

The Macon County **NEWS** & Shopping Guide

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weekly*



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FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Photo by Vickie Carpenter

On Tuesday the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild presented local veterans with a Quilts of Valor at the American Legion Post 108. QOV committee chair Carlie Nichols was on hand to share about their mission: "To cover our service members and veterans touched by war with comforting, healing Quilts of Valor." So far, QOV has awarded 298,000 quilts nationally and 1,300 locally. With the quilts veterans also receive a letter of gratitude for their service. Local veterans from Macon, Jackson and Swain counties are eligible to receive a Quilt of Valor from the Guild. Pictured (L-R) are James G. McCollum (QMC(SS), Navy); Linda Andy receiving for Arthur Browning (U.S. Army); Johnny Charles Curtis (Air Force); Doreen L. Castle (Msgt, Air Force); Jack A. Castle (TSgt, Air Force); H.J. Bushy Hartman (RM3, Navy); Mike Hartman (Radiomen 1st Class Navy); and Robert R. Moss (U.S. Army). More photos on page 5.

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FUMC youth to participate in 30 Hour Famine



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Students rock out at the Mr. & Ms. FHS dance

Council reviews skatepark funding needs

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Last May, skateboarders packed Town Hall to overflowing to discuss, through a public hearing, the possibility of a skateboarding park within the town limits. Less than a year later, the park's fundraising and development plans are moving forward.

At the March 7 meeting of the Franklin Town Council, at least a dozen people showed up to represent the skateboarding community in support of the park. Commented Council Member David Culpepper, "Seeing the people here supporting skaters ... it behooves us to provide a place for skateboarders to go and be with other like-minded individuals, and to have an outlet so that they can stay out of trouble. We

just have to [the Council] figure out at what level of support we're willing to give."

Mayor Jack Horton reminded those in attendance that the Town has already provided the property for the skateboard park. In fact, in September, the Whitmire Property, located at the corner of Highlands Road and Main Street, was designated to be the future 6,000-square-foot skateboarding park. The Town also paid for the park's design.

Town Manager Amie Owens reminded the Council that the total cost of the park is expected to be \$129,000. JE Dunn Construction, hired by HCA Healthcare to build the new Angel Medical Center, has been on board to help with

See COUNCIL page 2

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COUNCIL

Continued
from page 1

construction and fundraising since the idea of a skateboarding park was instituted, but Owens said, "I'm trying to resolve some communication issues with them. The way it was explained to me initially is that JE Dunn would take care of construction and fundraising, and then if there was a deficit they would come back to the Town and we would have that discussion about that and the needs."

Tim Shaw, of the SK828Franklin initiative, shared that skateboarders have been "going door to door handing out flyers about the concept of a skateboarding park. The kids have raised \$10,000 so far."

Representatives from the skateboarding community pointed out that with the demolition of the bowling alley and skating rink, children and young people have few options for activities. Individuals who spoke to Council members also indicated that a skateboarding park is free, will help keep individuals active and occupied, and will last for many years.

While Shaw indicated he would like to learn the exact financial commitment from the Town, Council Member Stacy Guffey pointed out, "We're all on board, but my issue is that we've not seen anything in writing regarding the whole process. I would feel more comfortable with appropriations if we could see it all drawn out ... written down."

Shaw agreed.

Horton commended the skateboarding community representatives.

"You've been so committed to making

this thing happen. We need to make sure this is a community project and we do it in a responsible way. Sometimes it takes longer to do things when the government is involved."

Owens concluded that she will follow up with J.E. Dunn so the Town Council can "set the plan moving forward and do a memorandum of understanding."

Commissioners on board

The Macon County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted Tuesday night to allocate \$35,000 from the county's contingency fund for the development of the skatepark in Franklin. The \$35,000 is just a portion of the total \$120,000 estimated to develop the skatepark. The \$35,000 is needed now in order to pour the concrete, the first phase in the project.

In addition to immediately allocating \$35,000, commissioners also agreed to provide another \$50,000 through the budget planning process for the construction of the skatepark. Supporters have already raised \$10,000 leaving the remaining balance for the project, just over \$25,000 needing to be raised by the community or provided by the town of Franklin.

Water treatment plant Phase II

Other business focused on a request for approval of the design/engineering contract by WithersRavenel, a North Carolina project development company, for Phase II of the water treatment plant. WithersRavenel's senior project manager, Dana Bolden, explained that the proposed design would enable a new section of the plant to be built so that when it is up and running the old section of the plant can be repaired and parts



Town of Council Vice Mayor Joe Collins honors retiring Sergeant Tony Ashe; along with Mayor Jack Horton, who also honored retiring Detective Mark Foster.

and equipment updated. The goal is for the plant to be able to handle increased water output per day.

The total cost of Phase II is expected to reach \$12.8 million, shared Bolden.

Owens noted that construction would not begin until August of next year, but the design has to be finalized.

"We want to make sure our infrastructure is where it needs to be," said Mayor Horton. Culpepper added, "People aren't moving away from this area, they are moving into the area. So we don't have a choice."

The Council approved the contract. Members also approved an amendment to Chapter 154, which is the wireless telecommunications ordinance; approved an amendment regarding the placement and maintenance of fire hydrants; and, approved a public hearing to be held on April 4 at 6:05 p.m. to receive public input on the voluntary annexation of 3011 Georgia Road into the Town of Franklin Corporate Limits.

Root & Barrel lease

The request from Root and Barrel for the lease of Town property to offer outdoor dining was met with criticism from former mayor Bob Scott.

"I'm very concerned," he said, explain that the alleyway between the Town building and the Root and Barrel restaurant is "a gathering place before parades ... where children run and play during the summer free movies ... where people walk. I'm concerned we will set a precedent, regarding alcohol served there, that will have long-term consequences for the Town. Where do we draw the line on alcohol on public property?"

At the last Council meeting, members approved a lease draft for Root and Barrel to use the outdoor space. However, Mayor Horton reminded that the public can provide input on that lease draft for the next 30 days, by contacting the Town of Franklin, until



Darien Green was recognized for his Class A Distribution certification by superintendent of the Franklin sewer plant, Bill Deal.

next month's meeting.

"We will not take action on this until the 30 days is up," he said.

At the opening of the Council meeting, Police Chief William "Bill" Harrell honored Sergeant Tony Ashe, who has given 30 years of service, and Detective Mark Foster, who has given 25 years of service. Both police officers will be retiring March 31.


Chief Harrell shared that both men have received numerous awards and diplomas. From the N.C. Governor's Office, Ashe will be receiving The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is the highest award for state service granted by the office; and, Foster will be receiving from the Governor's Office The Old North State Award, which is for individuals who have served 20 or more years in the state of North Carolina.

