the men's center's programs, which has a mission to "provide men with an effective and comprehensive Christian, faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society."

you to all who made our auto shop possible, and for those who have helped us to dential addiction recovery program. get a really good start on equipping it,"

said Barres. "This will help produce revenue, which helps us with our expenses, and it will be another way for our men to get vocational training."

The auto shop will not be open for business as a repair opportunity for public vehicles.

'The center's program provides other work experience and vocational training. The men do all of the building and



"We would like to say a great big thank Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center has a new auto shop that will provide vocational opportunities for the men enrolled in the 12-'month resi-

grounds maintenance," Barres continued. "They also do the labor for construction projects at our center. The auto shop was built by our men under the supervision of local contractor Mike Giaimo. They got experience in construction work doing that. We also have a wood shop, where our men make furniture. John Roper trains the men in woodworking; the furniture is sold at our thrift store [at 4812 US-441

between Franklin and Sylva] and Sassy Frass Consignment in Sylva. These opportunities for work experience and vocational training will help the men be successful after graduation."

The men's center is supported by individuals, churches, trusts, foundations, and corporations. However, there are ongoing basic and projectrelated needs for an average of 18 men who regularly participate in the 12-month residential addiction recovery program.

"About two-thirds of our men are not able to pay the monthly fees to be in our program and we let them stay anyway," explained Barres.

To donate, visit the website www.livinghomeway.com – or mail a donation to: Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center, PO Box 2157, Franklin NC 28734.







MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14



April's Flowers on Main

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CRIME

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was set at \$100,000. Mason was released a couple days later after bond for his release was posted.

This investigation remains ongoing and the MCSO & JCSO continue to work together to solve other thefts that recently occurred in both jurisdictions. Additional arrests are expected.

Investigation leads to arrest of breaking & entering suspect

Detectives with the Macon County Sheriffs Office have been investigating several breaking and entering cases. Detectives assigned to the investigation were attempting to locate suspect Andrew Williamson who was believed to have stolen guns in his possession. Detectives knew Williamson



also had active warrants for probation violations. Detectives were able to locate Williamson and attempted to make a traffic stop but he fled the area. Following a brief pursuit, Williamson stopped and was apprehended without further incident. At the time of his arrest, Williamson was found to be in possession of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and stolen firearms. Williamson, 41, was then transported to the Macon County Detention Center where he went before a Magistrate and a secured bond was set at \$85,000. Charges include: Felony probation violation (3 counts); possess stolen firearm (3 counts); possess firearm by felon (3 counts); possess stolen motor vehicle; possess methamphetamine; possess drug paraphernalia; and resist public officer.

Williamson remains in the Macon County Detention Center as the investigation continues.

Traffic stop by MCSO/FPD Narcotics & K9 Unit resulting in drug charges

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, members of the Macon County/Franklin Narcotics & K9 Units were conducting an investigation in an area known for drug activity due to information received as well as numerous anonymous tips. During the course of the investigation, deputies were able to observe a small white car entering the location. Investigators observed the driver as being Jamie O'Neal. O'Neal at the time was verified to be driving on a suspended driver's license. Deputies followed the vehicle as it left the area and turned onto Belle Dowdle Road. Investigators conducted a traffic stop a short distance later.

On the initial approach of the vehicle, deputies observed an open container inside the vehicle which only had one occupant. Investigators were able to positively identify and confirm the driver to be Jamie O'Neal. Deputies had O'Neal exit the vehicle and then performed roadside field sobriety tests on him. K9 Officer ran K9 Jax around the vehicle who quickly alerted on the vehicle. Subsequent to the K9 alert, a more thorough search of the vehicle was conducted by officers. Recovered as evidence from the vehicle was one set of digital scales commonly used to weigh small amounts of narcotics. Located within the center console investigators seized multiple baggies which are commonly used to store and sell narcotics in. Deputies located a box in the roadway which contained a trafficking amount of heroin along with methamphetamine and one glass smoking pipe.

O'Neal was immediately placed under arrest and a thorough search of his person was conducted. The search revealed one unopened Suboxone and \$1335 in cash. O'Neal was not found to be intoxicated but was arrested on multiple drug charges including: Possession with intent to manufacture sell and deliver methamphetamine; trafficking heroin; possession of Schedule III controlled substance; and possession of drug paraphernalia

"While at times those that report illegal activity may feel nothing is being done, that is the furthest from the truth," stated Sheriff Robert Holland. "From the moment anyone provides information to us, these dedicated officers are attempting to find enough information while conducting a thorough investigation so they can eventually make an arrest that will result in a successful conviction of those individuals who continue to sell this poison in our community."

O'Neal was taken before Magistrate Millsaps and a secured bond was set in the amount of \$100,000. He was later released after posting bond.

Drug investigation leads to suspect arrest

On Saturday, Jan. 29, detectives with Macon County Sheriff's Office/Franklin Police Department Narcotics Unit were conducting surveillance at a residence on South Skeenah Road in reference to complaints about drug activity. While conducting surveillance, detectives noticed a high number of traffic at the residence. An occupant of the residence was known to investigators as a person suspected of selling drugs in Macon County and was one they had arrested in recent days. At the request of detectives, a Macon County K9 unit was called to assist in the investigation. Detectives were able to observe suspects Jamie O'Neal and Brach Brasier leave the residence in a vehicle. Detectives continued surveillance on the vehicle and followed it to a local restaurant located on the Georgia Road. Once at this location the vehicle stopped and a male subject exited another vehicle that was in the parking lot. That person then approached O'Neal and Brasier. It was at this time that detectives observed a "hand to hand" transaction between two individuals. Narcotic detectives immediately approached all three individuals. O'Neal and Murray were identified by the detectives and searched. Both were found to be in possession of narcotics at the time that they were detained. O'Neal was also found to be in possession of a large amount of cash. All three suspects were detained by detectives and transported to the Macon County Detention Center while detectives gathered evidence and continued their investigation.

Narcotic eetectives sent deputies to the residence of O'Neal located at 1333 South Skeenah Road in reference to securing the location while detectives applied for a search warrant. Deputies at the residence attempted to make contact with anyone inside the residence without success. Deputies were able to reach a window to look inside the residence and observed a female laying on the floor and unresponsive to their voices. Deputies also observed what appeared to be drug paraphernalia near her. Deputies immediately entered the residence in an effort to render first aid. The female remained unresponsive upon entry and deputies were unable to locate a pulse on the victim. Deputies immediately notified Macon County dispatch to request EMS and First Responders for immediate medical assistance for a possible overdose. While first responders were en route, deputies continued to render aid to the victim which included administering Narcan on at least two occasions. The patient became alert and was further assisted by First Responders who had arrived on scene. Macon County EMS also arrived on scene and assisted and later transported her to a local hospital. Deputies remained on scene and continued to secure the scene. Narcotic detectives arrived at the location and the search warrant was executed and the scene was processed. During a thorough search of the residence MCSO/FPD detectives recovered multiple items including approximately 30 grams of methamphetamine, fentanyl and prescription medications.

"The MCSO and FPD continue to work daily together to build strong cases against those who care nothing about the families and lives they destroy while selling their drugs," said Sheriff Holland. "As the Sheriff and [Bill Harrell] as Chief, we are fortunate to have dedicated officers who work diligently to do their part to rid these menaces and their poison from our community. Today this victim of a drug dealer is alive by the grace of God and because of these professionals who serve our community. There is no telling when her body would have been discovered inside that residence. Our hope is that she will seek the help she desperately needs because without her willing to seek that help it's just a matter of time before she becomes the latest statistic in overdose deaths in our county, state and country."

The investigations will remain ongoing and additional arrests will be forthcoming.

Charges for the following individuals include:

Jamie O'Neal: Sell or deliver Sch. I controlled substance; possess Schedule I controlled substance; possess drug paraphernalia; driving while license revoked; trafficking in methamphetamine; possess Schedule III controlled substance; possess Schedule II controlled substance; and maintain dwelling/vehicle for controlled substance (2 counts).

As of Feb. 1, O'Neal remains in custody under a secured bond of \$400,000.

Brach Brasier: Deliver Schedule I controlled substance. Secured bond of \$15,000; released after posting bond on Jan. 30.

Nominations now open for SCC's annual Distinguished Alumni Award

Southwestern Community College is now accepting nominations for the SCC Foundation's fourth-annual Distinguished Alumni Award.

To be considered for the award, nominees must have graduated with either a certificate, diploma, or degree from the institution known today as Southwestern Community College and previously as Southwestern Technical College (1979-1988), Southwestern Technical Institute (1967-1979) or Jackson County Industrial Education Center, a satellite of A-B Tech (1964-67).

"We are looking for candidates who are truly exceptional in their fields," said Brett Woods, director of the SCC Foundation. "Our distinguished alumni recipient will receive this award at our graduation ceremony in May and will serve as an inspiration of what new graduates can aspire to become."

To nominate a Southwestern graduate, visit SouthwesternCC.edu/award

Past winners include Kyle Dowling (2019), Dustin Wilson (2020) and John Mattox (2021).

Dowling was a 2013 graduate of SCC's Emergency Medical Science program before receiving his bachelor's degree at WCU. Within two years of graduating, he became a supervisor and training officer for Harris Regional Hospital's EMS Department, and now he has a list of credentials under his belt.

