

# The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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weekly

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Valentine  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
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February 10, 2022 • 24 Pages

Volume 39 Number 38

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Photo by Brittney Lofthouse

The annual Night to Shine event was held for the second year in a row on the Franklin High School track last Saturday with special guests circling the track to dozens of cheers, signs of support, and a full rodeo theme. Sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and locally Cartoogechaye Baptist Church and Discover Church, more than 50 guests participated in the "drive-thru." Cowboys and cowgirls lined the track with music playing and the Smoky Mountain High School Mustang Mascot was on hand to greet guests for pictures and a gift bag. Event organizers hope to return for in-person events next year. For more photos, see page 12.

## Town Council bestows recognitions and awards

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Significant attention was given at the start of the Feb. 7 Town of Franklin Council meeting to recognition and awards of Franklin employees, after Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order.

Captain Danny Bates, who was unable to attend the meeting, was recognized for his 30 years of service on the police force. Capt. Bates will retire on Feb. 28, 2022. Chief of Police Bill Harrell called the recognition "bittersweet" and spoke of Capt. Bates' service, noting that they served together as police officers in Franklin starting in 1993. A native of Macon County, Bates graduated from Southwestern Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Program and worked his way up the ranks, starting as a road deputy, then a patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, and eventually Captain. In 2020 he was the interim chief of police for Franklin.

"He's done a terrific job for the town," said Mayor Horton.

Recognized as the new assistant fire chief for the Franklin Fire Department was volunteer Justin Setser. He was joined

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Justin Setser was joined by his family, wife Kara and daughter Andi, as he was promoted to assistant chief of the volunteer fire department. "He serves with integrity and honor," said Fire Chief Ben Ormond.

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# COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

by his wife, Kara, and his daughter, Andi, who attended the meeting. Franklin Fire Chief Ben Ormond asserted that Setser “serves with integrity and honor.”

Setser is a Franklin native and graduate of Franklin High School and is the Town Planner for Franklin.

Bill Deal, superintendent of the Franklin sewer plant, awarded Jason Hopkins and Jake Slagle for successfully completing wastewater treatment education and training.

“We have so many great employees working for this town, and they often go unrecognized,” commented Mayor Horton. “There is somebody behind all the services making Franklin work, and people often do not get the attention they deserve.”

In the public hearing portion of the meeting, Tim Shaw, the father of two skateboarders, provided an update to the skateboard park. At last month’s meeting, members of the Franklin Town Council unanimously approved the design concept of the future skatepark that will be located on the Whitmire Property in East Franklin. Shaw explained that a GoFundMe page has generated about \$6,000 for the park, while skateboarders – through fundraising efforts – have raised more than \$3,000 for their park. Plus, Shaw indicated grants with matching funds are being explored. He pointed out that the fundraising efforts are taking place to lessen the public’s and local government’s financial burden regarding the skatepark.

Nikwasi Initiative’s executive director Elaine Eisenbraun addressed the council,



Pictured at left is Bill Deal, sewer plant superintendent, presenting Jake Slagle with a waste water treatment grade 2 award. At right, Deal presents Jason Hopkins with a waste water treatment grade 4 award - for successfully completing education and training.

noting that through the collaborative efforts of the group, the initiative is moving forward to create the Noquisiyi Cultural District around the Nikwasi Mound. A focus of attention is remodeling plans for the former

Dan’s Auto Service building, which the tribe purchased in 2017 as part of the eventual development of the area. Eisenbraun indicated that architectural and engineering consultants have looked at the property, which will eventually become a heritage learning center.

“We have a long-term vision,” said Eisenbraun, “with such services as food, crafts, artists, and more in this area.” She added that the group is interested in purchasing other properties in the “triangle” space so that “it all becomes unified.”

“I support what’s in this plan,” said Stacy Guffey, a new member to the Council, who is a Macon County native and the director of Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center. “It’s wonderful. I just want to see the partnerships honored.”

“We are trying very hard to do that,” said Eisenbraun, “and there is always room for improvement.”

The Nikwasi Initiative is made up of tribal members of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, representatives of Franklin Town Council and Macon County, members of Mainspring Conservation Trust, and members of the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center.

In other business, a proposal for basic law enforcement training was approved.

“In an effort to remain competitive in the recruitment of police officers for the Town of Franklin, the Town Council considered and approved a proposal to financially invest in candidates for Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). By doing so, the Franklin Police Department has the opportunity to build a solid candidate pool to assist in filling vacancies within the department,” said Town Manager Amie Owens.

The next Council meeting is Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

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# Board discusses referendum to increase sales tax

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

The Macon County Board of Commissioners held its annual budget kickoff meeting on Thursday to begin the process of prioritizing needs and services to be funded in the county's nearly \$60 million budget.

At the top of the board's priority list sits infrastructure improvements for schools across Macon County. From the need for a new preschool space at Highlands School to a completely new facility to house Franklin High School, the needs across the district are many – and costly.

As a possibility to generate additional funding for the needed projects now and in the future, Macon County Manager Derek Roland said the board can move forward with consideration of a sales tax increase, with revenues specifically designated for education.

North Carolina offers individual counties the option to increase the 6.75 percent statewide sales tax to an even 7 percent, with all revenues from the extra quarter-cent going back to the county — the base 6.75 percent sales tax is shared between the county and state.

In Jackson County, nearly two-thirds of Jackson County voters voted in favor of a referendum question allowing the county to increase the county's sales tax by one fourth of a cent in 2016. The measure increased the county's sales tax from 6.75 to 7 percent and is expected to generate an additional \$1.2 million a year for the county.

According to Roland, the increase to sales tax in Macon County would generate an additional \$1.7 million that would be earmarked for schools.

When Jackson approved the measure in 2016, they became the 28th of 100 counties to adopt the extra quarter-cent, joining its neighbor Haywood County. Since 2016, the number of North Carolina counties with the tax has nearly doubled with 46 of the state's 100 counties implementing the tax.

As it stands, funding for the school system, including capital outlay projects and infrastructure needs, are funded out of the county's general budget, which is funded through the county's property taxes, meaning Macon County landowners and homeowners pay the bill. Neighboring counties like Jackson County, and Rabun County, Georgia, have taken a different approach to funding school needs by approving an education specific sales tax that generates revenue for infrastructure needs. Rather than raising property tax rates to generate additional revenue from property owners, a sales tax revenue would mean anyone shopping in Macon County and paying a sales tax, would be funding the school improvements, rather than just residents.

Sales tax is often rounded up to 7 percent already, and those dollars get rolled into the redistribution of sales tax across the state. Out of the 6.75 percent sales tax, less than 3 percent is currently returned to the county. An education specific 1/4 of a penny tax would be guaranteed to Macon County each year.

The sales tax would not be across the board and Article 46 comes with significant exemptions such as medications,

**FAQs About 1/4 Cent Sales Tax**

**IS A SALES TAX DIFFERENT FROM PROPERTY TAX?**  
 PROPERTY TAXES ARE ASSESSED BASED ON THE VALUE OF PROPERTY YOU OWN, WHILE SALES TAXES ARE GENERATED FROM MONETARY TRANSACTIONS. BY DESIGN, THE ADDED ONE-QUARTER OF ONE-CENT SALES AND USE TAX WILL ALLOW NON-PROPERTY OWNERS, AS WELL AS THOSE TRAVELING TO MACON COUNTY TO SHOP OR MAKE PURCHASES, TO HELP SHARE THE BURDEN OF FUNDING LOCAL SCHOOL PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

**IF APPROVED BY VOTERS, WHAT WOULD THE EFFECT BE ON THE TAXPAYER?**  
 THE CURRENT COMBINED STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX RATE FOR MACON COUNTY IS 6.75% OR SIX AND THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENT FOR A \$1.00 PURCHASE. IF APPROVED BY VOTERS, THE RATE WOULD CHANGE TO 7%. THE EFFECT OF THE ADDITIONAL ONE-QUARTER (1/4c) SALES AND USE TAX IS 25 CENTS ON A \$100 PURCHASE.

**HOW DOES THE ADDITION OF A 1/4c SALES TAX COMPARE TO THE SALES TAX IN NEIGHBORING COUNTIES?**  
 MACON COUNTY CITIZENS ARE CURRENTLY PAYING THE ADDITIONAL ONE QUARTER CENT SALES TAX WHEN SHOPPING IN THE NEARBY COUNTIES OF JACKSON, SWAIN, GRAHAM, CHEROKEE, CLAY, HAYWOOD, MADISON, BUNCOMBE COUNTIES NC AND RABUN COUNTY, GA, WHICH ALL HAVE A 7% SALES TAX RATE. SHOPPING IN THOSE COUNTIES, YOU ARE HELPING TO FUND THEIR SCHOOLS, WHILE NOT DOING THE SAME IN MACON COUNTY.

**HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE RAISED THROUGH THIS TAX?**  
 THE MACON COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES, BASED ON CURRENT SALES TAX FIGURES, THAT THE ONE FOURTH OF A PENNY SALES AND USE TAX WOULD GENERATE APPROXIMATELY \$1.7 MILLION ANNUALLY.

**WHO CAN PUT THIS REFERENDUM ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT?**  
 THE MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC, CAN ADD A PROPOSED ONE-QUARTER OF ONE-CENT SALES AND USE TAX TO THE BALLOT IN 2022.

gasoline, certain agricultural supplies, motor vehicles, and groceries.