And, Bill Deal, superintendent of the Franklin sewer plant, recognized Darien Green for his Class A Distribution certification.

The next Council meeting will be held April 4 at 6 p.m.

Brittney Lofthouse contributed to this article.

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First United Methodist youth resuming 30 Hour Famine event

Diane Peltz
Contributing Writer

Famine is defined as the extreme scarcity of food. One in nine people in the world don't get enough to eat. Many poor farmers can't grow enough food to feed their own families, much less sell to get income for essentials like education and healthcare. That's why World Vision, a global Christian humanitarian organization, partners with communities to address immediate food needs, but also to equip them to grow food for the long term. This change happens when groups raise money through the 30 Hour Famine. This year thousands of groups will be coming together to raise funds for kids who are hungry around the world, many of whom have been made more vulnerable by the lasting effects of COVID-19.

Here in Franklin, the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) will mark its 26th year participating in the 30 hour Famine. Assistant pastor Vickie Lawrence will be leading the youth throughout the event, along with Jikhara Williams, FUMC Children's Director, who will be facilitating the younger children's involvement in the famine. Some 25-30 youth will be involved in helping to alleviate hunger in our world. Their goal this year is to raise \$5,000. Last year, although the Famine was slightly abbreviated due to the pandemic, they exceeded their goal and FUMC raised more than \$17,000.

The youth will begin their fasting at noon, on Friday, March 11, and continue through Saturday, March 12, at 5 p.m. During this time, those involved in the event will be participating in many activities such as going out into the community to obtain donations in the form of non-perishable canned goods along with monetary contributions and assisting with other needed chores throughout the community.



As part of the 30 Hour Famine, First United Methodist Church youth will be building a "Canstruction" shoe out of Chunky Campbells Soup. Donations will be accepted beginning on Friday, March 11 at the church and at various businesses throughout the weekend.

Youth will come together at FUMC on Friday at 5:30 p.m., to spend the night at the church and will become involved in several activities throughout the evening, such as a poverty simulation. A Poverty Simulation is one in which participants are made aware of how it feels to be at the bottom rung of the economic ladder. Participants are assigned to "families" who do their best to survive week-to-week over a simulated one-month period. The youth at FUMC simulate various situations in small groups which allow them to feel and understand how poverty affects families and individuals, moving from misconception to understanding.

Another activity the youth will take part in, is the building of cardboard houses. What is it like to be a homeless person? One way to find out is to go without food for 30 hours

and spend the night in a cardboard box. While this may seem unfathomable to some, this is exactly what students at FUMC will do this weekend. They will, however, be allowed to drink water and eat ice pops.

After spending the night on the ground in cardboard boxes, the next morning the youth reach out into the community to assist with various tasks. On Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m., FUMC youth will be going to clean up the Parker Meadows Soccer Field. Several of the youth will be heading to Mountain View Intermediate School to help with some painting. Another group will be cleaning up the Outreach Center of FUMC. Several groups will be picking up donations for the annual Bazaar, which will be held at the fairgrounds in July. Yet another group of youth will assist with the Share and Serve Garden by ready-

ing the garden beds for the spring crops, many of which will be donated to the community.

The youths are not the only ones involved in this famine. The younger children, although not fasting for quite as long, will be helping the community in a unique way. From 1 to 4:30 p.m, they will be building a large tennis shoe from Campbell's Chunky Soup cans. "Canstruction" is a global non-profit charity that creates structures out of full cans of food which is donated to local food banks. The FUMC "canstruction" display will be exhibited at the Share and Serve Garden, and community members are invited to bring cans of food to fill in the inside of the shoe. Williams is also extending an invitation to any child grades K-5 who want to take part in building the shoe. They can meet with her behind the FUMC Outreach Center, at the top of the garden to assist with placing cans on the shoe.

Many community businesses have come together to assist with the needs of the hungry. Some 19 businesses have signed up to place donation boxes and money jars inside their stores. Folks can bring non-perishable food items and drop them off at any of the businesses that house a donation box. Monetary donations will be accepted as well. If you are unable to get to a local business during the week, the FUMC church will be accepting donations throughout the weekend also. The church is located at 66 Harrison Avenue, just across the street from the Lazy Hiker Brewery on Main Street.

When all is said and done, the children and youth will return to the church at around 5 p.m. where a feast of numerous food items will be awaiting them. After a prayer in the sanctuary and some reflection on how their weekend might have made an impact on them, they will be let loose to enjoy a well deserved hearty meal for a job well done.



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Eight receive Quilts of Valor



Photos by Vickie Carpenter



The Committee to Elect Browning for Sheriff is pleased to welcome
Mr. Tony Hawkins
 as Campaign Manager for Chris Browning's upcoming bid in the
 2022 Macon County Sheriff's election.



Meet Tony Hawkins...

After graduating high school and three years in the U.S. Army, Tony spent a decade with the Hendersonville Police Department as a Patrol Officer and K-9 handler as well as working narcotics. He received his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the Criminal Justice Education and Training Commission in 1997. Following this, Tony served an additional 19 years with the North Carolina Highway Patrol. He was stationed in Gaston and Swain counties as well as Macon County, where he spent his last 15 years before retiring as a Master Trooper and receiving the Order of Long Leaf Pine from Governor Pat McCrory. Mr. Hawkins brings a lifetime of Law Enforcement experience to this campaign and it is truly a blessing to have him on board.

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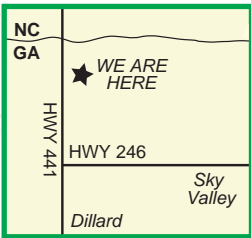
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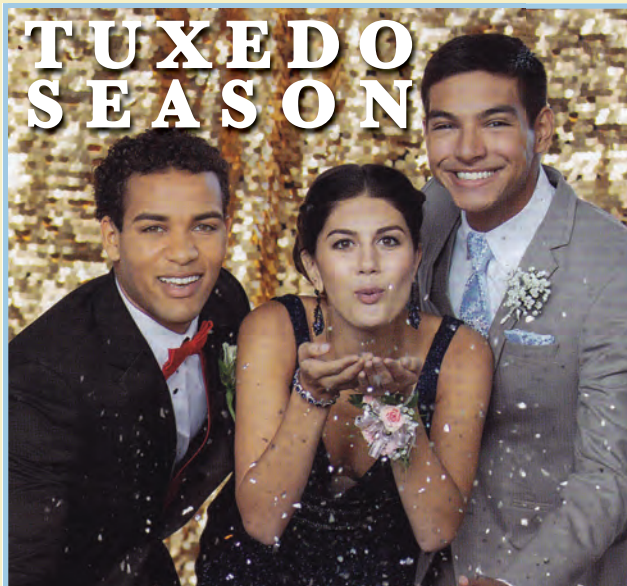
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US Supreme Court lets NC redistricting stand; denies GOP appeal

Jordan Wilkie – Carolina Public Press

North Carolinians know, finally, what political maps they will use to elect representatives to the U.S. House in 2022.