A 2003 graduate of SCC's Outdoor Leadership program, Wilson later earned his Ph.D. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from Clemson University. Now he holds the title of Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Fed-

Food benefits to remain at maximum level in February

North Carolina households receiving Food and Nutrition Services benefits will continue to receive the maximum amount for their household size for the month of February, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced. FNS recipients have been receiving the maximum allotment, though they may qualify for less, since March 2020 to help families access food during the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn.

Automated supplements will be issued for February 2022 to all active FNS recipients in North Carolina. These additional benefits will help families purchase food for their households due to the current economic crisis. FNS recipients do not have to take any action to receive these additional food benefits as they will be placed directly on their EBT cards. The supplements will be distributed to batches of recipients each workday until all eligible recipients with active FNS cases have been supplemented.

For all FNS applications and recertifications approved after the February supplement issuance dates, benefits will be issued in weekly batches to ensure eligible recipients with active cases are supplemented to the max allotment for February 2022.

There are three ways to check on the amount of your benefits:

• Download the ebtEDGE mobile app. The app is available as a free download on the Apple Store and Google Play.

• Visit www.ebtedge.com. Click on More Information under EBT Cardholder. You will be prompted to login and/or register your account.

• Contact the North Carolina EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141.

Residents can apply for FNS benefits online with ePass or by filling out a paper application and mailing it to or dropping it off at their county Department of Social Services. I

More information about FNS benefits in North Carolina can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/FNS.

eral Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

Mattox, who passed away last year, was a member of Southwestern's first National Park Service - Seasonal Law Enforcement Training program in 1978. He spent 37 years in the National Park Service, starting out as a seasonal ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway and eventually rose to the role of Special Agent in Charge of the Eastern United States.

Nominations for the 2022 award are being accepted through March 15.

In addition to being recognized at graduation, this year's recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award will be recognized on SCC's website, social media, and receive an

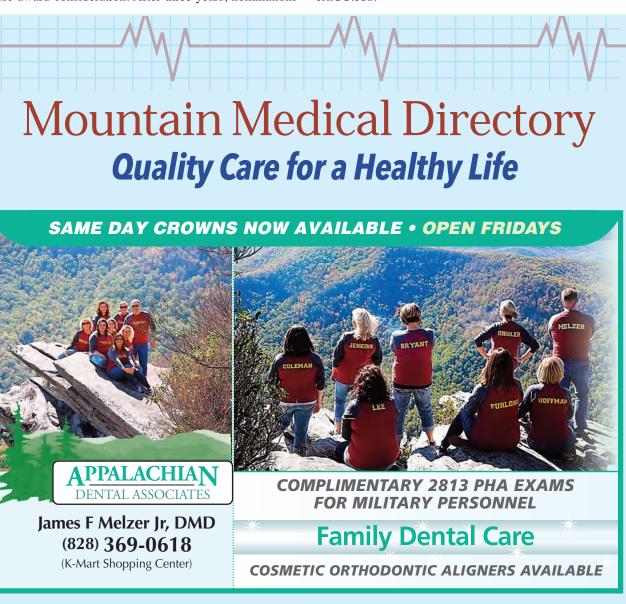
award plaque along with \$250 from the SCC Foundation.

The SCC Foundation partnered with the SCC Foundation Faculty & Staff Advisory Council to create the award.

Nomination forms will remain on file for three years for future award consideration. After three years, nominations must be re-submitted.

John Mattox was the 2021 recipient of SCC's Distinguished Alumni Award.

For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Award, contact Kathy Posey, SCC's Institutional Development Associate, at 828.339.4227 or k_posey@Southwest-ernCC.edu.





What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor Highlands Mayor

As of this past Tuesday the Highlands Town Board began a review of STR ordinance recommendations from the Highlands Planning Board. The members of the Highlands Planning Board met a number of times to review proposed changes to town ordinances which town attorneys had drafted. I again want to thank the Highlands Planning Board for their good work.



Patrick Taylor

Going into that meeting on Tuesday, the staff, board and I planned on reviewing the planning board recommendations, making edits and changes that the commissioners agreed to. After that process, a draft document would have been presented for a public hearing at the March 17 board meeting. Meetings can change plans. Craig Justice, the attorney the town retained to review town ordinances related to STRs, informed the board at the end of the meeting that a hearing should be called for public response to the planning board recommendations. The town board voted to hold that hearing on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. After that public hearing the town board will review the recommendations and consider public comment.

I want to update everyone concerning the replacement of the Middle Creek bridge between Scaly and the Georgia state line. I am a member to the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Southwestern Regional Planning Organization. The committee has been following the issues and problems facing NCDOT including scheduled bridge replacements.

The aging Middle Creek bridge is very narrow and needs to be replaced given the increase truck traffic using NC 106 to access the Highlands and Cashiers area. The good news is that bridge replacement contract is scheduled to be let in mid March. The bad news is that the US Forest Service is supposed to do a consultation analysis before construction begins. That analysis has not been done, and as a result the entire project may be delayed.

We are in the process of developing items for the town retreat scheduled for March 10. While the primary focus of the retreat is developing budget priorities for the coming fiscal year, I also want us to review longer term issues.

I have asked the Mirror Lake Homeowners Association to make a presentation concerning their plans to

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Constitution ensures will of people is protected

Democracy is plutocracy's favorite form of government. Plutocrats can, much of the time, manipulate the democrats into voting how the plutocrats want. Large landowners are the only ones with motive and means to resist the political will of the plutocrats. Democracy submerges the votes of large landowners in the votes of the masses; or just eliminates them—war, public lands, regulation of agriculture, tax burden.

Plutocrats rule by myths that unify society and facilitate the acquisition of habits that keep the ruled in desirable modes of behavior: the people rule; the people are the supreme authority, or sovereign; the Constitution of the United States ensures that the will of the people is protected.

In times of stress when the ruled see through the myths and become restive (as by electing a president who is not one of the plutocrats' stooges), the rulers fall back on fraud to retain their power: He was elected by Russian manipulation; he is a racist; he incited insurrection. Subject everyone who dares to support him to governmental harrassment. Appeal to democratic representatives' self-interested desires for wealth and power.

If the fraud is no longer accepted and resistance begins, the rulers resort to naked force: civil war, Waco, Summer of 2021. Rumors will be set loose in the land that the war is over slavery or child abuse or social justice, but it will be over retention of power.

No matter. Always there is a ruling elite. Such is the way of the world. Nothing else is possible.

George Crockett - Franklin, N.C.

In the garden, caught in the devil's bargain

A friend of mine reminded me of a song that lies deep within a time past, yet speaks of the present. Our younger generation has probably never heard of it. And in older generations it's just a memory long forgotten.

Back in the '60s, I wasn't totally aware of all the cultural shifts that our nation was facing. We wanted nothing of our past values, and we were looking towards a new hope with unbound freedoms. There was an event which was to usher this hope into the future, this event was known as, "Woodstock." Thousands of young people gathered in a unified effort towards hope and peace. Not just a peace from our troubled world, but a peace within the soul of mankind. There was a young singer named, Joni Mitchell who wrote a theme song named "Woodstock." In her lyrics is the story of life's unending search for the peace that seems so evasive, yet it's one for which all mankind has hungered, since time's beginning. These are the words that have been the cry we all can relate to; the song, "Woodstock":

"I came upon a child of God, he was walking along the road, And I asked him. 'Where are you going?' And this he told me, 'I'm going down to Yasgur's farm, I'm gonna to join a rock 'n' roll band, I'm gonna camp out on the land, I'm gonna try an' get my soul free.' ... And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden. Then can I walk beside you? I've come here to lose the smog, And I feel to be a clog in something turning, Well, maybe it's just the time of year, Or, maybe it's the time of man, I don't know who I am But you know, life is for learning....And I dreamed I saw the bombers, Riding shotgun in the sky, And they were turning into butterflies ... We are dust...We are golden ... Caught in the Devil's bargain, And we've got to get ourselves, Back to the garden."

This garden is in reference to the Biblical Genesis. It's amazing in that all humanity seems in want of a newness that our hearts and souls yearn for. Even the atheist is forever in a quest of finding what will quiet our searching hearts for that elusive something. But yet, they mock any Divine faith outside of man, because he becomes his own faith, and he answers to no one. This garden is where there was once harmony within creation, man, woman and their Divine creator. This harmony is what mankind is missing and is so obvious in our present day. The heart and soul aches for all the attributes that are found in our creator, "God." Humanity has both the imprint of good and evil (God & Satan). Our hearts seek justice, truth, equality, kindness and mostly a love which surpasses any human understanding, yet we never get there. We seek a love so rich and trustworthy that is only found in the Divine God which all mankind wants, but seeks it in his own ways. This goodness and love is His peace for us. Giving our ways or ourselves over to God's ways, is what fulfills all that we seek in all that is good, for any goodness is of God. So why wouldn't any of us want what we all seek? Our hearts and souls desires are for an ever lasting harmony and peace, or if you will, "Back to the garden, yet we are ... caught in the devil's bargain."

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

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WNC team exceeded OCC goal for 2021

I am writing to thank Macon County residents for spreading joy to children around the world this Christmas. Through the generosity of the Macon County community, the Western North Carolina Area Team was able to exceed our goal by collecting over 18,500 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind.