In order for Macon County to consider the quarter cent sales tax increase, the Macon County Board of Commissioners would have to vote to put the referendum on the ballot for voters to either approve or deny. By state statute, the entire quarter cent sales tax would be returned to the county in which it was generated, while the majority of sales tax collected in the county is disbursed to other counties in the state.

Sales tax varies significantly from property taxes. In Macon County, a one penny increase to property tax would generate about \$850,000 in revenue for the county budget. This increase would only impact property owners in Macon County. So property owners would be footing the bill for the increase to fund educational needs — whereas everyone who spends money contributes to the sales tax generated in Macon County. A 1/4 cent sales tax increase in Macon County would generate about \$1,700,000 annually for the county.

To contact Macon County about the possibility of commissioners considering a referendum on the November ballot to provide a tax specific for education, contact County Manager Derek Roland at [droland@maconnc.org](mailto:droland@maconnc.org) or (828) 349-2000.



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# Officer files lawsuit against Franklin Police Dept., Town of Franklin

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Franklin Police Department Officer Randy Dula has worked for the department since August 2017 and during that time, department stats show that he is responsible for 42 percent of the department's total citations, 27 percent of the department's total arrests and 65 percent of all drug charges brought by the department. Those stats are for charges, not convictions, however. In a lawsuit filed last month with the Macon County Clerk of Superior Court, Jeffery Warren and Michelle Liquori, Raleigh-based attorneys, allege that Dula has been treated unfairly by the police department.

On Jan. 18, the attorneys filed a lawsuit on behalf of Dula and claims that during his tenure with the department, Dula has been passed over for several promotions within the department — which allegedly violates the Town of Franklin's Personnel Policy.

The lawsuit has been filed by the attorneys representing Dula, however, the Raleigh-based law firm has not served Chief Bill Harrell or the town of Franklin with the suit. Because the suit has not been served, the parties are not able to comment on the matter at this time.

Specifically focusing on the last five years, the lawsuit alleges that Dula has been one of the most "productive" officers and is responsible for 30 percent of the department's total workload.

According to the town's personnel policy, "when vacancies occur, the Human Resources Officer shall publicize these opportunities for employment, including applicable salary information and employment qualifications."

In his suit against the town of Franklin and Franklin Police Chief Bill Harrell, Dula claims a newly established narcotics

detective position was not posted or otherwise advertised to the Franklin Police Department as a whole before Sgt. Matthew Pellicer was promoted to the position. Sgt. Pellicer has worked for the department since March 6, 2001.

While Dula's lawsuit names current police Chief Bill Har-



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Franklin Police Department

rell and the current town of Franklin administration... seeking more than \$25,000 in damages, the narcotics position in question was originally discussed and created by former Chief David Adams and former Town Manager Summer Woodard. Chief Harrell was sworn in on June 1 and filled the vacant position by promoting Sgt. Pellicer.

According to the lawsuit, additional promotional opportunities became available even after the narcotics position was filled, all of which were awarded to other members of the de-

partment and not Dula — and Dula claims those positions were also not properly advertised. The positions mentioned in the suit include a new lieutenant position, two sergeant positions, a K9 position, a Captain position, and a first sergeant position.

While the lawsuit notes the town of Franklin's hiring policy, it does not address that the Town of Franklin is also an "at-will" employer. At-will means that an employer can terminate an employee at any time for any reason, except an illegal one, or for no reason without incurring legal liability. At-will also means that an employer can change the terms of the employment relationship with no notice and no consequences. For example, an employer can alter wages, terminate benefits, or reduce paid time off.

The Town of Franklin's personnel policy also specifically outlines how appointments should be handled during an application process: "Before any commitment is made to an applicant either internal or external, the Appointing Authority shall make recommendations to the Human Resources Officer including the position to be filled, the salary to be paid, and the reasons for selecting the candidate over other candidates. The Human Resources Officer and department head shall recommend approval of appointments and the starting salary for all applicants to the Appointing Authority.

"After an investigation of the qualifications of the applicants the department head and Human Resources Officer shall recommend the most qualified candidate to the Town Manager for appointment. The department head and/or Human Resources Officer shall document reasons why the successful candidate was selected, the classification of the position to be filled, and the recommended salary. Appointments of part time employees may be filled by department heads with the approval of the Human Resources Officer."

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## Firm is analyzing cost comparisons between building or renovating FHS

**Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer**

Looking ahead at the 2022-2023 budget year, the Macon County Board of Commissioners received an update from LS3P, the architectural firm contracted to conduct a full analysis of renovations to Franklin High School to bring it up to a 50-year standard.

While LS3P representatives are determining the cost and feasibility of renovating each building on the Franklin High School campus, the renovation analysis is just a step in the design process.

With significant costs associated with the project, the firm is comparing the possibility of renovations with the construction of a new high school, which is still very much an option.

Franklin High School was built in the early 1950s and has had substantial issues over the last decade, with the school board and county commissioner pouring in funding every year to keep the school operational. From new windows to security upgrades like fencing and cameras, every year maintenance projects at Franklin High School claim a significant portion of the school district's capital outlay funds.

In addition to an analysis of each building, LS3P is also in the process of finalizing an estimated \$14 million design plan for renovating the Franklin High School football field to address drainage issues that have plagued the field for years. With a creek running under the property, the field has continuously battled flooding, ground repairs and maintenance issues. The design plans will include a complete renovation and rebuild to fix the un-

derlying issues and then bring the field up to meet the county's expectations.

Once LS3P completes their analysis and provides their findings to the county, the county will then move forward with funding options and future proposals to address the need for a new Franklin High School facility. With both the renovation or rebuild estimated to cost well over \$50 million,



Photo by Vickie Carpenter

Security upgrades and fencing at Franklin High School were among recent expenditures incurred in the past few years.

county commissioners are tasked with the hefty burden of securing funding for such a substantial project while also maintaining the other services and programs operating across Macon County.



# 'Green' event stabilizes eroding river banks

Deena C. Bouknight  
Contributing Writer

Along nearby rivers are eroding banks caused by not only development, but agriculture – and especially livestock. Because a variety of natural and manmade disturbances can often lead to unhealthy streams due to elimination of plant life, live staking provides an opportunity to reverse the effects. On Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Clean and Green event will offer anyone interested an opportunity to participate in live staking along the Tuckasegee River.



Mainspring's Rachel Newcomb participated in a recent live staking event, making sure cuttings of trees are planted to help keep river banks from eroding.

"Mainspring Conservation Trust [sponsors of the event] supports live staking efforts because it is an affordable, efficient, and simple way to have a positive impact on stream restoration," said Rachel Newcomb, Conservation Outreach Associate. "Last year was the first year we partnered with the N.C. Wildlife Federation's Clean and Green program for two separate tree planting and live staking events, and we're proud to be doing this again this year."

Newcomb said that live staking is necessary because river and stream banks that experience erosion disturbances are often left bare and without a strong root mass in the soil. And, without plants and roots, soil particles can wash away during high waters, heavy rains, and snow melts. Some of the results are: sediment pollution in the water, loss of land, and unsightly eroded banks.

"The relatively low-cost process of live staking reintroduces plant life in areas that need it most," explained Newcomb. "Stem cuttings are taken from surrounding already thriving trees, during their dormant season before the buds break in the spring, and the cuttings are inserted directly into stream banks. These cuttings are the 'live stakes' that will

eventually grow into new trees, which will hold onto the soil and keep it from washing away so easily."

Volunteers will be harvesting, or clipping, live stakes from trees and inserting them into the ground with the assistance and guidance of representatives from Mainspring and Darnell Farms, an agro-tourism farm along the banks of the Tuckasegee River in Bryson City.

"Volunteers will be assisting with live staking and can be prepared to do this by showing up in outdoor workwear-appropriate clothing and bringing gloves and water with them," said Newcomb. "Live staking is a kid-friendly event so children are welcome. We will be working along a canal area in an agricultural-use field in particular to stabilize the bank area on both sides."

In addition to the Feb. 16 event, Mainspring is hosting a tree planting event on March 10 in Cherokee County.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help live stake for Clean and Green must register at [mainspringconserves.org/events](http://mainspringconserves.org/events). Volunteers who sign up will be contacted about the Feb. 16 opportunity.

## Applications sought for community funding pool

Macon County non-profit organizations have until Feb. 28, 2022, to apply for county funds allocated in the county's current fiscal year budget, through the Macon County Community Funding Pool (CFP). Application forms and instructions are available on the Macon County website, [www.maconnc.org](http://www.maconnc.org), or may be picked up at the Macon County Public Library on Siler Farm Road in Franklin, the Hudson Library in Highlands, and the Nantahala Public Library.

Organizations applying for CFP funds must provide financial statements such as budgets and federal tax-exempt reports, organization goals and objectives, and program/service de-

scriptions. First-time applicants must contact Karen Wallace, 524-3600, or Bobbie Contino, 342-7872, to discuss their proposal. Groups not incorporated as nonprofits may enlist an established nonprofit to serve as their fiscal agent. Collaborative agency proposals are encouraged to leverage limited funding and to share resources.