On Monday evening, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a request from state Republican legislative leadership to stop an order from state courts from going into effect.

North Carolina will go forward with its primary elections on May 17, the candidate filing period that completed on Friday will stand, and a map that a panel of trial court judges drew will be used to elect the state's 14 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, but only for this year's election.

Three conservative justices, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, dissented and wrote they would have stopped that map from being used, instead reverting to the map the state Supreme Court declared an unconstitutional gerrymander and which would have all but guaran-

teed Republicans at least 10 of the state's seats in the U.S. House.

The congressional maps in use for 2022 are most likely to result in seven Republican seats, six Democratic seats and one toss-up seat, according to the data of how voters in each district voted in previous elections.

"Today's move by the court reinforces that legislatures do not have a 'free pass' to violate protections against partisan gerrymandering when drawing districts that undeniably hurt voters," said Hilary Harris Klein, a voting rights lawyer at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which represents one of the plaintiffs, good-governance group Common Cause, in the lawsuit.

Not over yet, maybe

A fourth conservative justice, Brett Kavanaugh, agreed that state Republicans' arguments were strong but said it would be too disruptive for the federal courts to intervene this close to an election.

"The issue is almost certain to keep arising until the Court definitively resolves it," Kavanaugh wrote in his concurrence.

Republicans may still get that chance, just not as soon as they would have liked. Kavanaugh

suggested the case, or one raising similar constitutional questions, should be taken up for consideration in the next judicial term, which will get underway in the fall.

In a press release Monday, N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger suggested state Republican leadership may do just that.

"While we're focusing on the 2022 elections, we will continue to evaluate this decision and next steps in this case," Berger said.

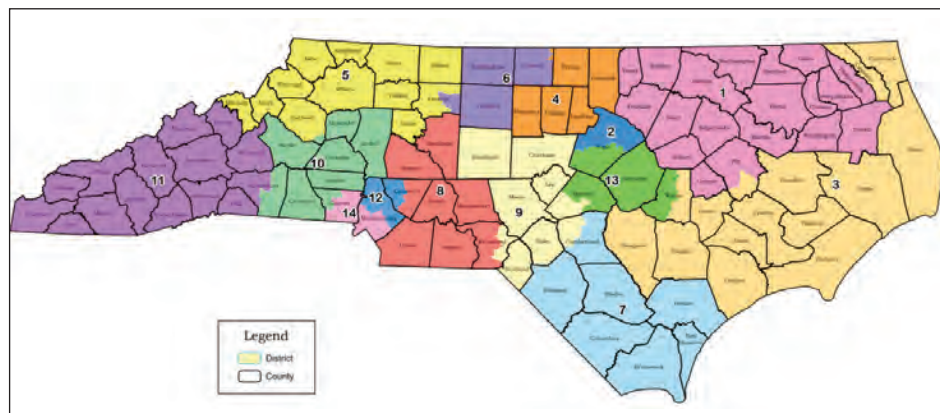
Berger, along with House Speaker Tim Moore and other Republicans responsible for drawing the state's political maps, were the defendants in the redistricting lawsuits.

Should the legislative Republicans request further review of the case, Kavanaugh along with the three dissenting jus-

tics have enough votes to put the case on the court's docket, per the U.S. Supreme Court's rules. To grant a stay, which is what Republican legislators requested in this filing, they would have needed five votes in favor.

Two more conservative justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Amy Coney Barrett, voted with the majority this week. But Roberts has previously expressed interest in the legal theory that North Carolina's legislative Republicans used in this case.

Republican arguments rest on Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, which says the "Times, Places and Man-



The North Carolina congressional district map for the 2022 elections, which the state Supreme Court approved after finding that legislators created maps with unconstitutional gerrymandering. Image courtesy of the N.C. State Board of Elections.

ner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof."

That should mean, North Carolina legislative Republicans argue, that state courts should not be able to put a check on the rules state legislatures make for federal elections. Only federal courts and Congress could check state legislative power over making those rules.

The justices also denied a request for review coming out of Pennsylvania, which raised similar legal questions.

North Carolina's General Assembly will still get the chance to draw a new congressional map for the 2024 election cycle that, should it withstand lawsuits, could hold for the rest of the decade until the 2030 census triggers another round of redistricting.


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Money management course offered for caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter and the Alzheimer's Association, Eastern North Carolina Chapter are launching a brand new educational program to offer tips for individuals managing the finances of those with a chronic illness who are under their care. The program will be offered regularly beginning with the inaugural event taking place on Tuesday, March 29.

"Money Management: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances" will take place 12-1 p.m. via webinar. Participants will learn tips for managing someone else's finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning.

This program, created in part by a grant from U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, has been designed to offer guidance for caregivers of all individuals living with a chronic illness, but will specifically address financial needs related to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

While the inaugural program is being held via webinar, it will be offered in-person or virtually beginning in April. These programs will be open to the general public. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required. Attendees of virtual programs can attend via video/webinar or through a toll-free number. To sign up for the March 29 program, visit tinyurl.com/CaregiverFinances or call 1-800-272-3900. To access the list of public programs that is updated monthly, visit act.alz.org/ncmonthlyprograms. To

request this program be offered for your local community in North Carolina, email infonc@alz.org or call (980) 498-7760.

The costs of health care and long-term care for individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementias are substantial, and dementia is one of the costliest conditions to society. In 2021, Alzheimer's and other dementias were estimated to cost the nation \$355 billion, including \$239 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments combined. Unless



a treatment to slow, stop or prevent the disease is developed, in 2050, Alzheimer's is projected to cost more than \$1.1 trillion (in 2021 dollars). This dramatic rise includes more than

three-fold increases both in government spending under Medicare and Medicaid and in out-of-pocket spending.

- People living with Alzheimer's or other dementias have twice as many hospital stays per year as other older people.
- Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's or other dementias are more likely than those without dementia to have other chronic conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes and kidney disease.
- Older people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias have more skilled nursing facility stays and home health care visits per year than other older people.
- People living with Alzheimer's or other dementias make up a large proportion of all elderly people who receive adult day services and nursing home care.