Across the U.S., the project collected more than 9.1 million such gifts in 2021. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2021, the ministry is now sending more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes – packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items – Macon County volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Although local drop-off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 14-21, 2022, anyone can still be a part of this lifechanging project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten. Best wishes,

Brenda Hackett, Media Support Operation Christmas Child of Western North Carolina

It's important to know the truth

I feel compelled to share some facts that I hope people will consider. There is too much misinformation out there and, unfortunately, even downright lies, so it is important to focus on knowing the truth.

Regarding the January 6th Riots: (1) President Trump repeatedly asked his supporters to demonstrate peacefully. "I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard." And tweets later: "Please support our Capitol Police and law enforcement ... stay peaceful." And, "I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence. Remember, we are the party of law and order. Respect the law and our great men and women in blue. Thank you." Those who rioted did so on their own, not by order or approval of President Trump. That is a fact. It is also a fact that President Trump suggested that 10,000 National Guard troops be place around the Capitol area to keep in control an anticipated crowd for the rally. If he wanted violence to reign he wouldn't have suggested this precaution. Nancy Pelosi elected not to do so.

Regarding the Election of 2020: Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, donated at least \$430 million to send out special operators door to door to "help" process mail in votes, collect them and bring them to voting centers. That this is open to flagrant fraud is pretty obvious and should be illegal. (No one is allowed access to voters when they are at polling places ready to vote.) The money was funneled into left leaning organizations. This is one reason many Americans believe, with President Trump, that the election was compromised.

Regarding the Biden Presidency: Everything in our country has been negatively affected by the Biden Administration's policies: We all feel it – the worst inflation in decades, manpower shortages due to Covid and people being paid to stay home, supply chain interruptions, gas prices rising sub-

stantially, the unprecedented chaos at the border, bringing in Covid, drugs, criminals, and non-citizens, costing millions of taxpayer dollars, etc. What about the unprecedented violence in our nation's cities because of the lack of prosecution of crimes? Can anyone name one good thing this president has accomplished?

Regarding the Supreme Court: You would hope that the information these justices make decisions on is accurate. Yet here was Justice Sotomayer saying that, "100,000 children have been hospitalized" due to Covid. Not so (though any number is too many). According to the CDC Director, Dr. Walensky, less than 3,500 is the number. This is really disturbing. She based her vote on information such as this as the court considered the vaccine mandate case.

Regarding the push towards Socialism: Another alert: California is getting ready to vote on Cal Care. It says that the state of California will take over the health care system. Your taxes will go directly to Sacramento in return for free health care for all, including illegals. But you see it isn't "free." When they can't pay for it they will resort to "seizing private property" by taxing homes above the local taxes, and the value of any stocks you have even if you didn't sell them (which is when they would ordinarily be taxed). This is Socialism! Senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation puts it this way: "The truth of the matter is, and it's not debatable, that Californians will actually end up paying more for health care with this system. ... All of these programs over promise, they under deliver, and the consequence of that is that people have lower quality health care at higher cost." You've heard the saying that "As California goes, so goes the rest of the country?" We should all be on high alert and very concerned.

Regarding President Trump's Veracity: Let's consider two definitions here: lying and exaggeration. Lying is when you give false information with an intent to deceive; exaggeration is to overstate a truth, to enlarge it. President Trump has so often been accused of lying (intentionally trying to deceive) when in fact he was exaggerating. He seems to often do this to emphasize a point. We need to be diligent to check facts, of course, (as the Justice should have above) but let's be fair and not call exaggeration lies.

Regarding Voter IDs to Vote: The big question here is "Why is requiring a voter ID "racist" as liberals insist? IDs are available for free so there is no cost involved. IDs are required for many everyday situations like going to the hospital, getting on a plane, volunteering at your local school for example. This is an indisputable fact. It is more than reasonable to require one for voting in order to keep our elections legitimate and the very reason conservatives insist on one. What is "racist" about that?

I get my information from a private news source (billoreilly.com) that has one agenda in mind, and that is to inform us of the facts of what is happening in our world, what the media doesn't tell us, and what they misinform us about in order to promote their liberal agenda. I hope sharing this information will help round out your views. I love my country and it breaks my heart to see her destroyed by people who want to change us into the very thing that others risk their lives to flee from. Keep praying for our country and be diligent to know the real truth.

Loretta Hastings – Franklin, N.C.



TAYLOR

dredge and restore Mirror Lake. They have developed a specific plan for addressing the siltation problem.

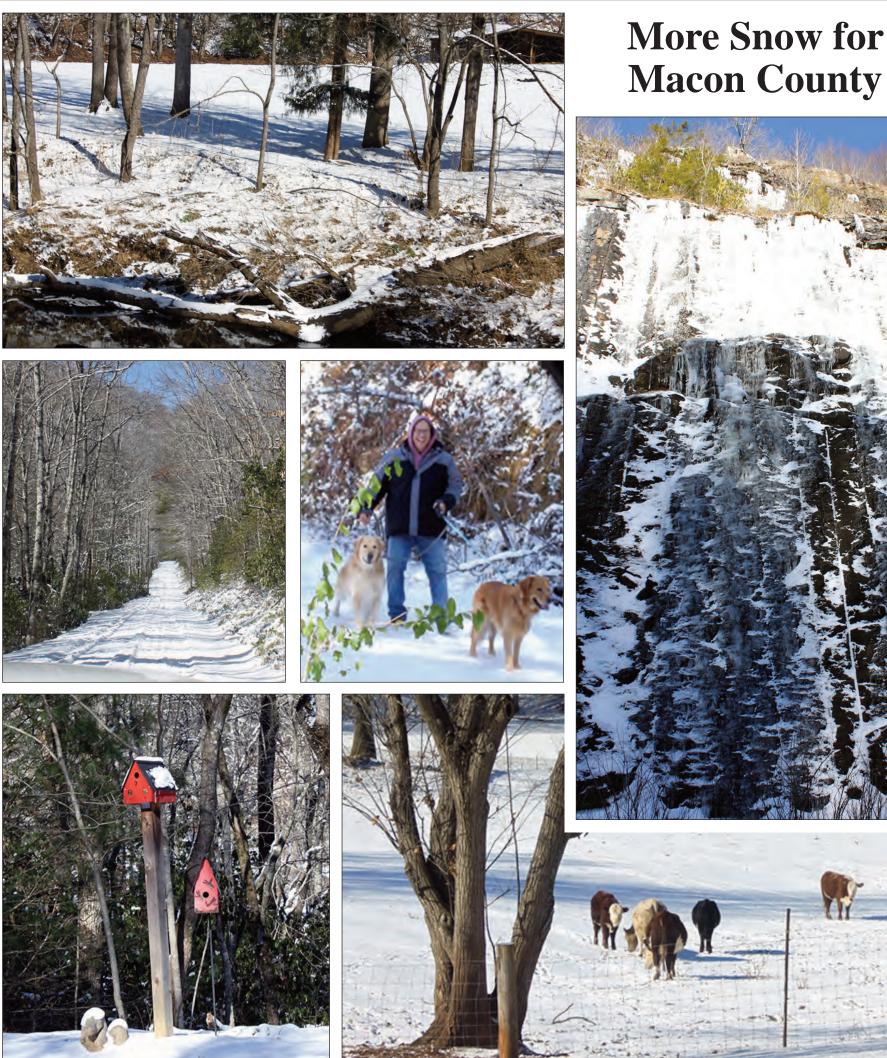
I also want to review the town policy and plans for residents wanting to install solar energy units at their homes. There are emerging issues about designs that would safely interface with our electrical grid and how to meter solar systems. We need to insure that the town does not impede efforts to transition to green energy systems. A discussion needs to be had concerning how the proliferation of these solar units will, or will not, impact the existing contract that the town has with Duke Energy. It is a very complex issue.

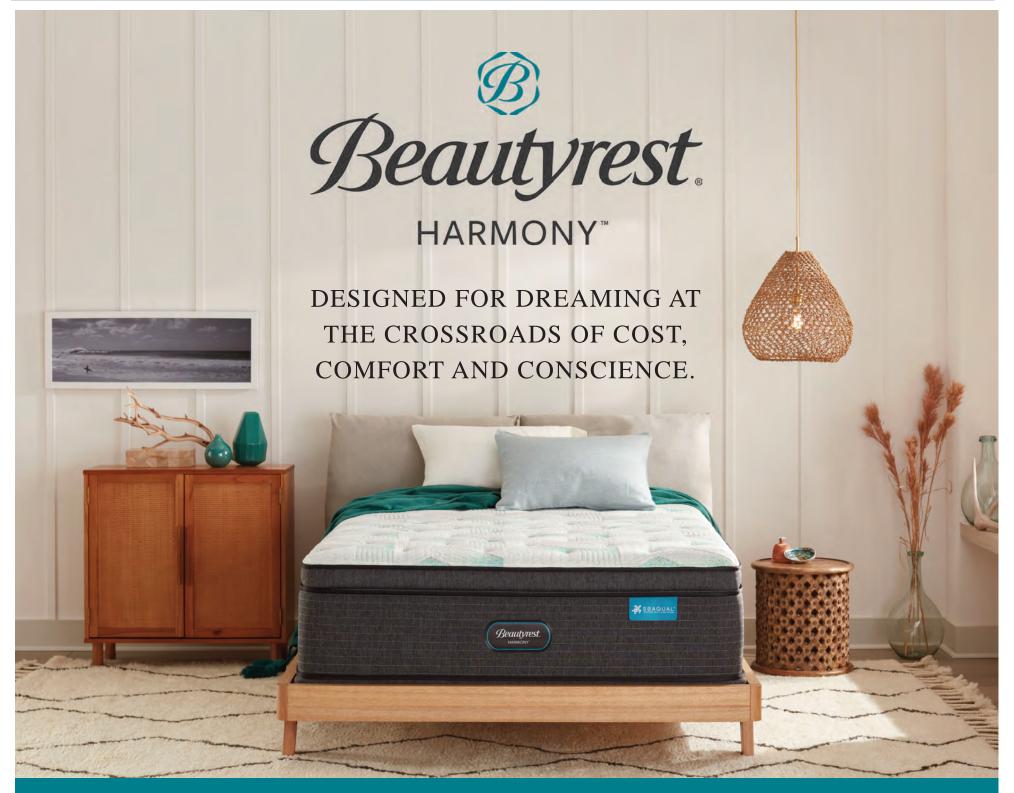
Folks with requests for items to be included in next year's budget, please let me or your commissioners know. By the June board meeting, budget priorities will be set.