The CFP Task Force is composed of citizens chosen by the Board of Commissioners to consider applications and make recommendations to the Board, who make final funding decisions. The Community Funding Pool is a separate entity from the Macon County Community Foundation.

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## What's new on the plateau

**Patrick Taylor**  
Highlands Mayor

I attended a ZOOM meeting last week concerning racial equity and approaches to policing.

The police chief from Jacksonville, N.C., gave a comprehensive presentation concerning his department's community policing initiatives.

The chief addressed the challenge of recruiting qualified personnel to fill the ranks. He stated that given recent events fewer people are interested in becoming law enforcement officers. He stressed that potential candidates had to have the basic education, at least a high school diploma, to apply. Applicants also have to have the correct psychological and emotional temperament to be an officer. In addition, candidates must have at least average intelligence and be able to pass strenuous psychical requirements. Finally, a prospective officer has to have a clean criminal record free of drug or DWI convictions. If all of these criteria are met, recruits will go through a basic law enforcement training program for six months in order to be certified.

The chief said these requirements made it challenging to recruit and maintain force levels. I talked with our Chief Holland who agreed about the recruiting challenges. She emphasized that members of our force participate in continuing education and training programs.

After hearing the presentation, I realized the issue of recruiting and maintaining staff levels for any municipal department is now, more than ever, a challenge. Some of the basic standards for recruiting law enforcement officers apply to hiring all town employees. Employees must have a clean record, and for the most part hold certifications or licensure in their work fields.

All of these factors have rapidly impacted staffing at our sewer plant. Sewer operators must hold operator licenses. We have always met these state requirements. Currently, sewer plant operators are in high demand nationally.

We lost one Level 4 operator who had joined us about three years ago. He recently moved back to an area closer to his family. Another operator went to another municipality, and one worker left our employment. The town vigorously advertised and tried to find replacements.

The last licensed worker who has been with the town for 40 years, Howard Brown, recently announced his



Patrick Taylor

Continued on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

### We need to support our local law enforcement

Because of the most recent and past deadly attacks against our law enforcement officers all over the country; I want to see this kind of lawless behavior treated as a federal offense.

Any kind of physical assault to any law enforcement officer shall have an automatic five-year sentence in a federal prison, only one appeal and no parole.

If you are convicted of murdering a law enforcement officer, you will be sentenced to death by hanging.

Only a severe consequence will be an effective deterrent to these types of crime. Either support law enforcement or move to one of the "criminal friendly" cities such as New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, where you will fit in just fine.

If you think this is over the top, then you join the force and put your life on the line every day. The only experience I have had in law enforcement was being in the Military Police while serving in U.S. Navy 60 years ago, which does not compare to civil law enforcement at all.

Fellow citizens we need to show our appreciation to our North Carolina law enforcement officers by giving a tip of your hat or thumbs up for protecting us and our community.

May God bless all of those who serve now and those who served in the past.

John Nord – Franklin, N.C.

### Trump has transformed GOP into nonsensical cult

Almost from the moment WWII ended we have watched in horror as one dictator after another forced their people into submission never imagining such a calamitous circumstance could occur in the United States of America.

The thought of that improbability is no more. Visions of our own leaders cowering under their desks in our own Capitol (the "People's House") a little over one year ago alerted us not just to the possibility but the likelihood we face a genuine threat from inside our own country.

We have viewed, ad nauseam, for over a year, the replay of what amounted to a presidential coup or (at the very least) a failed attempt to undermine the electoral process which many members of Congress seemed to embrace even as it put their own lives in grave danger.

The former president sabotaged public confidence in our electoral process by making it clear long before the election was even held that he would not accept the results if he lost (one of the very few promises he kept). His futile attempt to subvert the certification of the Electoral College results incited the deadly attack on the United States Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump's activities surrounding the insurrection present religious leaders and Trump's Christian following quite a

dilemma. They have to decide whether or not to endorse Trump's coup attempt, stand behind the "Big Lie," and foster his commitment to anti-democratic practices (which include), an armed attempt to overthrow the U.S. government.

Their alternative (obviously) is to recognize the true results of the election, support the orderly transfer of power in our constitutional democracy thereby acknowledging "God's President" was a liar, a scam artist, and a major player in the attempt to overturn a free and fair election he lost by over seven million votes. Their decision is still pending.

For the rest of us, the nightmare is not over. We have every reason to be concerned – I defer to Barton Gellman who succinctly declared in *The Atlantic* – "Technically, the next attempt to overthrow a national election may not qualify as a coup. It will rely on subversion more than violence, although each will have its place." If laws presently being pursued by Republican legislatures across the U.S. are passed, ballots cast by voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Votes could be discarded, the winner could be declared the loser and the loser certified president-elect. That will mark the end of American democracy.

In a functioning democracy (which many of us are old enough to recall having lived in) a grand-standing, opportunistic, narcissistic demagogue like Trump would have been long since judged a once-in-a-lifetime kind of miscreant and deemed most certainly unworthy of the exalted office of president of the United States. His ridiculous and corrosive lies distorting and demeaning everything that we once valued in America, and cherished by freedom-loving citizens around the globe, would be enough to disqualify and bar him from any political consideration.

However, somehow, for reasons yet to be clearly defined, Trump has managed (and in a relatively short period of time) to transform a once highly valued and principled political party into some kind of unethical, discredited, nonsensical cult.

Whether America and American democracy can (in a world as chaotic, unpredictable and demanding as ours) weather and outlast Donald Trump's unparalleled assault on our way of life remains to be seen.

David Snell – Franklin, N.C.

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

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### Americans have been brainwashed for too long

As the collectivist herd celebrates the man Abe Lincoln this Saturday, February 12, lovers of truth are reminded that he ruined many of America's most sacred institutions and set our society on a destructive path; the fruits of which we are reaping today with chaotic centralized government, loss of freedom, and societal division... Lincoln and the radical Republicans of his day are responsible for ending what America's founders so wisely structured our nation as sovereign, independent States that did not answer to Washington DC. Ever heard of the 9th and 10th Amendments? It is ironic that within this particular month (so-called Black History Month) where the real racists want to elevate someone's skin pigment over another rather than seeing us all as individuals, that those same people cheer a scheming political hack who had obvious disdain for the Negro race. I suppose this is a testament of sorts to the generations of lies and propaganda perpetrated by the Lincoln cult about the founding father of American statism, militarism, empire building, crony capitalism, bureaucratic centralization, and never-ending political deception. Lincoln was an evil man and the likes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson would have been ashamed of him as all true patriots should be today.

Long before Lincoln realized the advantage of using the slavery issue against his enemies, his own words and actions clearly support that he advocated for the deportation of all black people, he announced that he favored a "superior position" in society for white people, argued for "the separation of the races" and the outlawing of inter-racial marriage, he declared that the U.S. government was "for the white people" only, championed "black codes" that stripped black people of citizenship, opposed "making voters or jurors of Negroes," constantly used derogatory racial slurs behind closed doors when referring to black people, wanted large sections of the U.S. reserved for white people only, and strongly supported the Fugitive Slave Act. As a lawyer he never defended a runaway slave but did defend a slave owner (Robert Matson) who sought to regain his five runaway slaves. Lincoln was the original bigoted white supremacist, yet revisionist history has made him the poster boy for an all-powerful tyrannical government. Besides deluded useful idiots who promote his lie, Lincoln's documented admirers include Marx, Lenin,

Stalin, Hitler, and Obama because Lincoln used deadly force against his own countrymen to beat them into submission.

I guess so-called social justice will be served if the corrupted Black Lives Matter movement succeeds in getting Lincoln's mug shot off the penny, tearing down the Lincoln Memorial, blasting his image from Mount Rushmore, and getting others to do the same to the hundreds, or thousands, of Lincoln statues and memorials that cover the American landscape. These are all American versions of Russia's old Lenin and Stalin statues, the sole purpose of which is always to sanctify and deify the state and excuse or justify all of its crimes. This will never happen, of course, because the vast majority of Americans have been brainwashed for too long and fools have come to "revere the chains that bind them" as Voltaire so famously said.

For further documented historical truth, I suggest reading "The Real Lincoln" by Thomas DiLorenzo; "The South Was Right" by James and Walter Kennedy, or simply do a study on the proposed Corwin Amendment that the Northern radicals offered the Southern States to keep funneling tariff money to the North. The Corwin Amendment (again, suggested by the North!) would have enshrined slavery into the U.S. Constitution as a permanent and legal institution, but the South said, NO because their rightful secession was not about slavery.

Finally, Lincoln did not free the slaves as we have been erroneously taught. If his famous politically motivated proclamation actually did so in 1863, then why did our country need to adopt the 13th amendment in 1865? Lincoln did not even lift a finger to help get the Thirteenth Amendment through Congress to constitutionally end slavery, contrary to the tall tales and fables of the court historians, and the silly movie about Lincoln by Steven Spielberg. Also, from what location did the trading ships originate and what flag flew on those terrible ships that sailed back and forth to Africa purchasing slaves that had been sold into bondage by their own kinsmen? Hint: the answers are NOT Southern ports or the Confederate flag. To truly and fully know history is essential to accurately understanding current times.

Jim Gaston - Franklin, N.C.