Voter information for May 17 Primary Election

Absentee ballots request March 28-May 10

Request forms at www.maconnc.org or www.ncsbe.gov or by calling (828)349-2034 or email Macon.boe@ncsbe.gov.

Voter Registration Deadline Friday, April 22 at 5 p.m.

Same day registration is possible only during one-stop voting.

One-Stop Voting - Franklin April 28-May 14

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
Hours Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.;
Saturdays 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

One-Stop Voting - Highlands April 28-May 14

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St.
Hours Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.;
Saturdays 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Primay Election Day Tuesday, May 17

Voters will cast ballots at Town Hall & Highlands Civic Center.

Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Macon County Board of Elections at (828)349-2034 or visit www.maconnc.org/elections.

Do I have allergies?

Drastic shifts in the weather combined with escalating pollen counts are alarming to anyone whose allergies blow up this time of year. Sufferers constantly worry about certain habits that could make their wheezing worse. They swear by remedies – some that work and others that are pure myth.

That's why an education campaign has been launched called "Biggest Seasonal Allergy Myths" to clear up all the wives' tales about allergies. They're clearing up FACT versus FICTION when it comes to surviving the season of sniffles and sneezes.

"Every year there seems to be a new theory about seasonal allergy triggers and outbreaks and this year, like every year, we're getting flooded with questions about the best habits to avoid flare ups or what remedies really help manage symptoms," explains Dr. Benjamin Barlow, Chief Medical Officer of AFC, the nation's fastest growing health-care network with more than 250 locations.

FACT OR FICTION - Biggest Seasonal Allergy Myths

1. The COVID vaccine could make allergies worse. **FICTION.** The CDC recommends the COVID-19 vaccine to those whose allergies are unrelated to vaccines or injectable medications.
2. Drinking alcohol make allergies worse. **FACT.** An extra glass of wine at dinner could irritate existing allergies. A Danish study found every additional alcoholic drink in a week, increased the risk of seasonal allergies by 3 percent. The researchers suspect the bacteria and yeast in the alcohol produce histamines causing stuffy nose or itchy eyes.
3. Eating local honey makes allergies more tolerable. **FICTION.** There is no scientific consensus on whether honey works to limit effects of seasonal allergies. There may be anecdotal examples, but they're not medically proven.
4. Everyone suffers from some sort of seasonal allergy. **FICTION.** Only one in five Americans are diagnosed with allergic rhinitis or what is known as hay fever in the spring.
6. Wearing contact lenses escalates allergy discomfort. **FACT.** In many cases, contact lenses can trap pollen against the surface of the eye. This can be an even bigger issue for anyone who is already suffering from red, itchy eyes triggered by seasonal allergies.



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• White Composite Fillings	

What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

Today [Thursday] is the town retreat at the Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall. It begins at 9 a.m., and the public is invited to hear the budget reports and project proposals presented by town staff.

I want to touch several big ticket items that will be presented. This review illustrates how a few hundred thousand here and there adds up to major budget needs. They are not frivolous expenditures, but essential needs that impact the basic operation of the town.

For instance, over a decade ago the town purchased new state of the art digital utility meters. We went to a digital system rather than relying on a person to manually read each meter every month. These meters are now approaching the end of their functional service and have to be replaced in the coming years. Rather than replacing all the meters at once, we will do a three-year phased replacement program. One third of the meters will be replaced this year for a cost of \$380,000.

There is a need to replace a problematic old clay pipe sewer line on Carolina Way. That project is estimated to cost \$222,000.

The town needs to install back up generators to multiple sewer pump stations throughout the town. Having these backup generators is long overdue. The cost to install all the generators for the pumps is \$434,000. That's not a frivolous government expense, but rather a wise investment.

At the sewer plant there is a critical need to replace an aging belt press. The press is used in the final processing of solid waste. The current press was purchased as a used piece of equipment from another municipality several decades ago. A new replacement press will cost \$900,000. There are no longer any used belt press deals out there.

Between road paving and sidewalk projects the town could spend about \$500,000 this year.

There is a need to install water, electric and sewer services on Gibson Road. For decades Gibson has not been developed, but now a number of houses are in process. These new residences will require utility service which is not currently available. This cost is estimated to be around \$608,000. That does not include paving Gibson which would come next year after the utilities have been installed.

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Child-rearing should take place at home not school

It's almost humorous to read about what a child should glean from Pre-K and Kindergarten. I said "almost humorous" because to me even the theory of Pre-K and Kindergarten is categorically terrifying. I know this letter will quickly take on a Jurassic tone but in my view, to believe children need Pre-K to learn socialization skills is beyond absurd.

There was a time (not a million, but just 60 years ago) when socialization, also colors and shapes, the numbers, how to print (even write in cursive), how to read, play, everything a child could possibly learn in Pre-K or Kindergarten, was taught at home by parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and in villages across our nation. Children went to the movies on Saturday, you never saw a school bus parked outside a movie theater on a school day. Parents once actually reared their children.

Children entered school in the first grade at age six (or slightly before depending on when their birthday fell). They possessed the necessary basic skills and knowledge that teachers (with the help of parents) built on to "promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, church and community." That's a quote, the first objective of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (1940s). Note: The home came first.

There was a time in America when child-rearing was natural and instinctive. People got married, had children, and reared them. Taking away all the intellectual rhetoric, the purpose of raising children is to help them out of our lives and into successful lives of their own.

In the last 60 years, we've done such a good job of turning wives into mothers and husbands into dads, that by the time their kids leave home, they've forgotten how to be married. Please remember too, men are just as important as women to the raising of children. Unfortunately, many people today think of child-rearing as primarily "women's work" and as a result we're inclined to regard fathers as "parenting aides."

Another thing we've managed to misplace over time, and which is a valuable tenet of child-rearing, is that children, from an early age, should be responsible and contributing members of the family. Children require a lot of supervision but not a lot of attention. Too much attention (like too much of any good thing) is addictive.

Contrary to what many people believe, previous generations of women were not home with their children, they were home FOR their children. They supervised but otherwise did not pay a lot of attention or become highly involved and kids did just fine.

Parenting is basically just getting in touch with your common sense and perhaps giving your children a regular, healthy dose of Vitamin "N," as in "No."

Schools are where children are educated, not raised.

Rearing is done at home. Then, when a child goes to school (at an appropriate age) he takes his parents with him in the form of their discipline, their expectations, and their values.

David L. Snell – Franklin, N.C.

America built on individualism and hard work

In response to Eric Mendez's letter to the editor in which he outlined his woke view of America, my response is one of disgust.