Email letters to the editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com



Photos by Betsey Gooder





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Beautyrest Harmony Emerald Bay Medium Pillow Top model featured above. ©2020 Beautyrest, Inc.

Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests Jan. 20 - 30. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Franklin Police Department

January 20

Nicholas James Keith, was issued a warrant for arrest for possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

January 22

Tony Dustin Bateman, was charged with malicious conduct by a prisoner, resisting a public officer and second degree trespass. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

Stephen Ronald Pitts, was charged with trespass of real property and resisting officers. C.T. Chastain made the arrest.

January 23

Carlos Javier Chuqui Rivera, was charged with simple assault. G.D. Hovis made the arrests.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

January 24

Matthew Ernest Holland, 30, of Potters Hill, Cullowhee, was charged with violation of domestic violence protective order. No bond was set.

Jeffery Thomas Burnette, 25, of Pilot Knob Rd., Cashiers, was charged with second degree trespassing and assault on a female. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

Trevor Dillon Morgan, 24, of Rock Hill Church Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to display a registration number plate, driving while license revoked not impaired revocation, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, misdemeanor probation violation and felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$23,000 was set.

January 26

January 27

Stephen B. Hersman, 33, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with intentional child abuse causing serious physical injury and intentional child abuse causing serious bodily injury. A secured bond of \$250,000 was set.

John Clayton Marmon, 51, of Dave Cucumber Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for reckless driving to endanger. A secured bond of \$7,500 was set.

Jeffery Duane Childers, 40, of High Cove, Glenville, was charged with failure to appear for larceny. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jessica Dawn Knecht, 43, of Rushing Rapids Rd., Cullowhee, was issued a warrant for arrest for domestic violence protective order violation. No bond was set

Loretta Moss Watson, 61, of Pine Creek Rd., Cullowhee,

was charged with failure to appear for defraud drug/alcohol test and felony probation violation. No bond was set. Cheryl Dion Cole, 38, of Dragonfly lane, Whittier, was

issued a true bill for habitual larceny. A \$5,000 bond was set.

Rachael Nicole Fleming, 33, of Tapoco Rd., Robbinsville, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A \$10,000 bond was set.

Michael Noah Moore, 29, of Five Point Rd., Robbinsville, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine and failure to appear for Rabun County, Ga. A secured bond of \$50,000 was set.

January 28

Ray Charles McCall, 33, of Old Mill Rd., Tuckasegee, was charged with cruelty to animals. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Dylan James Gregg, 17, of Chipper Curve Rd., was charged with possession of stolen goods/property, misdemeanor conspiracy and misdemeanor larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Frederick Earl Stillwell, 22, of Pecan Dr., was charged with misdemeanor conspiracy. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

January 29

Daniel Edward Franklin, 33, of Shuler Rd., Bryson City, was charged with shoplifting concealment goods. No bond was set.

January 30

William Franklin White, 47, of Regency Dr., was charged with second degree trespass. No bond was set.

Holly Springs Kids surprise Sheriff's Office with 'Blessing Bags'

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Once a month, Bible Club at Holly Springs Baptist church dedicates the last Wednesday of the month for a "Missions Night." The event looks at needs within the community and acts as a service project. For January, Holly Springs Kids chose to create "Blessing Bags" with goodies for members of the Macon County Sheriff's Office.

"The employees of the MCSO and I are so appreciative of the kindness expressed to us from those who came to visit us today," Sheriff Robert Holland states, "We all feel incredibly blessed to live and serve in a community that supports the men and women the way they do."

The bags contained snacks and goodies for officers to keep in their patrol cars like chips, crackers, tissues and even included a special note.

"Thank you for all you do. 'Greater love has no man than this, that he who lays down his life for his friends.' - John 15:13 We appreciate you, your service to our community, and the risk you face everyday to keep us safe. We see the sacrifices you make and we love you. Thank you for being our hero."

Not only did the group provide bags for officers in the department, they included five special bags for the department's K9 which included dog treats and a brand new toy.

"The kids were very happy to meet these brave men and women (and amazing dogs) who serve our community," said Charissa Corbin with Holly Springs Baptist Church. "We are so very thankful for our local law enforcement and appreciate the sacrifices they make for us daily."





COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2 mile out and back easy hike on the Cove Forest and Anselm's trails on Saturday, Feb. 5. Meet at the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard, Ga. at 10 a.m. to carpool. There are several gentle ups and downs. After the hike They will drive a short distance up Betty Creek Rd. to Barker's Creek Mill to see the mill operate and have lunch. Visitors and well behaved dogs are welcome. Bring food and fluids as needed. For more information or in case of foul weather, call hike leader David Stearns at (828)349-7361.

The Franklin Garden Club will meet on Monday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m. at Fat Buddies Restaurant. All are welcome. For more information call (828)342-6543.

American Legion Post 108 Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8, dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., at Post 108, 614 West Main St.. Bring a guest for dinner.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 9 and 20.3, 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.

American Legion Post 108 Valentine's Day Dance will be held on Friday, Feb. 11, 7 to 11 p.m. Entertainment will be the Johnny Webb band. light refreshments. Bring your sweetie!

Valley River Arts Guild will be Offering Classes for Friendship Star Quilt Board, Friday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wrap Bracelet, suitable for and open to ages 6 through 17, on Saturday Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

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 inperson 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 friend-ships and rewarding experiences await. Call (828)369-3716 or (828)371-5442.

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

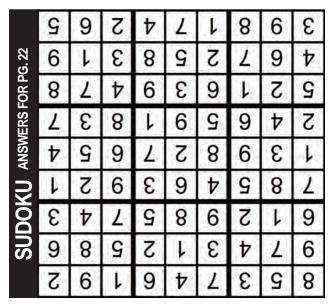
Celebrate Recovery at Discover Church every Monday night, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling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

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

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

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

Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter Telephone Support Group for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia is designed to provide caregivers opportunities for sharing, education, and support through a telephone conference. Support group participants and a support group facilitator connect each month for onehour confidential sessions. For more information, call (800)272-3900.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church Sunday Service is holding Sunday Service, Feb. 6, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on "Knowing Truth." 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.

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m., Dr. Jean Logan will share on "Living in the Power of God." On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com

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

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

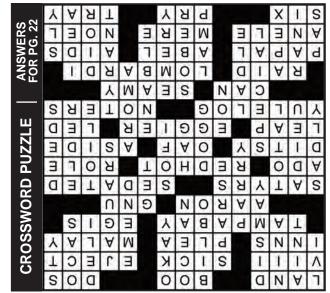
Son Rise Ministries is a non-denominational, full-gospel, Christian fellowship that meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Intercessory Prayer is Monday night at 6:30 p.m., Ladies prayer and Bible study is Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 462 Depot St. For more information, call (828)369-2465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

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

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

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.

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



As February begins, Black History Month gets underway at WCU

A series of activities, exhibits and events are planned at Western Carolina University in recognition of February as Black History Month, including an inaugural scholarly discussion of diversity in Appalachia.

"Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month," said Ricardo Nazario-Colón, the university's chief diversity officer. "At WCU, we provide opportunities for our community to engage in conversation through a myriad of programs sponsored by student organizations, faculty and staff, and departments."

Among the many events will be a free community webinar about race and ethnicity in the mountains on Monday, Feb. 7, beginning at 4 p.m. The panel includes Ben Steere, WCU director of Cherokee Studies; Sophia Enriquez, assistant professor of ethnomusicology at Duke University; Joe Trotter Jr., professor of history and social justice at Carnegie Mellon University; Neema Avashia, civics and ethnic studies teacher at Boston Public Schools; and Trey Adcock, director of American Indian and Indigenous

Studies at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. View the livestream on the Appalachian Studies Association Facebook page or register to attend via Zoom at https://wcu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ryn7b7ShSAO 02bWQ2DtxMQ.