## Internet Service Providers encouraged to apply for \$350 million in GREAT Grants by April 4

Qualified internet service providers and electric membership cooperatives providing internet service can now apply for up to \$350 million in grants to expand broadband infrastructure in North Carolina and get more people connected to high-speed internet. Funds from the federal American Rescue Plan are being used to provide the largest ever round of Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grants available in North Carolina.

"High-speed internet is critical for North Carolinians to be able to work, learn, run a business or access healthcare," Governor Roy Cooper said. "We want all communities in our state to have these opportunities and this round of grants is an important step toward closing the digital divide, especially in rural areas."

The grants are part of Governor Cooper's plan to give 95% of North Carolina households access to broadband of 100/20 Mbps by expanding access and addressing issues of affordability and digital literacy.

Applications for the spring 2022 award period will be accepted through April 4. An information session for ap-

plicants will be held Feb. 10. Additional details can be found at [www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal](http://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal).

Administered by the N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, the GREAT Grant program provides matching grants to broadband providers and electric membership cooperatives that compete for funding to expand access to high-speed internet service to unserved areas of all counties across the state.

"Since the GREAT Grant program launched in 2018, the state has invested nearly \$56 million matched by more than \$35 million from private investors to connect more than 40,000 households and businesses to broadband," said NCDIT Secretary and State Chief Information Officer James Weaver. "We look forward to expanding those partnerships to extend high-speed internet access to more households in unserved areas."

For more information about the NCDIT Division of Broadband and Digital Equity and the GREAT Grant program, please visit <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/>.

## TAYLOR

From previous page

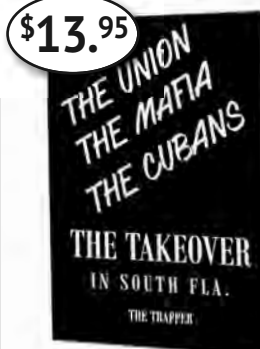
retirement. His impending retirement leaves Highlands with no personnel to operate the plant.

We will now enter into a three-year contract with Environmental, Inc. out of Sylva to operate the plant. Their personnel meet all state requirements. Environmental will provide a licensed operator five days a week and have an operator on call after hours. The contract will actually decrease plant operating costs.

Environmental, Inc. provides the same services to several Western North Carolina municipalities. Area municipalities have encountered the same issues in recruiting operators.

During the contract period we will strive to recruit people who could apprentice and become licensed operators. The licensing process to where an employee can operate the plant takes about three years complete.

Congratulations to Howard Brown on retirement and his 40 years of service to the town. Howard has been making a significant commute to serve Highlands. I know he will enjoy this new chapter in his life.



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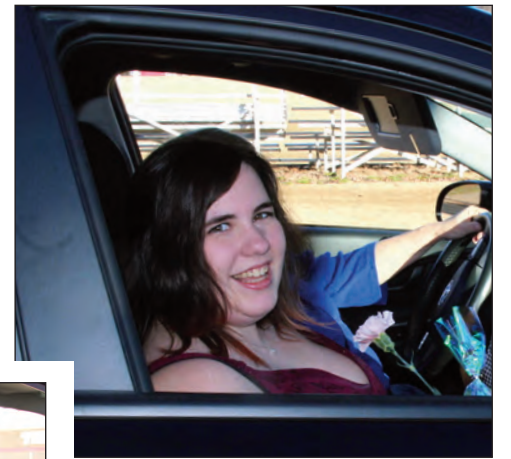
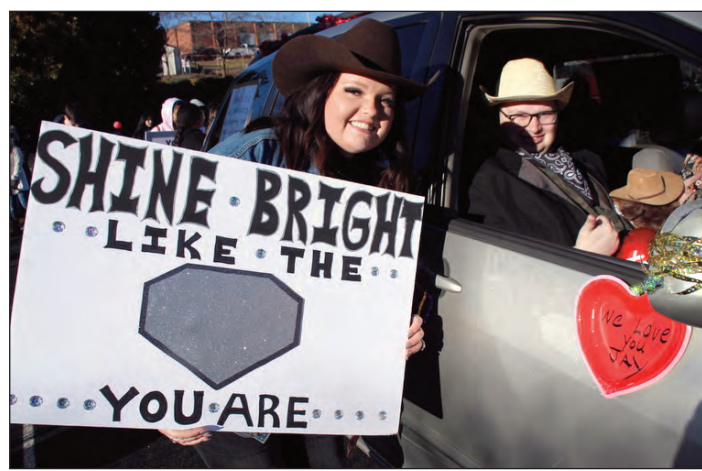
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# NIGHT *to* Shine



Photos by Ellen Randall



# Honeysuckle Bakery moves to Main Street

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Brandie Thompson always dreamed of owning a bakery. Even though she worked for at least 20 years as a mammographer and X-ray technician, she baked for her family and others using cherished recipes passed down to her by her grandmother, Barbara Hummel.

Thompson, a Franklin native, experienced her dream come true just before the pandemic put a halt to indoor gatherings. She opened Honeysuckle Bakeshop in the Palmer Street Mall area in December 2019. By April 2020, the new bakery's doors had to close for the Covid quarantine, but Thompson said she was selling her baked goods again by mid-May and has been busy since then. However, the off-the-beaten-track location of the shop meant traffic was often dictated by word-of-mouth. When owners of Life's Bounty Café on Main Street decided to close after more than a decade in business, Thompson jumped on the chance to move Honeysuckle Bakehouse into the spot.

"The opportunity for more visibility made sense," she said. "We didn't have a whole lot of foot traffic in the other location."

Thompson and her "huge support," husband Jamie, purchased Life's Bounty's equipment and began the work of updating and refreshing the space's interior. Friends and family



When Life's Bounty bakery closed its doors recently after being in operation for more than a decade, Honeysuckle Bakery moved into the space on Main Street. Proprietor and baker Brandie Thompson is now serving all house-made pastries, breads, and more.

bake more. Thompson said she is already taking pre-orders on Valentine baked goods.

The bakery/café offers lunch and baked goods. Lunch might consist of chicken salad or pimento cheese on croissants or fresh-baked bread. Specialty quiches will also be available daily.

Sweets will include "the most popular," red velvet cake cupcakes, made using her grandmother's recipe, as well as the equally appealing carrot cake cupcakes. In fact, several different flavors of cupcakes will fill glass displays. And, brownies, cookies, pies, eclairs, and more are also planned as daily offerings.

"Everything we have here is made from scratch," she said. "Even the croissants, which are labor intensive, and at least two kinds of bread, white and cinnamon, to start with. But we will be expanding bread options."

For the new location, Thompson hired additional employees for the kitchen and front-of-house. Additional employees may be necessary for busy summer months, she noted.

Thompson said she is excited to open on Main Street and does not miss working in the health field.

"I've worked harder than I've ever worked having a bakery, but I love it and wouldn't change it. I'm able to be more flexible for my 12-year-old daughter's schedule, handle custom orders, and try new things. Everything has just fallen into place. I can't wait to open and see people happy and enjoying what we make here."



volunteered their time to paint, clean, move equipment, and whatever need to be done. Even the couple's church pastor, Cartoogechaye Church of God's Eddie Brewer, helped paint. Jamie works full-time in another field but assists at Honeysuckle Bakehouse on his days off.

Honeysuckle Bakehouse opened this week and sold out most everything before noon and headed back to the kitchen to

# Cooperative Extension is offering workshops

Starting and managing a blueberry patch

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on how to establish and maintain your blueberry patch. This event will be held online Tuesday Feb. 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via zoom.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing blueberries or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more.

For more information, go to [macon.ces.ncsu.edu](http://macon.ces.ncsu.edu) or contact the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349-2049 or e-mail Christy Bredenkamp at [clbreden@ncsu.edu](mailto:clbreden@ncsu.edu).



Establishing and maintaining a blueberry patch includes pruning during the dormant season.

Upcoming Shiitake Mushroom Workshop

The Master Gardener Association of Macon County will be holding a Shiitake mushroom hands on learning workshop for homeowners who desire to grow Shiitake for additional income as an alternative agricultural crop or simply for personal consumption. This workshop will be held on Saturday Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Environmental Resource Center located 1624 Lakeside Dr., Franklin.

Macon County Extension Director Christy Bredenkamp will cover all aspects of Shiitake mushroom production and will include a "hands on" experience where individuals will inoculate and bring home their own logs. For demonstration purposes, participants are asked to bring two logs cut in the dormant season (Nov-March) preferably red, white or scarlet oak that are 3"-6" inches in diameter, 4 ft. long and with bark intact free from bare or diseased spots. The presence of lichen or moss is fine. Workshop fee is \$35.

For more information or to register, contact the Macon Extension Center at (828)349-2049 or e-mail [clbreden@ncsu.edu](mailto:clbreden@ncsu.edu).



A menu board lists the day's specials and prices.

Photos by Betsey Gooder

# Arrest Report

*The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests January 30 - February 6. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## Macon County Sheriff's Department

### February 1

Tyler Johnathan Thurman, was charged with larceny by employee. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

### February 2

Micala Cheyenne Taylor, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, maintaining a place for a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, altered/steal/destruction of criminal evidence and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Jay Wright made the arrest.

Kristian Alexander Dreml, was charged with failure to appear for breaking and entering a motor vehicle and larceny. Jay Wright made the arrest.