By contrast, there is the population in Ukraine who bravely fight for their lives with the knowledge that many of them will fight on to die against impossible odds. Grandmothers are heard to say they are hungry without food or water but all they would like to have is a loaf of bread and a little juice for the children. One small girl on a bus when asked where her father was, replied bravely, "he's out fighting." These great people certainly aren't belly-aching and whining about their country's imperfections that occurred 150 years ago. To do so is the height of hypocrisy to complain about what some may have done very long ago then attempt to put those living on a guilt trip to further their far left political agenda. To say that the building of America was by slave labor is ludicrous. Less than 10 percent of the population could possibly afford to own slaves even if they wanted to – which overwhelming numbers did not.

Perhaps the author of this woke view of evil America should also look for evil in other countries so that they could also be included in his condemnation.

Any country would do but let's start with Scandinavian regions who should be ashamed of their countries because of Vikings – they should be forgotten for their early explorations but remembered for their plundering. South American countries and Mexico should hang their heads in shame because of the Aztecs. Forget the thought of creating a mighty civilization. They should be remembered for their many generations of horrifying human sacrificial rituals. Now, in many cases they are run by drug cartels and dictators who fix it so that the general population lives in abject poverty. Then there is Africa who instead of being thought of as the cradle of mankind should only be scorned by the hard truth that for many centuries, chieftains rounded up their own people far more efficiently than anyone, bound them in yokes and chains then sold them as slaves for great profit. The list of others is endless.

America has, in fact, produced the most prosperous nation on earth. One that has led to people all over the globe flocking to its shores to enjoy the security, stability, religious freedom, opportunity and/or prosperity that can be found for those who apply themselves. America was built on rugged individualism and hard work and fought for by those who spilled their blood so that we might enjoy this freedom.

Allen Brown – Franklin, N.C.

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Council meets with ABC store manager, board

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

In a Special Called/Joint Meeting with the Franklin A.B.C. Board [Alcoholic Beverage Control] and the Town of Franklin Council, held Monday morning, March 8, at 8 a.m., both parties gleaned much from frank discussions regarding the history of the store at 175 Macon Plaza Drive.

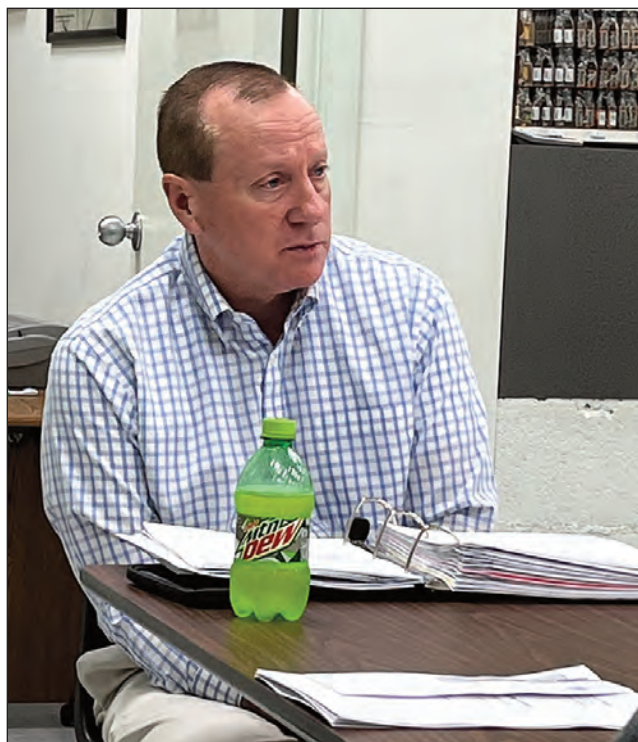
Town Manager Amie Owens said the request for the meeting was based on some questions regarding the Franklin A.B.C. Board's reports, primarily: "Why did the Town receive a flat rate each year rather than a percentage, which would fluctuate based on sales? The sales have increased from 2020 to 2021 by 14.22% and we received the same annual amount since FY2010." Owens explained that a percentage of the profits, after operating expenses, from the sale of distilled spirits is designated to return back to the community.

"The Macon County Board of Education and Macon County DARE share 7% for alcohol education, Franklin Police Department receives 5% for law enforcement, with the remaining 88% net profit being distributed to the Town of Franklin," said Owens.

Franklin A.B.C. store manager Todd Mason enlightened the Council members present, as well as Mayor Jack Horton, about the responsibilities involved with operating a state-controlled entity. Average monthly required distributions are:

- 30% state excise tax - N.C. Department of Revenue
- 7% liquor tax - N.C. Department of Revenue
- 5% mixed beverage tax - N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
- Rehabilitation Tax - Macon County (nickel and penny per bottle sold)
- Bailment Tax - N.C. A.B.C. Commission (\$2.75 per case purchased)
- Surcharge Tax - N.C. A.B.C. Commission (\$1.15 per case purchased)

In addition, the Franklin A.B.C. store is responsible for its high overhead costs and numerous extraneous expenses. Mason said the lease amount, in excess of \$9,000 monthly, "is the biggest component."



Franklin's Town Council met with A.B.C. store's manager, Todd Mason on Monday morning.



Members of the Town Council attended a special meeting on March 8 with the Franklin A.B.C. Board to discuss how the store's financials are configured and disseminated. Pictured (L-R) are David Culpepper, Rita Salain, Town Manager Amie Owens, Mayor Jack Horton and Stacey Guffey.

He and the other board members present conveyed the benefits of the Town of Franklin possibly investing in a building and becoming the Franklin A.B.C. landlord.

Another challenge, offered Mason, is that employees have to be bonded to work at the A.B.C. store, meaning they must undergo background checks. Currently, there are four full-time and four part-time employees.

"And, like other areas of the country, we have had the worst turnover in the last year or so. No one wants to work."

"That's why we're here," said Council Member David Culpepper, "to learn ways we can help the A.B.C. board help the Town. It's good that we are having open communication about this."

"For 28 years, we have done it all," said Mason. "We have taken responsibility since we opened in 1994 and never asked for help from any governing bodies. And we have kept as much of the costs local as possible ... purchasing bags locally, using a local insurance company, etc. And we do everything we can to cut back on costs, but everything is expensive and we are tied to the state's rules and fixed prices. Customers tell me all the time that they can go across the Georgia state line and get discounts on alcohol, but I can't give discounts."

To understand the history of A.B.C., the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act was submitted to the General Assembly of 1937 and a monopoly system was enacted into law in North Carolina. Currently, that state board of control is known as the N.C. A.B.C. Commission. In North Carolina, the sale of beer/wine/mixed drinks is legal only in jurisdictions that have voted in favor of it, and county/municipal boards operate the retail stores that sell bottles of liquor.