A virtual series presentation on the WCU website is "The Black Fantastic," a project by the University Communications and Marketing team to highlight excellence among



WCU's Mountain Heritage Center will feature "Ann Miller Woodford: The Artist as Storyteller" throughout the month with in-person and video exhibit of paintings created by the noted Cherokee County author, artist and local historian.

Black faculty and staff. This artistic and creative look at mentors and leaders on campus features their completing the phrase "I am proud of my success because …"

To learn about additional events, visit WCU Engage.

African American artwork showcased

Artwork by artist and author Ann Miller Woodford are currently on display in "Ann Miller Woodford: The Artist as Storyteller" at the Mountain Heritage Center's exhibit gallery in Hunter Library on the campus of Western Carolina University.

This first-ever retrospective exhibition of Woodford's work spans 60 years, tracing an artistic development from childhood to the present day. The exhibit is on display through March 4.

The Mountain Heritage Center is free and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and open Sundays in February from 2-5 p.m. Masks are required for entry.

Woodford uses her artistic talents to turn family stories, southern heritage and social justice concerns into conceptual works of art. Each illustration invites viewers to follow Woodford on her journey through life, connecting with her through the stories they tell. Viewers can expect to be inspired, challenged and motivated by the themes presented in her works.

Woodford's most recent collection of paintings, "Black in Black on Black," highlights the tremendous bond within the African American community with a focus

on the empowerment that comes from being connected. Her works are supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Woodford will be in the exhibit gallery at WCU to discuss her work on Sunday, Feb. 27, from 2–5 p.m. and on Monday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit at https://annstree.com.



Local leaders honored for serving OCC

Recently June Trull and Sherri Houston were recognized for more than 10 years of service to children in need around the world. For more than 10 years June Trull has served in the leadership position of Area Coordinator for Western North Carolina's Operation Christmas Child. She oversees the volunteers and collection of thousands of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child each year.

Sherri Houston has served for more than 10 years in the critical position as Logistics Coordinator for Western North Carolina's Operation Christmas Child, which oversees all of the Drop-Off Locations. In 2021, she oversaw 11 drop-off centers from Canton to Murphy, North Carolina. These Drop-Off Locations collected more than 18,500 shoeboxes, almost 5,500 shoeboxes from Macon County drop-off locations.

Each year, the Samaritan's Purse project delivers millions of gift-filled shoeboxes to children affected by war, disaster, disease, poverty and famine.

Thousands of shoebox gifts packed and donated each year are processed through the Central Drop-Off Location at Holly Springs Baptist Church, in Franklin.

"Without the generosity of ministry volunteers like June Trull and Sherri Houston of Franklin, Samaritan's Purse could not reach millions of children around the world with the Gospel. We are thrilled to honor June and Sherri for over 10 years of service and partnership with Operation Christmas Child," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse.

Trull and Houston have served faithfully as drop-off center coordinator and volunteers for many years prior to becoming Area Coordinator and Logistics Coordinator for Operations Christmas Child. They have also promoted Operation Christmas Child at local churches and businesses throughout Western North Carolina. Both have been able to go

on Vision Trips to hand out shoeboxes to children, alongside local volunteers and ministry partners. Trull has been to Uganda (2012) and Paraguay (2016) and Houston has been to Zambia (2016). They have seen the joy and hope that the simple gifts in a shoebox can give to a child. Both are available to share their experiences with churches or groups.

Across the U.S., the project collected more than 9.1 million such gifts in 2021. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2021, the ministry is now sending more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide. More than 4,000

R



Pictured accepting the award is Brett Trull, June Trull and Sherri Houston.

churches in the United States partner with Operation Christmas Child to serve as dropoff locations for the project. They demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to millions of children in need by sending shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items-creating gifts that can make a life-changing difference in the hearts of children around the world.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. Participants can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organizaheaded tion by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993,

Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million giftfilled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

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James Joseph Purcell Jr.

James Joseph Purcell Jr., 55, passed from this life on Jan. 24, 2022.

Born March 9, 1966, he was the son of Ruth Gash and James J. Purcell, Sr., and was a native of Newark, N.J.

He loved his country and was very patriotic. He served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1991 as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, N.C., and also in the 2nd Armored Division of Fort Hood, Texas.

He was charismatic and en-joyed making people smile. He

was gregarious and good hearted. Those whom he loved were well aware they were the focus of his affection. It could be said that he loved hard and laughed even harder.

Of the Baptist faith, he attended seminary. He was a Freemason and a freelance journalist who enjoyed reading non-fiction and the works of playwrights. He liked to sing and dance and had an eclectic taste in music, but he somehow always returned to his favorite singer, Frank Sinatra. The family owned a Quaker parrot named Eddie who chose Jim to be his person and Jim doted on him.

Left with many wonderful memories of a life well lived are Jim's wife, Estelita Dadios, of Franklin, N.C.; his daughters, Angela J. Sirko (Shane) of Odenton, Md., and Amanda R. Rivera (Lance) of El Mirage, Ariz.; his grandchildren, Isabella, Kai, Brandon, and Eric; and his brother, David Purcell. He was predeceased by his parents.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve Jim's family. Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneralcare.com.

Mike 'Booger' Teague

Mike "Booger" Teague, 68, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022.

Born in Gastonia, N.C., he was the son of the late Muriel Max and Inez Miller Teague. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Raymond Teague. He spent most of his life in Western North Carolina and attended Tellico Baptist Church. He would often be found calling his family and friends, just to check on them. He was always willing to help anyone when the need arose.

He is survived by his wife of 38

years, Janet Guffey Teague; three sons, Jeffrey Hooper of Franklin, Timothy Lee Teague (Amanda) of Vero Beach, Fla., and Joshua Teague (Amber) of Franklin; sister, Hazel McCall of Franklin; and a brother, Carter Teague of Highlands; seven grandchildren, Hailey Hooper, Jonathan Hooper, Ari White, Cameron Teague, Reid Teague, Dawson Teague, and Jason Teague; and many other family members and friends.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Tellico Baptist Church. Rev. L.E. Angel and Rev. Gary McCoy officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Tellico Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

James Dean Johnson

James Dean Johnson, 74, a resident of Highlands, N.C., and Savannah, Ga., died Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. He passed away peacefully at his home in Highlands with his wife, Shirley Merchant Johnson, and his sister-in-law, Mary Darwin Johnson, at his side.

His parents, Mel Johnson and Irene Swenson Johnson were in California when Jim was born. They later moved to Huntsville, Ala., where he and his brother, Larry Lee Johnson, who died in 2012, attended Huntsville schools. He graduated from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., with a BA degree in chemistry, and was awarded a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. His postdoctoral research was at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., with several summers spent at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. He and Shirley enjoyed many trips across the country moving between the labs in California and Massachusetts. The couple returned to Atlanta where he was a faculty member of the Emory University School of Medicine in the departments of Biochemistry and Medicine, with an appointment in the Division of Infectious Diseases. He was also a senior research scientist at the Veterans Administration Hospital Research Laboratories. After a year as a visiting faculty member at the University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La., he returned to Atlanta to attend the Emory University College of Law, and graduated in 1984 with a Juris Doctor degree with honors.

He began his legal career with the intellectual property boutique law firm of Jones & Askew, Atlanta, Ga., as a registered patent attorney. Jones & Askew later joined Kilpatrick Stockton, now Kilpatrick Townsend, where he was head of the Biotechnology and Life Sciences group. He moved to King & Spalding, LLP's Intellectual Property Practice Group in Atlanta, with the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Intellectual Property Group, LLP. In 2010, he co-founded Johnson, Marcou, Isacs & Nix with a group of seasoned partners, associates, patent agents, paralegals, and support staff who had worked together for years.

His legal practice focused on chemical and biomedical patent prosecution and in licensing of chemical and biomedical technology. During his career, he served as general counsel for Cytrx, Corp., Norcross Ga., and EntreMed, Inc., Rockville, Md., along with board positions for several biotechnology start-up companies. He was a member of the patent bar for United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the bar of the State of Georgia.

He was a technology first adopter, always having the latest computer, telephone, gadget, communicator and car. He was an outstanding cook and host, and was the instigator and/or focus of celebrations throughout his life. He had long-standing good friends from all phases of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley M. Johnson, and his nieces and nephews, Mel and Michele Johnson of Atlanta, Mary Beirne and Gil Vela, of Huntsville, Ala., Polly and Brandon Pinke, of Huntsville, Ala., Will and Danielle Clark, of Durham, N.C., and Corrie Clark and Andy Turner, of Washington, DC; and their children, his great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life and friendship will take place at a later time.

Leslie Paul McDonald

Leslie Paul McDonald, 78, of Sylva, N.C., passed away Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. He was born June 5, 1943, in Haywood County, North Carolina, to the late Leslie A. and Velda Cornelia Haney McDonald. He worked for BASF Corporation a Research and Development Company. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a Baptist by faith. He liked to fish and was a very devoted husband, father, brother, and grandfather.

He is survived by his son, Jeff McDonald (Renee) of Sylva; brothers, Gene McDonald (Kathy) of Franklin, and Gary McDonald (Donna) of East Bend, N.C.; sister-in-law, Phyllis Young of Leicester, N.C.; and granddaughter, Shelaine McDonald of Sylva.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Claudine Dillard McDonald who passed away March 18, 2008; a son, "Bow Weaver" Steven McDonald, who passed away in 2011; and a sister, Betty Sue Carpenter, who passed away in 2015.