### February 3

Dustin Edward Harvey, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Jamie Patrick Oneal, was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

John Hoyt Atkinson, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Ronald Lee Wickham, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

### February 4

Gary Edmond Deetz, was charged with larceny by an employee. Lieutenant Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Cameron Lee Peek, was charged with aggravated assault on a handicapped person. Timothy B. Carter made the arrest.

### February 5

Amy Morgan Smith, was charged with trafficking opium or heroin. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

Hannah Elizabeth Erdman, was charged with failure to appear for consume alcohol by 19/20 year old. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Nicholai Lamb, was charged with failure to appear for possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

Dustin Edward Harvey, was charged with failure to appear. Lieutenant Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Elizabeth Claire Cook, was issued warrant service for of-

fense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

### February 6

Rachel Jewel Urrutia, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after break/enter and injury to personal property. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

Brandon Alan Hanson, was charged with assault on a female. Corporal James E. Crawford III made the arrest.

## Franklin Police Department

### January 30

Robert David Burch, was issued an order for arrest for breaking and entering. R. S. Dula made the arrest.

Bryan Draven Burch, was issued an order for arrest for probation violation and resist/delay/obstruct. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

### January 31

Callee Suzanne Bowman, was charged with misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. A.R. Holland made the arrest.

### February 3

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

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

## Jackson County Sheriff's Department

### January 31

Darren Ray Carter, 32, of Molasses Mountain Rd., was charged with first degree trespass. No bond was set. Hunter M. Karup made the arrest.

### February 1

Whisper Nicole Cogdill, 28, of Pee Wee Branch Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear for maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance and trafficking in methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Hunter Alexander Morgan, 27, of East Sylva Circle, was charged with civil contempt for child support purge. A secured bond of \$888 was set. Dustin L. Bishop made the arrest.

### February 2

Jeffery Lopez Irizarry, 43, of Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. A secured bond of \$200,000 was set. Tyler B. Bryson made the arrest.

Joshua Clifford Marks, 43, of Nutmeg Lane, was charged with failure to appear for operate a vehicle with no insurance, expired registration card/tag and driving while license

revoked. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

### February 3

Joshua Cameron Cope, 30, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for possession of open container alcohol in the passenger area of a motor vehicle, consume alcoholic beverage off premises permit, driving while license revoked, operate vehicle with no insurance, drive/allow motor vehicle no registration, expired registration card/tag, expired/no inspection, speeding, driving while license revoked and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,500 was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

Edgar Ellis Bingham, 48, of Dellwood Dr., was charged with breaking and or entering, communicating threats and injury to personal property. No bond was set. Jesse L. Henkel made the arrest.

### February 4

Richard Steven Willis, 38, of Country Rd., Cashiers, was Failure to appear for failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond of \$30,000 was set. Jesse L. Aiken made the arrest.

Kimberly Marie Cates, 29, of Sylva, was issued an order for arrest for probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

David Robert Green, 24, of Rathbone Dr., Bryson City, was charged with crimes against nature. No bond was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

### February 5

Rickie Ray Clyburn, 50, of Brightwood Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set. Dustin L. Bishop made the arrest.

### February 6

Jorge Mendoza Villeda, 26, of Derby Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. Michael T. Smathers made the arrest.

Katrina Lynn Cook, 34, of Dawn View, Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for larceny, injury to personal property, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. William M. Hawkins made the arrest.

Frederick Earl Stillwell, 22, of Pecan Dr., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor probation violation, misdemeanor larceny, possession of stolen goods/property and possession drug paraphernalia. A secured bond of \$12,000 was set. Robert E. Porter made the arrest.

Isaac Climbingbear, 32, of Charlie Johnson Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

Christian Chandler Bonin, 22, of Brigadoon Branch, Whittier, was charged with probation violation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set. Trevor K. Baldwin made the arrest.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Big Sober Bowl Event for the Big Game** at Clayton Cafe & Market, 50 Main St., Clayton, Ga., Sunday, Feb. 13, Doors open at 3:30 p.m.; meeting at 4 p.m.; Pre-Game Show at 5 p.m.; Big Game Watch at 6:30 p.m. Live music, game day food. Open to the public. For info, email [tracy@thearkrabun.org](mailto:tracy@thearkrabun.org).

**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, Celebrate with Handmade Cards Class, Saturday, February 16, 1-3 pm., at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

**The Biggest Sober Event for the Super Bowl** will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Clayton Cafe & Market, 50 Main St., Clayton. For more information, call (713)240-4931.

**Macon County Art Association membership** will meet on Sunday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m. at the Uptown Gallery, 30 E Main Street, Franklin. All are welcome. For more information call (828) 349-4607.

**Enhancing Mental Health with Alternative Treatments** free event will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library. This course is designed for both care providers and recipients. It looks at alternative treatments and practice modalities and their impact on mental health for people managing a mental illness and/or their caregivers to help create balance. The main topics of this course will be Color, Music, and Nutrition. Facilitated by the Vaya Health GERO team. Registration required at [vaya-health.com](http://vaya-health.com) or call the library at (828)524-3600.

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

**Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers** whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

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

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

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

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

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

**Franklin Alcoholics Anonymous** In-person meetings with Covid 19 preventive measures are held on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at No Wrong Door, 102 Thomas Heights Rd.; Sunday at 1 p.m., Monday, Wednes-

day and Friday, 5:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 66 Harrison Ave.; Tuesday, 8 a.m., Thursday, noon at St. Agnes Episcopal Church on 66 Church St.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd. On-line meeting information is available by visiting [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org). or to speak with a member of A.A., call (828)349-4357.

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

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

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

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

**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. 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.

**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](mailto: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. Services are free and confidential. For more information or an appointment, call (828)349-3200, (828)293-3600 or [smccc.org](http://smccc.org)

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spiritual Light Center on Sunday**, Feb. 13, 11 a.m. Melody Cooper will share on "Fluidity." 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](http://SpiritualLightCenter.com).

**First Alliance Church** Sunday Service is held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, Feb. 13, Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on "Knowing Love." 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.

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

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

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

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

**Memorial United Methodist Church** Worship Services in person and on Facebook at 11 a.m. every Sunday. 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. First Wednesday night of each month is Prayer and Worship beginning at 7 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane, off Addington Bridge Road. Phone: (828)369-3885.

**SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22**

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# Age-old craft of quilting still alive and well in Macon County

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Quilting, the act of stitching together layers of fabric and filler material, is a heritage craft of Western North Carolina and it has perpetually been practiced and appreciated in Macon County and surrounding counties for many years. For centuries, quilts were essential among settlers, colonists and Cherokee people as quilts provided a main source of warmth during chilly and frigid weather conditions. Quilts have been cherished and passed down through generations, a testament to the time and skill required to complete one.

While most members of the group Cowee Quilters have aged out and are no longer meeting at Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, the few remaining members have been absorbed by Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild of Western North Carolina, which is about 90 strong and is now calling Cowee School “home” – at least the cafeteria space – for monthly meetings and more.

The Guild’s current president, Susan Roper, said, “Our first meeting at Cowee School was in December, and Cowee School has been so welcoming.”

For about 10 years, the Guild met at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. But when Cowee School became available, the Guild’s members determined Cowee School’s focus on heritage arts and crafts provided a better fit for the Guild.

The Guild includes members from Macon, Swain, and Jackson counties. Some members also reside in North Georgia. And, although meetings stopped in March 2020 and just started back in December 2021, members have not stopped quilting and gathering informally.

Formal meetings and activities are for the benefit of members “sharing what’s going on in our quilting life,” said Roper. “We call it ‘show and tell.’ We will sometimes bring in



From left, Suzanne Wingette (seated), Linda Kocur (standing), Cathy Bischof and Pat Orr work together on quilts for children. A full schedule of meetings and events is posted on the website: <http://www.smokymtnquilters.org>, or learn more about the Guild on its Facebook page.

what we are working on or what we’ve completed and talk about the quilts.”

Guild meetings are on the second Monday of each month, at 10 a.m., in the Cowee School’s cafeteria and anyone is welcome to attend, observe, and listen to an occasional guest speaker. For example, one member plans to speak and present a “trunk show” of quilts at February’s meeting, and March will include a quilt historian from Texas who will be Zoomed in during the meeting.

“We have workshops during which we get together and work on three main projects: kids’ quilts for Macon Programs for Progress - we’ve probably provided 150 quilts a year; Quilts of Valor - our main focus is veterans and active service people and so far we’ve donated more than 1,200 quilts; and, ‘comfort quilts’ to members who are going through serious illness or

experiencing a death in the family,” shared Roper.

The Guild’s members practice all types of quilting disciplines, such as traditional, modern, pieced, appliqué, hand-made, and machine-made, and every level from beginner to expert. The Guild is also anticipating being able to host an exhibit of quilts in the fall throughout Cowee School “so the community can get to know us.”

“I did fabric crafts for years and my sister was a quilter, but I didn’t understand for a long time why anyone would want to quilt. My son lives in Carlisle, Pa., and I would visit him and see the Amish quilts in Lancaster County, Pa. Then I just decided to learn and have been hooked ever since. We have some amazing quilters in our group.”

Linda Kocur, who is expected to be the

Guild’s new president come spring, is also the current community events coordinator for Macon County. One upcoming event planned for May is the Airing of the Quilts. In the past, the event has involved quilts on display at the Franklin downtown gazebo as well as in store windows – with a raffle to win a quilt.