Thus, the Commission provides uniform control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption, and possession of all alcoholic beverages in the state. A.B.C. boards, including the one in Franklin, meet monthly.

Council Member Stacy Guffey asked Mason what a new and better agreement might look like between Franklin A.B.C. and the Town.

"There might be room where we can give more [to the Town], but if we get strapped [due to financial obligations, taxes, expenses, etc.] there needs to be an agreement that the Town will help."

"Yes," said Mayor Horton, "we would have to have a discussion ... an understanding. The bottom line is that we all need to work together for the betterment of the Town."

The Council agreed that there would be further dialogue with the Franklin A.B.C. Board regarding avenues for future financial growth.


TAYLOR

From previous page

At the retreat the board will also hear a report on the cost of replacing the Houston House with a state-of-the-art building designed for children. The new building would house the after school program that the Highlands Recreation Department operates.

We have several really big ticket items, namely the replacement of the aging 1965 water clarifier tank at the water plant, and the waterlines and water tank on Dog Mountain. These projects will cost several million dollars. The town's strategy is to apply for federal and state infrastructure grants to fund these major projects. We are already in the process of developing the grant proposals and will be ready to submit them during the application period this spring.

Email letters to the editor to maconcountynews@gmail.com



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Franklin High School rocks out at the Mr. & Ms. FHS dance



Isaac Jennings and Claire Holland were named Mr. & Ms. FHS in a ceremony Saturday onstage at the Fine Arts Center. The party then moved to the high school cafeteria where students danced the night away in all their formal finery.



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Arrest Report

The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police Department or Jackson County Sheriff's Department made the following arrests February 25 - March 6. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 28

Billy Eugene Poston II, was issued warrant service for extradition/fugitive from other state. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

March 1

Derrald Frederick Queen, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Crystal Queen, was charged with domestic violence protective order violation. Deputy Cody J. Howard made the arrest.

Austen Jeffrey Caiata, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance methamphetamine, maintaining a place for controlled substances and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Alsha Elizabeth Holland, was charged with possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Joseph Shawn Victory, was charged with flee/elude arrest. William D. Stamey made the arrest.

March 2

Nadya Elise Rogers, was charged with felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance, failure to appear for a felony, misdemeanor, issued a true bill of indictment for robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony conspiracy, second degree kidnapping, felonious restraint. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

March 3

Kenneth Kristopher Knight, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Darius Reshad Williams, was issued a governors warrant for a fugitive. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Nikita Shannel Jackson, was charged with failure to appear. Jay Wright made the arrest.

March 4

Shaya Mechan, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Deputy E. Sands made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 27

Joshua Henry Dale Driver, was issued an order for arrest for failure to appear. D.S. Cabe made the arrest.

Kyle J. Hanson, was arrested with a fugitive warrant. A.R. Holland made the arrest.

Ian Alexander Neal, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, maintain a vehicle for use/sale/keeping of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, driving while license revoked impaired revocation, revoked registration plate and no insurance. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

March 1

Leroy Shane Lee, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, failure to appear for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, possession of stolen property, drive while license revoked, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz and possession of drug paraphernalia. J.M. Norman made the arrest.

March 2

Griffin Chandler Sanders, was charged with all other larceny, liquor law violations and littering. C.M. Evans made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 25

Dennis Wayne Sturgis, 39, of Walter Ashed Rd., was charged with school attendance law violation. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

Ariane Alene Cucumber, 40, of Lambert Branch Rd., Cherokee, was issued a warrant for arrest for theft by shoplifting, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises and felony possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

Tansi Elaine Young, 41, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

February 27

Jimmy Wayne Edwards, 29, of Begonie Lane, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Aaron Nicholas Kinder, 26, of Old Cullowhee Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with injury to personal property and assault on a female. No bond was set.

Jennifer Renea Morgan, 21, of Walnut Run, Bryson City, was charged with a public health violation. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Christopher Jason Kent, 33, of Dahlia Dr., Whittier, was charged with canceled/revoked/Certificate/tag, no motorcycle endorsement and driving while license revoked not impaired revocation. A \$1,000 bond was set.

Randall Dean Green, 62, of Rocky Branch Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, resist/obstruct/delay an officer, failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$17,000 was set.

Gregory Mark Wood, 52, of Boo Holler Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for operate a motor vehicle with expired or no inspection, fictitious/altered/title/registration card/plate, possession of canceled/revoked certificate card/plate, giving or lending or borrowing of a license plate, drive/allow a motor vehicle not registered, display expired license/registered plate on vehicle and tires on motor vehicles violation. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

February 28

Miranda Nicole Smith, 36, of Sylva, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

Aaron Keith Nations, 39, of Lone Oak Dr., Whittier, was charged with civil contempt for child support purge. A secured bond of \$10,519.14 was set.

Sandra Ledford Evans, 46, of Corn Flower Lane, Dillsboro, was charged with civil contempt for child support purge. A secured bond of \$612.45 was set.

Patrick Allen McChesney, 37, of Marion Forrest, was charged with failure to appear for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

March 1

Michael Sean Lewis, 54, of Allman Rd., was charged with failure to appear for resist a public officer and civil contempt for child support purge. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Jackie Kevin Shelton, 48, of Calendar Court, was charged with felony parole violation. No bond was set.

Kasia Jade Bird, 22, of Stillwell Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for identity theft, resist a public officer, consume alcohol by 19/20 year old and driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

March 2

George Vernon Norton, 31 of Lloyd Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. No bond was set.

Melissa Marjorie Foxworth, 54, of Buff Creek Rd., was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Kenneth Lee Maney, 45, of Old Soco Rd., Cherokee, was issued a true bill of indictment for failure to appear. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Rashonda Leshae Bradley, 34, of Burchfield Rd., Bryson City, was charged with aid and abet for providing drugs to inmate, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and felony probation violation. A secured bond of \$61,000 was set.

Timothy Allen Wells, 43, of Roller Mill Rd., Franklin, was issued a true bill for habitual felon. No bond was set.

March 3

Nicholas Andrew Coggins, 27, of Union Hill, Whittier, was charged with third degree sex exploit of a minor. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Shawn Robert Beloin, 43, of Hacindina Lane, was charged with failure to appear for possession of a firearm by a felon. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

March 4

Felisha Faye Coggins, 34, of Cocoa Lane, Cullowhee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny of a motor vehicle, accessory after the fact, operate a vehicle with no insurance and misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Joshua Cameron Cope, 29, of Whittier, was charged with vandalize a campaign sign and burning of personal property. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

March 5

Dianna Pauline Queen, 49, was charged with failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and motor vehicle theft. A secured bond of \$6,500 was set.