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

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Mc-Donald family.

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

Vaughn Kathleen Stockton Sanders

Vaughn Kathleen Stockton Sanders, 87, went to her heavenly home on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, after a period of declining health. Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ervin and Bertha Carpenter Stockton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, J.W. "Red" Sanders and daughterin-law, Martha Waldroop Sanders.

She is survived by her son, Bruce Sanders; two daughters, Pam Battles (Doug) and Debbie Moffitt (Terry); and one sister, Vaughn Kathleen Sanders Lois Ledford; grandchildren,



April Chastain (Tracy), Brent Holbrooks (Sarah), Jennifer Lewis (Michael), Jessica Cantrell (Josh), Brian Moffitt (Corey), Alison Deal (Bill); 19 great grandchildren, one great-great grandson; and one great-great grandson on the way.

She was a lifelong member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Over her lifetime she enjoyed the outdoors and caring for her family's farm animals. She had a love of old gospel hymns, word search puzzles, and genealogy. She was born and raised in a log cabin, and loved all the old mountain traditions and way of life.

Serving as pallbearers are great grandsons, Trey Chastain, Tye Chastain, Jack Holbrooks, Zachary Tallent, Coleman Tallent and Abe Billingsley. Honorary pallbearers are Jim Ledford, Danny Mason, Floyd Ledford and Kenneth Lambert.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, Feb. 6, at 3 p.m., at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with visitation one hour prior to service. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Rev. Eddie Stillwell will officiate.

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

Kathy Ann Sanders

Kathy Ann Sanders, 60, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022.

Born in Canyonville, Ore., she was the daughter of the late James Clifton and Rose Marie Trankle Sanders. She lived most of her life in Macon County and was a CNA. She cherished her family more than anything, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by a daughter, Angie Gibson; a son, Eric Gibson; two grandchildren, Kailey Rose Martinez and Colton Bryce Taylor; and two brothers, Gary Sanders and Tim Sanders (Barbara) all of Franklin.

In honor of Kathy's wishes, no services are planned.

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Thomas James O'Brien

Thomas James O'Brien, 64, passed away on Friday, Jan. 28, 2021

Born in Coral Gables, Fla., he was the son of the late James Mathew and Dorothy Inman O'Brien. He managed the "Round House at the State Line" and had previously worked at Taco Bell and Burger King. He was a friend to many.

He is survived by his brother, James Kevin O'Brien of Georgia; and his many friends.

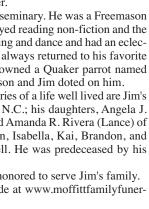
No services are planned. In lieu of flowers, memorials

can be made to the ASPCA.

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

Thomas James O'Brien

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.





Mike 'Booger' Teague



Ernest Lacy Guy

Ernest Lacy Guy, 70, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022. No public services are planned.

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

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

Joseph A. Re

Joseph A. Re, 70, died Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, at his home in Franklin, N.C., after a yearlong battle with cancer. Born Aug. 13, 1951, in Brookline, Mass., he was the son of Joseph S. Re and Katherine (Sawicki) Re of Boston, Mass.

He spent his early years in the Alston and Orient Heights section of Boston before moving with his family to the North Shore town of Peabody, Mass., where he attended local schools, became an Eagle Scout, caddied at area golf clubs, and worked several afterschool jobs to help his parents support their growing family.

After graduating from Peabody High School in 1969, he joined the United States Marine Corps on his 18th birthday. He proudly served four years with the Corps and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Upon returning home, he attended Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, UMASS Boston and Western Kentucky University at Bowling Green, Ky., where he earned a master's degree in industrial psychology. He was a Human Resources director and administrator for such companies as Edwards Company (General Signal) of Pittsfield, Me.; AMPAD in Holyoke, Mass., and nonprofit YOU Inc., in Worcester, Mass.

He earned his Master Captains License and owned and operated Sharks Landing Bait and Tackle and Orion Fishing Charter Service on Martha's Vineyard.

He also co-owned Martha's Vineyard Candle Company and Pyramid Coin and Paper Currency and was the Vineyard rep. for White's Metal Detectors.

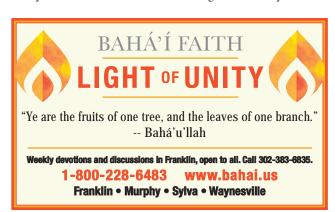
He was an active member of the Oak Bluffs Board of Appeals for many years. He was a lifelong fisherman who also enjoyed collecting coins, gemstones and gardening and all manner of tinkering. He literally could fix anything.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Linda (Illingworth); his stepsons, Joshua (Rebecca) Greenley, Seth (Katherine) Greenley; and eight grandchildren, all of Franklin; a sister, Annette Re of Lynnfield, Mass.; brothers, Gerald Re of Georgetown, Mass. and Phillip Re of Peabody, Mass.; nieces, nephews, two brothers-inlaw and their families.

A brother, Eugene Re of Chelsea, Mass., predeceased him as did his parents, Joe and "Kitty" Re.

A Celebration of life will be held at his mountain home thisspring, surrounded by the ponds and creeks and land and gardens he took such wonderful care of. His much loved and precious family intend to honor this remarkable man with a big happy party. Semper Fi, Joe.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is assisting the Re family.



Kathryn Chastain Forrester

Kathryn Chastain Forrester, 74, of Highlands, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. She was born Nov. 11, 1947, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Rob Chastain and Eileen Prince Chastain. She worked and retired from Cashiers Plastic after 31 years of service. She was of the Methodist faith. She loved her family and she cherished her time with her grandkids and her dogs. She also loved going to the beach with her family.

Survivors include her husband of 51 years, Kenneth Forrester; a

son, Robbie Forrester and his wife, Jennifer; five grandchildren, Demi Pistolis, Kate Pistolis, Austin Forrester, Gracie Forrester, and Carson Forrester; and a brother, Neal Chastain.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Anita Lynn Pistolis; and two brothers, Charlie Chastain and Terry Chastain.

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

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

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Forrester family.

James George 'Jim' Petrone

James George (Jim) Petrone, 92, of Highlands, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022. Born on Sept. 21, 1929, in Huntington, Long Island, N.Y., he was the son of the late James Vincent Petrone and Adelina (Lena) Fusaro Petrone. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Thelma Allmon Petrone and his son, Kevin Michael Petrone.

He was a Navy veteran. He enjoyed spending time in Carrabelle, Fla., and maintaining his property in Highlands.

James George Petrone

Kathryn C. Forrester

He is survived by his daughters, Lee Ann Pearse of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Susanna Murray, Anna Wilson (Roger Lee) and Lisbeth Petrone Leschen of Highlands; eight grandchildren, Jimmy Petrone (Jessica), Vince Petrone (Jackie), Leslie Pearse Lvons (Mat), Lindsey Pearse Greiner (Jamie), Ryan Bryson (Kayla), Matthew Wilson (Ashley), Alana Wilson Fisher (Chris), and Jacob Leschen; 18 beautiful great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews, and special friends, Chris and Donna Alley. He will be remembered as a loving husband, dad, "Papa" and "Great Papa."

Funeral services will be held on Feb. 5, at 11 a.m., at Our Lady of The Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands. The service will be followed by a reception at Wilson Barn, Wilson Gap Road, Highlands, and the family invites everyone to attend.

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



Christian Hunter McConnell, 24, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus after putting up a courageous battle with his illness. Born in Macon County, he was the son Chadwick Lamar Mc-

Connell and Ruthy Dorthia Hedden Fry. He was preceded in death by an infant sister, Elizabeth Grace McConnell; and his two grandfathers, Don McConnell, and James Hedden.

He loved to go fishing, camping with his grandpa, playing video games and Magic the Gathering. He will always be remem-

bered for the way he would make others laugh. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church.

He is survived by his mother, Dorthia Fry (Doyle Allison "Padre" Adams) of Franklin; his father, Chadwick McConnell and wife Kelly McConnell of Franklin; grandmothers, Wilma Hedden and Kathy McConnell, both of Franklin; two sisters, Cheyenne McConnell, and Hannah McConnell, both of Franklin; and a brother, Nathan Walker of Martin, Ga.; one nephew, Braylen Alexander Hampton of Franklin; two aunts, Jackie Deal and Christy McConnell both of Franklin; and an uncle, Joseph Hedden and wife Melody Hedden of Crookston, Minn; along with numerous other cousins and close friends.

A funeral service was held at Grace Baptist Church on Saturday, Jan. 29, with Rev. Frank Rodriguez officiating.

Pallbearers were Zachary Hedden, Nathan Walker, Josh Talley, Jonathan Deats, Al Adams, Isaac Salmonson, Christopher Deats, and Kenzie Bouakhamphong.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Trout Unlimited, to help maintain healthy trout waters.

Online condolences can be left at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Because Funeral Care



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Christian McConnell

Christian Hunter McConnell

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NASCAR News

Analyzing the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum

NASCAR Wire Service

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, (Feb. 1, 2022) – Below is a statistical look at this weekend's Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, California on Feb. 6, 2022. This year marks the first time in history the traditional exhibition-style event will tackle the newly built 0.25-mile L.A. Memorial Coliseum track. The event will be broadcast live on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio at 6 p.m. ET. The venue isn't the only change this season for the event, the format will be completely different as well. In 2022, the field was open to 40 entrants to participate in the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

Format Rundown: How to make the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum

The 36 drivers entered will first have to qualify.