“Members will be available to answer questions about quilts and quilting,” said Kocur. “People get a chance to see and touch the quilts that are on display. They will be able to see not just the front, but the back as well, where the quilting actually shows up.”

Kocur has been sewing since childhood, but has been an active quilter for the last 10 years.

“Since I retired, it has been nice to do quilting and to teach sewing,” said Kocur. “When the guild is a participant at local festivals, we provide a handcraft for kids and found what they most enjoy, completing a drawstring bag on a hand-crank sewing machine. Guild members make the bags ahead of time, with the bottom left open. The kids make their choice from a large assortment of bags and on one of the two guild-owned machines, employ the hand-crank while a guild member guides the bag underneath the needle to completion. Who has more fun, the kids or those watching?”

Commented Claire Suminski, coordinator of the annual Balsam Bee at Cowee School, “I know several of these ladies. They are hard-working and talented and community minded. We could not have done [the Balsam Bee] without the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild.”

Roper pointed out that besides the Guild, other quilting groups – mostly informal and small – exist in and around Macon County. “And some of our members are also members of other groups. The main goal of the Guild is to try to spread our knowledge and love of quilting to the community. It’s one of those hand crafts that needs to be perpetuated among the younger generations.”

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# Conference Champions!

The 2021-22 Franklin High School Varsity Boy's basketball team solidified their place in Panther History after bringing home the team's first conference championship in more than a decade.

With an 89-58 win over North Henderson in the Panther Den Friday, Jan. 27, the basketball team not only won the Mountain 7 Conference Championship, the first one in 21 years, they did so after going undefeated in regular season play. Franklin won one more time after clinching the title in a blowout against the West Henderson Falcons, 74-41.

The Panthers crushed their opponents, with a 28.7 average lead per game for the season. The closest game of the season was an away game that ended with the Panthers up by four points against West Henderson, which they avenged last Friday.

The Franklin High School Lady Panthers took the Mountain 7 conference championship as well with an 10-2 record. The Lady Panthers had not won a conference championship since



The Panthers Mountain 7 Conference Championship team members are (front row, L-R) Kellen Stiles, JJ Postell, Luke Vanhook, Kehler Lamb, Chris McGuire, Josh Zoellner, Grant Adams; (back row) Max McClure, Trey Penland, Griffin Green, Cal Drake, Miles McClure, Parker Cabe and Joe Riddle.



The Lady Panthers Mountain 7 conference championship team members are (front row, L-R) Hannah Smith, Cory Burrell, Tori Ensley, Cali Queen, Karli McMahan; (back row) Andrea Terrell, Madison Gilbert, Roslynn McCollum, Sydney Williams, Helen Martin and Avery Moffitt.

1969.

The Lady Panthers first win of the season came against East Henderson in December where they won 68-9 at home. Their conference win streak continued until falling 38-35 at an away game against North Henderson on Jan. 4. The Lady Panthers went on to defeat conference rivals the Smoky Mountain Mustangs 45-43 in the first match up of the season before being handed their second and last loss so far this season against the West Henderson Falcons in a 53-45 away game, which they

avenged last Friday beating the Falcons 61-52 sealing their place in FHS hoops history.

Because both teams won their respective regular season championships, they received a bye for the first round of games for the conference tournament. The Lady Panthers will play the winner of Smoky Mountain-North Henderson at Pisgah High School Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. The men's team will play the winner of East Henderson-West Henderson at Pisgah High School Feb. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

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## Deaths & Funerals

### Malcom Fred Henry

Malcom "Mickey/Mick" Fred Henry went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Born on Dec. 9, 1936, he was the son of the late Edd and Alma Jane Barnes Henry of the Clear Creek Community, Highlands, N.C. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Betty Louise Houston Henry; two sisters, Clara Jane Henry Edens (W.T.) of Liberty, S.C., and Betty Hunter Butts of Highlands; and one brother, Clem L. Henry of Highlands.

He was the owner/operator of Mickey Henry Concrete for many years and a proud U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by a brother, Eddie Henry (Doris) of Easley, S.C.; and a sister, Helen Henry Talley (Zane) of Highlands; three sisters-in-law, Donna Houston, Kathy McConnell, Shirley Murphy (Tom); three brothers-in-law, Wiley Houston (Dianne), Jimmy Houston, and Robert Houston (Sharon); and many nieces and nephews who loved him and thought he was the "coolest" uncle ever! (Especially when he rode his Harley!)

A celebration of life was held Saturday, Feb. 5, at Macedonia Baptist Church in Clayton, Ga., with Rev. Zane Talley officiating. Military honors were provided by American Legion Post 108 and VFW Post 7339.

The family would like to say a special thank you to his co-worker and friend, James Watson, and a special thank you to his caregivers, neighbors, and friends, that were always there when needed. May God bless each of you.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Clear Creek Community Cemetery fund, PO Box 1321, Attention: J. Hicks, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Darell L. 'Toby' Tobias

Darell L. "Toby" Tobias, passed away at his home on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022.

Born and raised in West Carrollton, Ohio, he was a graduate of Dayton School of Art, was a bass player and soloist. He played in several bands through the years. He was a six-year U.S. Navy veteran, having served during the Vietnam era and was a true patriot. He served as an Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin and served on several mission trips. His love for music was unsurpassed, along with camping, boating, and eating sushi.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Trueblood Tobias; sons, Christopher Tobias (Felice) and Shawn Tobias (Kimberly); grandson, Gabe Tobias; stepson, Blake Koch (Rachele); step granddaughter, Brittany Pulliam (Bryan); and step great-grandchildren, Sienna, Mason, and Devon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude's Hospital for Children.

Online condolences at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).



Malcom Fred Henry



Darell L. Tobias

### Barbara Ellen Hoffner Artman

Barbara Ellen Hoffner Artman, 92, a resident at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center passed away peacefully Feb. 1, 2022, with her loving niece, Lorraine Missel Hamilton, and husband Greg Hamilton at her side.

She was born on Jan. 13, 1930, to Floyd and H. Elsie (Spraggon) Hoffner in Streator, Ill. She and her former husband Floyd Artman moved to Delaware, Ohio, where they owned and operated the Olentangy Caverns. After selling the Olentangy Caverns she moved to Sarasota, Fla., and then made her way to the mountains and settled in Franklin, N.C. In her later years, she was known for her beautiful colored pencil art, of which many were hung around Eckerd Living Center. She had a great sense of humor and loved to make people laugh and was also known for her sassy and spunky nature.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by two children, Gail Ann Artman of Sarasota, Fla., and Greg Artman of Franklin.

She is survived by two sisters, Donna Missel of Peru, Ill., and Judy Kohrt Wiseman of Henderson, Nev.; one granddaughter, Angela Artman-Scott of Sarasota, Fla., and several nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is assisting the family.



Barbara Ellen Artman

### Shirley Ann (Wilkes) Gragg

Shirley Ann (Wilkes) Gragg, of Otto, N.C., passed away Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022.

Daughter of the late Roy E. and Ada D. Wilkes, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Johnny Wilkes and Virgil Wilkes and two sisters, Frankie Ritchie and Willie Kay Seagle. She has one surviving sister, Nancy Wilkes.

She is survived by her three children, Star Tumminelli, Sabrina Cochran, and Stacy Wilkes. She was a proud grandmother to four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and the many others who called her Nana.

She enjoyed cooking, putting together jigsaw puzzles and watching old westerns on television.

No services are planned at this time.



Shirley Ann Gragg

### Jane Marie Collins Moon

Jane Marie Collins Moon, 96, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. She was born Aug. 11, 1925, in Oneida, N.Y., the daughter of the late Webster and Irene Eckhard Collins. She was a finance director for the Osceola County Department of Aging and was of the Methodist faith. She loved to collect antiques of all kinds, and she built an extensive collection of dolls and children's toys.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Wells Arthur Moon Jr., a daughter, Joy Marie Huddlestun, and a sister, Dorothy Copperwheat.

She is survived by a son, Alfred Webster Moon (Cheryl) of Overland Park, Kansas; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Moon family. Online condolences at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).



Jane Marie Moon

### Eula Marie Sanders

Eula Marie Sanders, 80, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Born in Jackson County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Edna McCallahan Cook. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Muriel Eugene Sanders; a grandson, Matthew Willis; and six siblings.

She worked for many years as a clean-up supervisor with Summit Timber Co. in Washington.

She was a member of the Mt. View Baptist Church in Darrington, Wash. Her hobbies included painting, reading, and spending time with her dogs. She loved reading the Bible and sharing God's word with others and loved the time spent with her family.

She is survived by her two daughters, Darlene Sanders (Johnny) of Franklin, N.C., and Diana Willis Wagner (Kyler) of Darrington, Wash.; one brother, Berlin Cook (Carrie) of Arlington, Wash.; one grandson, Michael Sanders of Maynardville, Tenn.; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Feb. 5, at Lifespring Community Church. Rev. Bryon Lamb officiated.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mt. View Baptist Church in Darrington.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Eula Marie Sanders

### James Lee Murphy

James Lee Murphy, 61, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022.