Jasmine Michelle Littlejohn, 31, of Fisher Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance, possession of stolen goods/property and misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Garrett McKaey Hoyle, 24, of Canter Lane, was charged with possession of stolen goods and larceny. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Tabitha Sherell Henry, 32, of Canter Lane, was aid and abet larceny. No bond was set.

March 6

Chad Everette Greene, 50, of Terrace Village Dr., was charged with assault by strangulation. No bond was set.

Kimberly Ann Santy, 40, of Newport Dr., was charged with possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor larceny and conspire to obtain property by false pretense. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Brittany Danielle McCall, 34, of Newport Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance on prison/jail premises, conspiracy to obtain property by false pretenses and obtaining property by false pretenses. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Akaba Ahmed Lasana Glaspie, 44, of Kirklands Creek Rd., Bryson City, was charged with driving while impaired and reckless driving. No bond was set.

Heather Nicole Moose, 32, of Gardina Lane, was charged with school attendance law violation. No bond was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Town of Franklin Water/Sewer Division will conduct temporary road closures through Friday, April 29, on West Palmer Street in front of the Franklin Fire Department and on Maple Street, and the intersection of Commerce Street and West Palmer to improve an existing sewer line. Signage will be in place for the closure area and detours. Information will be shared via social media on the Police and Fire Department pages and updated on the town's website. For more information, call Public Works Department at (828)524-2516 x 397.

Thursday Painters has moved to Mondays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at The Uptown Gallery located at 30 East Main Street in Franklin. All skill levels and mediums are welcome. Bring your project and supplies and a bag lunch. For more information, call Pat Mennenger (828)421-5194 or Uptown Gallery (828)349-4607.

Nantahala Hiking Club's General Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, at 6 p.m. at the Macon County Public Library. All are welcome. Presenter Jonathan Byrd will discuss cold weather outdoor activity safety.

Valley River Arts Guild will be offering classes for Rock Painting on Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., for children and youth ages 6 through 17; Painting an Easter Quilt Board on Saturday, March 12, 1 to 4:30 p.m.; Introduction to Watercolor Art Class on Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; at the Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Free Online Seminar on Blackberries & Raspberries: How to Create & Care For Your Caneberry Patch will be held on Monday March 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. To register, look for the event at macon.ces.ncsu.edu/events. For more information, contact the Macon County Extension Center at (828)349 2049 or e-mail Christy Bredenkamp at clbreden@ncsu.edu

American Legion Post 108 St. Patty's Day Dance will be held on Saturday, March 12, 7 to 10 p.m., at 614 W. Main St. Music will be provided by DJ Don. All are welcome to attend.

Nantahala Hiking Club on Saturday, March 12, will hike to Brasstown Falls which has a newly constructed bridge and stairs to an observation deck to view the sluice and a group of five waterfalls. Then take a side trail to the base of Little Brasstown Falls, drive to Woodall Shoals along the Chattooga River. Meet at the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center at 10 a.m. For more information and reservations, call (828)524-5298.

Nantahala Hiking Club on Sunday, March 13, will hike to Brown Branch in the Watauga Valley on a Forest Service Rd. with a steady climb, passing a lovely cascade along the way. Views north to Gold City. Friendly dogs welcome. For more information and reservations, call Kathy Ratcliff at (828)526-5480.

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

High Mountain Squares Modern Western Style Square Dance Classes will be held on Monday, March 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes are at the Environmental Resource Center, 1624 Lakeside Dr. For more information call, (727)599-1440, (828)332-0001, or (828)200-0674.

Pizza Kickoff for the 32nd annual Macon County Senior Games will be held on Monday, March 14, 5:30 p.m., at the Robert C. Carpenter Building. Seniors 50-plus are invited to attend.

Democratic Women of Macon County Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 5 p.m., at Noah's Play and Train.

Vaya Health Class on Enhancing Mental Health with Alternative Treatments - Nutrition, Color Therapy, Music Therapy will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 1:30 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. This class is designed for care providers, recipients and the general public. Register for this in-person VAYA Health class at <https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/> or call the library

(828)524-3600 with a name and phone number.

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

Tai Chi for Veterans will be held on Thursday, March 17, 11 a.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Amelia Capaforte Jones with the John & Dorothy Crawford Senior Center will lead a demonstration class, a talk and a Q&A. The class is geared to veterans but is open to all. Comfortable clothing and masks are suggested. The library is located at 149 Siler Farm Road. For more information, call (828)524-3600.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center Graduation will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 a.m., 336 Living Hope Way. The ceremony will include worship, a message from the word, a short video and a graduate giving his testimony. Refreshments and reception to follow. The public is invited to attend. For more information about the program, visit www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, March 23, 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.

The Macon County Republican Party will hold its 2022 Convention and precinct meetings on Friday, March 25, at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1028 Georgia Rd., Franklin. Meet and greet candidates will begin at 5 p.m.; gavel at 6 p.m. All Macon County voters registered as Republicans as of Jan. 31, 2022, may attend. Macongop.com

Paynetown Cemetery Workday will be held on Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Fontana. (Rain Date: Saturday, April 2) Workers should bring lunch, snacks, a rake and/or shovel, gloves, and a will to help fix the issues at the Paynetown Cemetery, like cleaning and re-setting stones, leveling, and seeding and mulching grass seed. All cleaning supplies will be provided and are in accordance with Park guidelines. Directions: Drive across Fontana Dam and turn right, proceed for ¼-mile to dirt road on the left. Paynetown Cemetery is at the gate on this road, approximately another ¼-mile.

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. 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.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 13, 11 a.m., Nancy Gnecci will share on "Cutting the Ties that Bind – Healing Karmic Connections." On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

First Alliance Church is holding Sunday Service, March 13, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Evan will speak on "A Great Ministry." 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email church calendar items to maconcountynews@gmail.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

2	4	5	6	7	1	3	8	9
8	7	9	3	4	9	1	5	2
3	1	6	8	2	5	7	9	4
4	3	1	9	6	7	8	2	5
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

EXEC	ONE	AREA	LEA	ETH	ALIT	LUCAS	CHAS	UTTER	GOUL	SELEC	CLAN	OGRE	DOUR
REMIT	NINE	FINAN	VA	NE	RHYT	CON	M	S	LD	CTIO	N	BORE	SHE
EMITS	IRAN	TIRO	ALFOUR	PLAND	THM	ISSUE	GARS	SOR	AD	ILL	LA	AUR	RA
AREAS	FINAN	ALFOUR	ALFOUR	PLAND	THM	ISSUE	GARS	SOR	AD	ILL	LA	AUR	RA
EXEC	ONE	AREA	LEA	ETH	ALIT	LUCAS	CHAS	UTTER	GOUL	SELEC	CLAN	OGRE	DOUR
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EMITS	IRAN	TIRO	ALFOUR	PLAND	THM	ISSUE	GARS	SOR	AD	ILL	LA	AUR	RA
AREAS	FINAN	ALFOUR	ALFOUR	PLAND	THM	ISSUE	GARS	SOR	AD	ILL	LA	AUR	RA

Inspire brings home awards



Inspire School of Dance started two levels of competition teams this year. The first of three competitions was held last month. Level 2/3 dancers earned a high gold trophy for their performance and Top 10 award for all around in their age division. Level 4/5 dancers received a high gold trophy for their performance and a 5th place award for all around in their age division. Teacher and Inspire owner Sarah Shepard was also given an award for Ultimate Showmanship for level 4/5 choreograph. The team's head to another competition in March and one in April.