Of the cars entered, only 23 will earn a spot in the Main Event; the drivers will have three possible ways to do that.

The first 22 positions in the starting lineup of the Main event will be set by drivers that have raced their way in through either the four Heat Races or the two Last Chance Qualifier Races.

The 23rd and final position is reserved for the driver who finished the highest in the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series season points standings who did not transfer on finishing position in the Heat Races or Last Chance Qualifier Races.

The Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum Tidbits

HISTORY

• The first Busch Light Clash was held on February 11, 1979 at Daytona International Speedway, and the event was won by Buddy Baker (194.384 mph).

• This weekend's event will be the 44th running of the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum and this season's event will be the first held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

• The L.A. Memorial Coliseum is the third different venue to host the annual non-points exhibition event joining Day-



The Busch Light Clash at the Colilseum is slated to be broadcast this weekend Sunday, Feb. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. This year marks the first time the traditional exhibition-style event will be held in the newly built .25-mile L.A. Memorial Coliseum Track.

tona International Speedway (1979 – 2020) and Daytona International Speedway Road Course (2021).

• The number of participants in the event has ranged from as low as seven in 1981 to as high as 28 in 2009.

• This season 36 drivers are entered but just 23 competitors will compete in the Main event of the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

• The format for the Busch Light Clash has changed 16 times since its inception in the NASCAR Cup Series in 1979.

• The 2022 season marks the first time in the exhibitionstyle event will have a format that includes Heat Races and Last Chance Qualifier Races.

STARTS

• In total, 121 different NASCAR Cup Series drivers have competed in the Busch Light Clash; 91of the 121 drivers have participated in more than one. 22 of 121 are active this weekend.

THE CLASH RACE FORMAT $\langle \phi \rangle \langle \phi$ QUALIFYING LAST CHANCE RACES HEAT RACES THE CLASH FEBRUARY 5 FEBRUARY 6 FEBRUARY 6 FEBRUARY 6 . LIVE ON FSI HEAT RACE LINE UPS ARE SET BY QUALIFYING 150 LAPS QUALIFYING OSITION = SINGLE VEHICLE CLASH 1-40 day, NASCAR CHAMPION 18 ng order for the cheduled heat The field will be 30 32 34 through to The Clas CLASH ET YOUR TICKETS NO

• NASCAR Hall of Famer Mark Martin leads the series in Busch Light Clash appearances at 24.

• NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon has appeared in the most consecutive Busch Light Clash races, competing in 22 consecutive events from 1994-2015.

• Denny Hamlin leads all active drivers in consecutive Busch Light Clash starts with 16 (2006 – 2021); followed by Kurt Busch with 15 (2007-2021).

WINS

• A total of 24 different NASCAR Cup Series drivers have won the Busch Light Clash.

• NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt leads the series in Busch Light Clash wins with six victories (1980, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995).

• Denny Hamlin (three: 2006, 2014, 2016) and Kevin Harvick (three: 2009, 2010, 2013) lead all active drivers in the Busch Light Clash wins with three each.

• There have been 11 multiple winners in the Busch Light Clash:

- Dale Earnhardt won six events, most all-time (1980, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995).

- Dale Jarrett won in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

- Kevin Harvick won in 2009, 2010 and 2013.
- Tony Stewart won in 2001, 2002 and 2007.
- Denny Hamlin won in 2006, 2014 and 2016.

- Other multiple winners: Neil Bonnett (1983-1984), Ken Schrader, (1989-1990), Jeff Gordon (1994, 1997), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2003, 2008), Jimmie Johnson (2005, 2019), Kyle Busch (2012, 2021).

• Bonnett, Schrader, Stewart and Harvick are the only drivers to win back-to-back Busch Light Clash races.

• No driver has won three consecutive Clash events.

• Buddy Baker (1979), Dale Earnhardt (1980), Jeff Gordon (1994), Dale Jarrett (1996) and Denny Hamlin (2006) all won in the first Busch Light Clash in which they competed.

• Only five times has the Busch Light Clash winner gone on to win the Daytona 500 pole: Buddy Baker (1979), Bill Elliott (1987), Ken Schrader (1989, 1990), Dale Jarrett (2000).

• Six times in the 43-year history of the race has the Busch Light Clash winner gone on to win the Daytona 500: Bobby Allison (1982), Bill Elliott (1987), Dale Jarrett (1996 and 2000), Jeff Gordon (1997) and Denny Hamlin (2016).

• Two drivers have swept the Busch Light Clash, the Daytona 500 pole, and the Daytona 500 from 1979-2021: Dale Jarrett (2000) and Bill Elliott (1987)

• One driver has swept the Busch Light Clash, the Daytona 500, and the Coke Zero Sugar 400 (Summer Daytona race) from 1979-2021: Bobby Allison (1982).

• Four drivers have won the Busch Light Clash (1979-2021) and the championship in the same season. Dale Earnhardt is the only driver to have accomplished the feat multiple times (four; 1980, 1986, 1991, 1993); Tony Stewart (2002); Jeff Gordon (1997); Darrell Waltrip (1981).

• There have been four Busch Light Clash winners from the pole: Darrell Waltrip (1981), Bill Elliott (1987), Ken Schrader (1989) and Denny Hamlin (2014).

Four drivers have won consecutive Busch Light Clash races (1979-2021) - Kevin Harvick (2009-10), Tony Stewart (2000-01), Ken Schrader (1990-91), Neil Bonnett (1983-84).
Seven different manufacturers have won a Busch Light

Clash race, led by Chevrolet with 21 victories.

• Toyota is the most recent winner in the Busch Light Clash, with Kyle Busch winning the event in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota last season on the Daytona International Speedway Road Course.

By the Numbers: The Busch Light Clash

.013 – Closest Margin of Victory in seconds by Kyle Busch over Tony Stewart in 2012, the closest margin in the Clash at Daytona history

.058 – Second closest Margin of Victory in seconds by Kurt Busch over Jamie McMurray in 2011, the secondclosest margin in the Clash at Daytona history

.080 – Third closest Margin of victory in seconds by Dale Earnhardt over Sterling Marlin in 1995, the thirdclosest margin of victory in the Clash at Daytona history

1 – Fewest laps led by a winner, one and it has occurred nine times - Rusty Wallace (1998), Neil Bonnett (1983-84), Dale Earnhardt (1980), Dale Jarrett (2000 and 2004), Kevin Harvick (2009) and Erik Jones (2020) - all at Daytona International Speedway – Kyle Busch (2021) at Daytona International Speedway Road Course.

2.75 – Best average finish - Dale Earnhardt holds the best average finish of any driver with multiple starts.

3 – Number of different venues the Busch Light Clash

event has been held – Daytona International Speedway, Daytona International Speedway Road Course, and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

4 – Number of drivers to win the Busch Light Clash from the pole or first starting position – Darrell Waltrip (1981), Bill Elliott (1987), Ken Schrader (1989) and Denny Hamlin (2014).

5 – Drivers who have won the event in their first appearance - Buddy Baker, 1979; Dale Earnhardt, 1980; Jeff Gordon, 1994; Dale Jarrett, 1996; Denny Hamlin, 2006. 6 – Most Busch Light

Clash wins all-time - Dale Earnhardt, the series leader (1980, '86, '88, '91, '93, '95).

7 – All-time fewest starters in the field for the Busch Light Clash (1981)

11 – Most number of starts before winning the event - Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin.

14 – Highest number of different leaders in the Busch Light Clash event (2009, Daytona International Speedway).

21 – Highest number of wins by a manufacturer in the Busch Light Clash – Chevrolet.

22 – Most consecutive starts in the Busch Light Clash by a driver - Jeff Gordon (1994-2015).

27 – Kevin Harvick's starting position in 2009, the lowest by a race winner in the event's history.

28 – Number of lead changes in the 2011 event, highest number since race began in 1979.

47 – Most laps led by the winner of a Busch Light Clash event - Dale Earnhardt Jr. in 2008 at Daytona.

51 – Most laps led by a driver that did not win the Busch Light Clash event - Paul Menard in 2019 at Daytona.

197.802 mph – The fastest average speed of the race for the Busch Light Clash - in 1987 at Daytona International Speedway and won by NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott. DJ Skee to make NASCAR history

at Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum

LOS ANGELES (January 26, 2022) – A world-renown trendsetter will make NASCAR history during the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum on Sunday, Feb. 6.

NASCAR has announced that DJ Skee will become the first live DJ to perform during the caution breaks of a NASCAR race. As fans wait for the racing action to resume, Skee will entertain and energize the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum crowd with the style and flair that has made him an international sensation.

"We've said from the beginning that the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum is a first-of-its-kind event, and having DJ Skee spinning during the caution breaks adds to the fresh, unique nature of this event," said Ben Kennedy, NASCAR senior vice president for strategy and innovation. "DJ Skee is a world-class talent who is going to create a fun and entertaining experience for everyone as our drivers prepare to take the green flag once more."