Born in Swain County, he was the son of the late Francis Joseph Murphy and Annie Cline McFalls. He lived most of his life in Western North Carolina, growing up in Cherokee on the reservation. He was an avid fan of the UNC Tarheels, Nascar, and the Carolina Panthers, but the thing he loved most was his family and his dogs.

He is survived by his children, Vanessa Murphy, Ben Murphy of Bryson City, N.C., and Mellie Murphy of Bryson City;

four brothers, Joe Murphy of Broken Arrow, Okla., BJ Murphy of Bryson City, Mike Murphy of Anderson, S.C., and Larry Murphy of Sylva, N.C.; eight grandchildren; one great grandchild; and numerous nieces, nephews, and special friends.

A private graveside will be held Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Birdtown Cemetery in Cherokee. Rev. Ben Reed will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Cherokee Boys Club, in Cherokee, N.C.

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



James Lee Murphy



View  
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# Deaths & Funerals

## Dawn Marie Kimmey

Dawn Marie Kimmey, 52, passed from this life on Jan. 31, 2022. She was born Jan. 30, 1970, in Troy, N.Y., to Linda Rhoden and Bart Edward Kimmey. She was loving, independent and liked to socialize, but if only one word could be used to describe her, it would have to be "caring."

She was just fun to be with as her many friends would agree; and, throughout the years, she maintained close relationships with both friends and family. She enjoyed traveling and because she was a fan of the low country and seafood, Savannah, Ga., was one of her favorite destinations.

A registered nurse, her passion for helping others led her to work in Butner, N.C., for the State of North Carolina with those suffering from addiction. She also served as a travel nurse for eight years, crisscrossing the country twice. She was dedicated and took pride in staying up to date with knowledge and advancements in the world of medicine. She was a Christian who enjoyed listening to contemporary Christian music. She liked plants and dearly loved her Bichon pup, Bichie.

Surviving are her parents; her sister, Tara Kimmey; her nieces and nephew, Samantha Washington, Savannah Washington, and Robert Washington; her great niece, Neveah Sneed; and her dearest friend, Cheyenne Foster.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m., at Discover Church in Franklin. Pastor Ben Windle will lead the celebration.

Memorial contributions may be made to a local animal shelter, or the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, 375 Kings Highway North, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

## Robert Eugene Poteet

Robert Eugene Poteet, 85 of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

He was born in Stonega, Va., to the late Robert Eugene Poteet and Virginia Aileen Fritz Poteet. He was an Army veteran and a member of Patton United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce Patton; daughter, Pamela Poteet Wallace (Michael Cox); and grandchild, Kerridyn Cheyanne Cox, all of Franklin.

A graveside service was held at Patton United Methodist Church Cemetery on Friday, Feb. 4, with Pastor Evan Hill and Rev. Bobby Cloer officiating.

Pallbearers were Chris Green, Johnny Cloer, Tim Cochran, Eric Boatwright, Bobby Dills, and John Rogers.

Flowers are accepted or donations can be made to the Patton United Methodist Church, Attn: Cemetery Fund C/O Gary Holland, 65 Scroggs Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Macon Funeral Home will be handling the arrangements.



Dawn Marie Kimmey



Robert Eugene Poteet

## Steve Howard Miller

Steve Howard Miller, 71, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.

Born on July 4, 1950, in Macon County, he is the son of the late Dover and Frankie (Talent) Miller. His early passion in life was baseball. He played for the first Franklin Panthers baseball team. After graduating, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he also joined the All-Navy baseball team.

While in the U.S. Navy, he was an Aviation Structural Mechanic. After his honorable discharge and return home, he continued to work with his hands becoming a welder and construction worker. He loved hunting, being outdoors in nature, and spending time with his family and pets. He was a devoted husband and father, and he loved his family fiercely.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded by three sisters, Lucile, Dorothy, and Janice.

Surviving are his wife, Yvonne Miller; two daughters, Stephanie Williams and Heather Miller; and son-in-law Joel McCoy; three grandchildren; and six sisters, Linda Garner, Connie Curtis, Judy McCall, Betty Ramey, Susie Curtis, and Gayle Tallent.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to an animal shelter or humane society of your choosing.



Steve Howard Miller

## Olive Jean Cannon Maret

Olive Jean Cannon Maret passed peacefully on Jan. 22, 2022. She was born in Pitt County, North Carolina, to Docia Ann Clark Cannon and Alonza David Cannon.

Upon graduation from the Farm Life School in Vanceboro, N.C., she joined her sister, Alice, in New Bern, N.C., and went to work at the Western Union office. There, she met Norman Charles Maret, an aircraft technical representative for Vought Aircraft Corporation.

They married on Jan. 2, 1946, and were together for 55 years until Norman's passing in July 2001. The couple retired in 1978 and moved to the home they had established in Otto, N.C., in 1968.

She was a valued volunteer worker in Macon County. Her contributions included the Child Safety Identification Program at Otto Elementary School; Otto Garden Club; Franklin Garden Club; Church women's groups; PEO; Republican Women's Club; Macon County Republicans; Angel Hospital; FROG; Medication Assistance Program; and Franklin Women's Club. She also enjoyed women's golf and tennis. She valued her friends and was ever ready to help each.

She is survived by her son, Richard (Janet) of Iowa; daughter, Pamela of Otto; grandchildren, Peyton of Greensboro, Christopher (Stephanie) of Iowa, Rebecca Passi (Christopher) of Minnesota; great grandchildren Alexander, Owen, Ben, Keira; sister-in-law, Sherry Cannon of Virginia; her very loved nieces, nephews, grand-nephews and grand-nieces, in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Washington, and California.

She was a beautiful woman inside and out, a good wife, mother, loyal friend, and believing Christian.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m., at the Macon Funeral Home. A graveside service follows at Rush Cemetery in Otto. The family will receive friends from 10:30 to 11 a.m., prior to the service.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Otto Volunteer Fire Department, 60 Fire House Road, Otto, NC 28763.



Olive Jean Maret

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# Logano holds off Kyle Busch to win Clash at the Coliseum

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

LOS ANGELES — At the end of a transformative NASCAR experience that took the City of Angels by storm, Joey Logano held off hard-charging pole winner Kyle Busch to triumph in Sunday's Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

Logano got the lead on Lap 116, moments before Kyle Larson retaliated against Justin Haley for earlier contact that was not of Haley's doing. Larson steered toward the bottom of the track, knocking Haley's Chevrolet into the concrete Jersey barrier on the frontstretch.

In the competitive debut of the Next Gen race car, Logano had control of the race for the restart on Lap 117 and held the top spot to the finish, with Busch frustrated in pursuit on the quarter-mile track built for the NASCAR Cup Series event in iconic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum as part of NASCAR's daring foray into downtown L.A.

"I can't believe it," Logano exulted after the race. "We're here. The L.A. Coliseum. We got the victory with the old Shell/Pennzoil Mustang. This is an amazing event. Congratulations, NASCAR. Such a huge step in our industry to be able to do this, put on an amazing race for everybody."

"I'm out of breath. I was so excited about this. This is a big win. My wife is having a baby tomorrow, our third one, so a pretty big weekend for us."

It was an exhibition race—but what an exhibition. Rapper Pitbull, who co-owns Trackhouse Racing with Justin Marks, warmed up the crowd with a 45-minute set before the green flag. At the halfway break in the 150-lap event, crews changed tires and made adjustments to the Next Gen cars as rapper Ice Cube filled the Coliseum with loud, rhythmic music.

A pantheon of California sports stars—among them former Southern Cal tailback Reggie Bush and Dodgers manager Dave Roberts—joined NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon in a corps of grand marshals and shouted the command to start engines.

The race itself crystallized into a battle between Logano, Busch, Larson and Austin Dillon. After the final restart, Larson briefly took second from Busch, who regained the spot with more than 20 laps left and charged after Logano.

"I was being perfect doing everything I needed to do—keep the tires underneath me," said Busch, who led a race-high. "When I got close, I was like, 'OK, I've got to try more and pounce at an opportunity,' and just overheated the tires and smoked them in three laps and that was it. Disappointing, obviously."

"Come out here and win the pole, and lead laps, run up front. The finish goes green and it's not chaotic and we can't win, so it sucks. Congratulations to my son (Brexton Busch) — he won yesterday. That's cool. I was trying to match him.



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Busch Light Clash at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 6, in Los Angeles, Calif. Photos by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

ers.

Blaney used his bumper to shove past Denny Hamlin to claim the final transfer spot from the opening heat.

In fact, drivers who started first won all four heat races, with no one else leading a lap. Tyler Reddick dominated Heat 2—winning by a full straightaway—as Chase Briscoe, Dillon and Custer qualified behind him.

Driving for Kaulig Racing's newly minted NASCAR Cup Series team, Haley took the third heat, with Byron, Bell and Chase Elliott joining him in the main event. In Heat 4, Logano and Larson ran 1-2, with defending

Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell and Jones taking the final two transfer positions.

Hamlin made the Clash by winning the first of two Last Chance Qualifiers, with Harvick and Allmendinger finishing second and third to advance.

If the first LCQ was relatively tame by short-track standards, the second was utter chaos. After hitting everything but the lottery, as FOX broadcaster Mike Joy put it, Ty Dillon took the checkered flag but was demoted to the rear for jumping the final restart with three of the 50 laps left.

That gave Ryan Preece the race win and the final two

He's winning more than me these days, so somebody better send him a contract."

Dillon passed Larson to finish third, and Erik Jones ran fourth after overtaking the reigning Cup Series champion in the closing laps. Larson held fifth, as William Byron, Cole Custer, Christopher Bell, AJ Allmendinger and Kevin Harvick completed the top 10.

Busch earned the pole position for the main event with a wire-to-wire victory in Sunday's first heat race, with Daniel Suarez, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Ryan Blaney joining him in the Clash as the second-, third- and fourth-place finish-

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transfer spots to Bubba Wallace and Harrison Burton, who was spun while leading on Lap 47.

The second LCQ featured seven cautions and saw strong contenders Kurt Busch and Alex Bowman eliminated when their cars sustained irreparable damage.

The NASCAR Cup Series will return to action February 15-20 at Daytona International Speedway.

**Chase Elliott tops Saturday morning practice session at the Coliseum**

Exploring the limits of the Next Gen NASCAR Cup Series race car, Chase Elliott jumped to the top of the speed chart during the final session of practice for the Busch Light Clash at Coliseum.

On his 93rd lap of the day, the 2020 Cup Series champion covered the quarter-mile distance and in 13.455 seconds (66.890 mph) to edge Kevin Harvick for the fastest lap of practice by .002 seconds.

“The track does kind of change a little bit as you run,” Elliott said during a question-and-answer session on the highest level of the L.A. Memorial Coliseum. “You gain some grip, and it seems like everybody goes a little faster the longer you run in a session. That was interesting.

“We were able to go through the things we wanted to change session to session, and now we just need to decide where we want to land; maybe in-between some of those changes that we did. But just try to make the right decisions and get yourself in a good position and try to go qualify well.”

Elliott ended up coming in 11th place in Sunday’s Busch Light Clash.

**Kyle Busch was looking for yet another “first” in Next Gen car debut**

At Bristol in 2007, Kyle Busch won the debut race of the Car of Tomorrow at Bristol Motor Speedway.

In March of 2008, he gave Toyota its first victory in the NASCAR Cup Series with a dominating win at Atlanta.

Contemplating the prospect of winning the first race in the Next Gen NASCAR Cup Series car, however, Busch says that “first” might be taken with a grain of salt.

“In the back of my mind, you would say, yeah, you want to be the first guy, but I think many of us would argue that the first race for this vehicle will be the Daytona 500,” said Busch, who leads all active drivers with 59 victories in Cup Series points races. “You know, we’re here obviously, it is a race. Yes, they will pay somebody at the end of the day to win it. But this is more, as we’ve kind of alluded, a little bit where it’s a show.

“I mean that’s fine, and we’re going to do our best job of being able to put on a good show. There’s going to be a race involved. There’s going to be a checkered flag at the end of it. And I’ve been involved in the sport enough where there’s a lot of asterisks on the things that I’ve accomplished. So I’m sure me winning this race—I did not win the first race of the new car—it would be whoever wins Daytona, that’s how it would go.”

Busch, who was fifth fastest on the practice chart on Saturday morning, could make the issue moot by winning the



Kurt Busch, driver of the #45 Monster Energy Toyota, talks with co-team owner Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 FedEx Express Toyota, after being eliminated after an on-track incident in the last chance qualifying race for the NASCAR Cup Series Busch Light Clash at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 6, 2022 in Los Angeles, Calif.

Daytona 500 for the first time.

**Ryan Blaney praises adjustability of Next Gen car**

In Saturday’s opening practice session, Ryan Blaney 35th fastest among the 36 hopefuls for the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

Soon after his group of 12 cars took to the track for their second session, Blaney jumped to second fastest overall.

The driver of the No. 12 Team Penske Ford ended practice ninth overall as the track gained speed throughout the scheduled two-hour warm-up. Blaney said wholesale changes to his car after the first session accounted for the improvement in performance.

“We found a lot,” Blaney acknowledged. “We changed a whole lot between the first and second practice. We were really bad the first run and just really loose. The corners are so tight here that the moment your rear slips out from under you, it takes forever to catch it and you lose tons of time.

“We came in and put tons of wedge in it and changed the right front spring and rear springs. There is a lot of adjustability in these cars with rear and front bar and stiffness on the arms on them—you can change a lot. We did a good job of getting on top of it and taking a huge swing at it.

“We were so far off. The adjustability on these cars is a lot though... It’s nice to have so many options where you can tweak on things.”

With independent rear suspension, differential in place of rear-end housing and rack-and-pinion steering all new to the Next Gen car, crew chiefs will have a lot to work with—and a lot to learn—in the coming weeks.

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### ACROSS

1. Fantasy sports data
6. Accounting acronym
9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
13. Branch of economics
14. All talk, no action type of service
15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry
16. Base-8 numeral system
17. "\_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
18. Lots and lots
19. \*Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"
21. \*Desdemona's suspicious husband
23. Big fuss
24. Nose-in-the-air type
25. Uber alternative
28. One on a pedestal
30. Moderately wide
35. Eye layer
37. Twelfth month of Jewish year
39. Cheese-covered chip
40. Popped relief?
41. \*"Love, \_\_\_\_" movie
43. Splints site
44. Muhammad's teachings
46. Orchestra instrument
47. Past of heave
48. Avoids work, in British slang
50. Give off
52. Dose of sunshine
53. Back seat
55. Hair-raising product
57. \* \_\_\_\_ valentine, an opposite of love note
61. English author perhaps best known for "The Can-

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| <p>terbury Tales"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley</li> <li>66. Pooh's "wise" friend</li> <li>68. Bring to an end</li> <li>69. Potassium nitrate</li> <li>70. Farm sound</li> <li>71. Arm bones</li> <li>72. Back talk</li> <li>73. Uniting conjunction</li> <li>74. Imposter</li> </ol> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Smoke plus fog</li> <li>2. Comes in hard or soft shell</li> <li>3. Parts of a play</li> <li>4. ____-____-la</li> <li>5. Plural of solidus</li> <li>6. Heidi's shoe</li> <li>7. *Sweetie follower</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Cook's cover</li> <li>9. Wheel holder</li> <li>10. Cambodian money</li> <li>11. Two-masted vessel</li> <li>12. "The Sun ____ Rises"</li> <li>15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)</li> <li>20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.</li> <li>22. Pull along</li> <li>24. Dormant state</li> <li>25. *Famous archer</li> <li>26. Dispatch boat</li> <li>27. " ____ and whistles"</li> <li>29. Hodgepodge</li> <li>31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son</li> <li>32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology</li> <li>33. Seven days postmortem</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. *Hive-related endearment</li> <li>36. Unfortunately, exclamation</li> <li>38. Rumpelstiltskin machine</li> <li>42. Stallion's cry</li> <li>45. Business combination</li> <li>49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway</li> <li>51. Darjeeling server</li> <li>54. Smell, usually pleasant</li> <li>56. Calms</li> <li>57. Ford Transit and such</li> <li>58. Pelvic parts</li> <li>59. Lice eggs</li> <li>60. Augments</li> <li>61. Oaf</li> <li>62. Scoop holder</li> <li>63. Biblical twin</li> <li>64. Donna or Lou</li> <li>67. Got a blue ribbon</li> </ol> |
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**EDUCATION AND DISABILITIES Manager Provides direction and oversight for Early Head Start / Head Start Education, Mental Health and Disability service areas. This position is responsible for the child development and education aspects of the program including school readiness, child outcomes and full implementation of the curriculum. Ensuring compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards and North Carolina Child care licensing requirements in accordance with policies, procedures and the philosophy of the MPP Board of Directors as well as the Policy Council. Requirements Baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education; or a baccalaureate / advanced degree and equivalent coursework in early childhood education with teaching experience. Five or more years of related experience and / or training is preferred. Playground Safety Certification. CLASS Reliability Certification. Excellent communication skills. Valid Driver's License. CPR and First Aid Certification. To Apply Visit Macon Program for Progress website | www.mppnhc.org Email your resume to admin@mppnhc.org Visit NC Works office, 23 Macon Avenue, Franklin NC or www.ncworks.gov Macon Program for Progress is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In accordance with the Head Start mandate, COVID-19 vaccination is required, with religious and medical exemptions accepted as required by law.**

**MACON COOPERATIVE Extension is looking to hire a 4-H Assistant & EFNEP Educator. This is a full-time position salary \$31,200 plus state benefits. Questions contact Christy Bredenkamp (828)349-2049 or learn more at https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/153044**

**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.**

**LIBERTY WOOD PRODUCTS is Now Hiring Cabinet Installers, Assemblers, and Woodworkers. Call: (828)524-7958.**

## Community Fundraisers

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

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

## Misc. For Sale

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

## Garage & Yard Sales

**3-DAY ESTATE SALE Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 9-5, Indoors, Furniture, Linens, Kitchenware, Garden Tools, Framed Pictures, Collectables, Wheelchair, Walker and More! 1869 North Skeenah Rd., Near Road's End.**

## Wanted

**PAYING UP TO \$350 for a few special Locust trees with a diameter of 20 inches or more. Must be straight, sound and accessible for cutting and hauling. Call or text pictures to Steve (828)399-0496.**

## Animals

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

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### CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2020	Porsche	911	6,135
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Chevrolet	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

### 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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