DJ Skee built an empire by consistently identifying the next trends in music, culture, and tech. As a DJ, Skee is best known for introducing the world to artists including Kendrick Lamar, Lady Gaga, Post Malone, Travis Scott, and more on his TV and radio platforms. Skee has produced for defining artists of this era ranging from Snoop Dogg to



1994; Dale Jarrett, 1996; DJ Skee will become the first live DJ to perform during the caution breaks of the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum Feb. 6.

Michael Jackson and composed music for top selling video game series like HALO and Ghost Recon.

As a performer, Skee has opened up and held residencies at high-profile clubs and venues globally, including XS at the Wynn/Encore in Las Vegas and US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Skee has been honored with numerous awards and accolades including Mixtape and Radio DJ Of The Year, Billboard and Forbes "30 Under 30," as well a mayoral proclamation in his hometown of St. Paul Minnesota, declaring May 26th "DJ Skee Day." In raw numbers, Skee has generated over four billion views and has a network of over two million followers.

I like the fun way that NASCAR is approaching this race, and it's an honor to be part of that fun," Skee said. "I know we're going to have a lot of it together and create lasting memories on this historic day for NASCAR."

Skee's presence bolsters an already power-packed entertainment lineup that's set for NASCAR's season-opening exhibition. Pitbull will also perform a 45-minute concert presented by Coca-Cola prior to the 150-lap main event on Sunday, Feb. 6, and Ice Cube will perform during the race break.

Moreover, LA Galaxy and US Men's National Team star Cobi Jones will join Monica Palumbo as the in-stadium announcers, while former MTV host Riki Rachtman will serve as the host of NASCAR's Fan Fest at the Coliseum.



THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE

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1. Shout from a ship?

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5. Shout from the bleach-18 ers and don'ts 8. Infamous Henry's 11. number 24 23 12. One with COVID, e.g. 13. Fighter iet button 15. Resting stops 30 16. Not guilty, e.g. 17. One of Singapore's 35 official languages 18. *Home of last year's 39 Super Bowl winners 20. Armor chest plate 43 21. *Given name of 2011 Super Bowl MVP 22. African grazer 23. Greek woodland deities 50 26. Ramones' hit "I Wanna Be 55 30. Big fuss 31. Like certain Chili 59 Peppers (2 words) 34. Cattle call goal 62 35. Scatterbrained 37 Bonehead 38. In a different direction 39. Jeté in ballet 40. More so than eggy 42. Conducted 43. Christmas firewood (2 words) 45. Annotator and commentator 47. Soda-pop container 48. Unpleasant and offensive 50. SWAT attack, e.g. 52. *Super Bowl I and II winning coach 55. Pertaining to a pope C StatePoint Media 56. Cain's unfortunate brother 57. Gives a hand HAULING • DIRT

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59. Anoint 60. Bébé's mother 61. Season to be jolly 62. *Most Super Bowl wins by one team 63. Snoop

64. Carhop's load

DOWN

1. *Roman number of this year's Super Bowl _ Misbehavin'" 2." 3. Santa Maria's traveling partner 4. Despair in the face of obstacles 5. "The Hobbit" hobbit 6. "Caribbean Queen" singer

40. Many, many moons 14. *Florida team with no 41. Empower Super Bowl appearances 44. Big Dipper's visible shape 46. Oppressive ruler 48. On the wagon it 49. Nail salon board 24. Bye, to Edith Piaf 50. Feminine of raja 51. Mt. Everest to Earth 52. Aladdin's light 26. *2022 Super Bowl sta-

19. Return punch

22. Come and

23. Lamentably

25. Bottom line

MVPs Peyton and Eli

dium

- 53. Christian of fashion
- 27. Upholstery choice 54. Result of a brainstorm 28. *Archie to Super Bowl
 - 55. Rudolf Nureyev's step
 - 58. Stallone's nickname

IEWS 😑

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DBE SUBCONTRACTOR Opportunity: Meter Installation Labor for AMR Meter Replacement and MIU Installation Services Project. Contact Brian at bking@envocore.com for more information.

ROOT & BARREL Restaurant is looking for Kitchen Help (828)369-3663.

NOW HIRING Local Contractor seeks all manner of Carpentry Workers, from general laborers to skilled carpenters. Pay based upon experience. Year round employment with paid holidays. Call (828)342-4509.

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

Community Fundraisers

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

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

Real Estate

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

Commercial Rentals

COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING for lease in Franklin. 8 individual offices/kitchen area/reception area. Call (828)421-1542 for info. Text or leave message.

Rentals

1/1 CABIN IN FRANKLIN \$600. Suitable for Single person. Leave a text message. (828)556-2016.

Animals

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

Misc. For Sale

6'X10' UTILITY TRAILER U-Haul Frame \$300. (828)349-9095.

WOOD LATHE Nova 3000 Swivel Head, 8 Speed, 2 Sets Chisels, Books, Many Extras, Like New, \$1,000. (828)349-9095.

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

Wanted

PAYING TOP DOLLAR For Several large, high quality, Black Locust logs for sawing into lumber. They must be straight and sound. Will consider cutting standing trees if they are accessible. Steve (828)399-0496





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MUST BE ABLE TO:

- Work on Macs using Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and QuarkXPress
- Proficient Speller
- Quick Turnaround
- Able to Work on a Deadline

PLEASE EMAIL RESUME AND EXAMPLES OF YOUR WORK TO: maconcountynews@gmail.com All inquiries will remain confidential.

The Macon County **26 West Main Street** Franklin, NC 28734 Office: (828)369-6767 Fax: (828)369-2700 THE MACON COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPING GUIDE 23

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| CA | RS | | |
|------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
| 2022 | Chevrolet | Corvette 2LT | 201 |
| 2021 | Kia | K5 LXS | 4,963 |
| 2021 | Tesla | Model 3 Standard Range Pl | us 15,196 |
| 2020 | Porsche | 911 | 6,135 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Corvette 3LT | 8,263 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Malibu LT | 43,903 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Sonic LT | 59,039 |
| 2019 | Nissan | Sentra SV | 15,009 |
| 2019 | Volkswagen | Golf SportWagen | 56,048 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Cruze LS | 54,872 |
| 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 |
| 2002 | Hyundai | Elantra | 232,0432 |
| 1983 | Chevrolet | Corvette | 61,350 |
| 1972 | Chevrolet | Corvette | 97,217 |

PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

| SUVS | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Equinox Premier | 23,547 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Tahoe RST | 10,875 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Tahoe RST | 4,798 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Suburban RST | 3,017 |



| 2021 | Chevrolet | Tahoe Z71 | 14,918 |
|------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 2021 | Jeep | Wrangler Rubicon | 2,594 |
| 2021 | Kia | Telluride S | 8,173 |
| 2021 | Toyota | Highlander | 1,996 |
| 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 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Tahoe LT | 46,162 |
| 2019 | GMC | Yukon XL Denali | 63,696 |
| 2019 | Land Rover | Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic | 37,751 |
| 2018 | Jeep | Wrangler Unlimited Sport S | 35,240 |
| 2018 | Volkswagen | Atlas 3.6L V6 SE | 71,947 |
| 2017 | Toyota | RAV4 LE | 83,441 |
| 2017 | Volkswagen | Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition | 59,132 |
| 2016 | Chevrolet | Traverse LT | 59,421 |
| 2015 | Chevrolet | Traverse LS | 85,983 |
| 2015 | Jeep | Wrangler Unlimited Altitude | 39,030 |
| 2013 | Chevrolet | Equinox LT | 161,626 |
| | | | |

| TRUCKS | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|
| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | MILES |
| 2022 | Chevrolet | Silverado 3500HD High Country | 3,761 |
| 2022 | Toyota | Tacoma 4WD | 489 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD LTZ | 20,791 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss | 15,112 |



| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 LT | 35 |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 RST | 18,191 |
| 2021 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 RST | 7,681 |
| 2021 | Ford | Bronco Sport | 209 |
| 2021 | Ford | Bronco Sport | 1,201 |
| 2021 | Ram | 2500 Tradesman | 3,647 |
| 2021 | Toyota | Tacoma 4WD | 4,746 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 High Country | 22,240 |
| 2020 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 RST | 90,498 |
| 2020 | GMC | Sierra 1500 AT4 | 15,588 |
| 2020 | Ram | 2500 Longhorn Diamond | 23,286 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Colorado 4WD ZR2 | 6,685 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD Work Truck | 30,903 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD | 30,903 |
| 2019 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 High Country | 44,359 |
| 2019 | Ram | 1500 Big Horn/Lone Star | 17,208 |
| 2018 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 Custom | 104,810 |
| 2018 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 44,668 |
| 2018 | GMC | Sierra 1500 Denali | 25,059 |
| 2017 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 55,201 |
| 2017 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 61,657 |
| 2015 | GMC | Sierra 1500 SLT | 103,259 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Colorado LT w/1LT | 117,555 |
| 2011 | Chevrolet | Silverado 1500 LT | 83,857 |
| 2008 | Chevrolet | Silverado 2500HD LT w/1LT | 139,065 |
| 2008 | Ford | Super Duty F-350 DRW | 122,960 |
| 2005 | Ford | Five Hundred SEL | 106,364 |
| 2002 | Chevrolet | Avalanche | 257,555 |
| | | | |



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