Woods 105 years young

Mildred Woods will celebrate her 105th birthday on March 18. Woods was born in 1917 and has been a lifelong resident of Macon County. She was married to Earl Woods and the couple had six children. She attended school in the Buck Creek community. Woods likes to garden, go to church when she is able, and spend time with family and friends. When asked her secret to her longevity, she said, "hard work and trusting in God." Birthday cards would be appreciated. Last year for her 104th birthday, Woods received more than 300 cards. Send to 639 Orchard Hill Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

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Book calls attention to a N.C. highway's traditional shrimp culture

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Jeff Johnson has been around the block, and around the world. With degrees in English and literature, he has spent decades studying obscure aspects of art and culture, and then he writes. For a while he was a writer and editor for surfing magazines, since surfing was one of his passions, but then he segued into covering film and theater.

Most recently, Johnson, who moved to Franklin last year from Melbourne, Fla., published “Shrimp Highway: Savoring U.S. 17 and its Iconic Dish.” Johnson grew up in New Bern, N.C., and while traveling to visit an ailing relative, he repeatedly took U.S. Route 17, known as the “coastal highway” because it primarily runs along the Atlantic Coast from Florida to Virginia. He quickly learned that the rural route includes a culture of people who have harvested, supplied, and sold shrimp for generations.

“I stopped in so many obscure places,” he said, “and I really began learning the history of shrimping from the people who have lived along 17 and have never lived anywhere else. I stopped, conducted interviews, and tried so much amazing shrimp. In fact, the best shrimp I’ve ever had is from stopping at so many different places right along 17.”

The book is arranged geographically, providing the history of several towns, the history of the highway, and the history of some of the places selling the shrimp. Readers of the book can take their own U.S. 17 road trip to experience many of the places he encountered. Along the way, he met people who made an indelible impression.

“I met an 87-year-old shrimper on Tybee Island who had

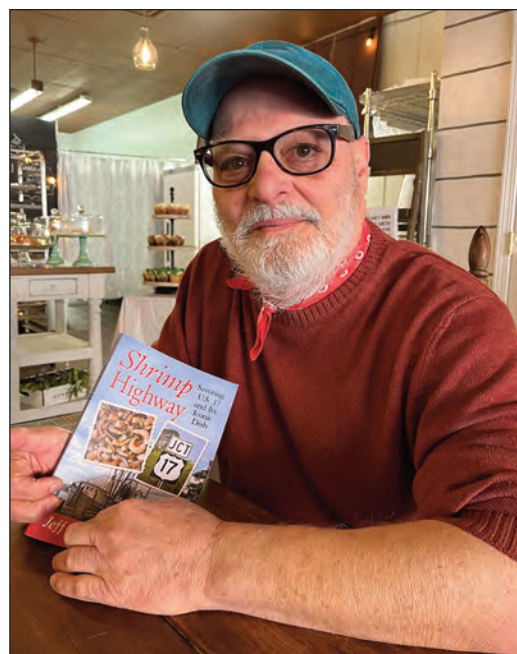
been shrimping all his life,” said Johnson. “It was so interesting to talk to the shrimpers who brought in the shrimp I was eating. And I met this elderly man who told me that one of the greatest challenges to shrimping is that the sharks eat the nets because the shrimp and fish are caught in there. He told me he loses more shrimp from sharks eating the nets than from anything.”

Johnson writes about what he observes as well as about what he researches.

His first book about American filmmaker David Lynch, is the result of academic papers he wrote.

“I felt that his films conveyed contradictory messages about good triumphing over evil. I first saw his work as fascinating, then he was redundant and silly. But he was so revered in the film world that I wanted to really look at the core of his vision.”

Academic non-fiction publisher, McFarland Publishers, published Johnson’s first book, “Pervert in the Pulpit,” in 2004, and the company has published all subsequent books, including “William Inge and the Subversion of Gender” (2005); “The New Theatre of the Baltics –



Author Jeff Johnson’s latest book is “Shrimp Highway: Savoring U.S. 17 and its Iconic Dish.”

From Soviet to Western Influence in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania,” (2007); and, “The New Finnish Theatre” (2010); and “Shrimp Highway.” All of Johnson’s books are available online at Amazon.

Johnson has been a guest scholar at Columbia University in New York, lived in Denmark for a year on a Fulbright scholarship, and has resided in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, in between teaching at universities. He has traveled extensively, but shared that he loves Franklin.

“I’m working on more projects that will be forthcoming,” he said. “I write every day. And if you’re a writer, it’s the best habit to get into. Write early; I write every a.m. at 5. And I follow [Ernest] Hemingway’s advice: ‘The most important thing I’ve learned about writing is never write too much at a time. Never pump yourself dry. Leave a little for the next day. The main thing is to know when to stop. Don’t wait till

you’ve written yourself out. When you’re still going well and you come to an interesting place and you know what’s going to happen next, that’s the time to stop. Then leave it alone and don’t think about it; let your subconscious mind do the work.”

Appalachian Animal Rescue Center is hosting a

DOG ADOPTION DAY

Saturday, March 12 • 11AM to 3PM
The event will be in the parking lot near
Catos, Cricket Wireless & Hellcat Tattoo

Hellcat Tattoo is offering flash tattoos for \$60, with all proceeds going to AARC.
 Cricket Wireless is going to raffle off a high-end wireless speaker.

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FHS Fine Arts Center
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Ease into gardening with a raised bed

Melinda Myers – Contributor

Raise your garden to new heights for easier access and greater productivity. Raised beds allow you to overcome poor soil by creating the ideal growing mix, plus make gardening time more comfortable thanks to less bending and kneeling.

Whether you purchase a kit or build your own, there are a few things to consider when creating a raised bed garden.

Locate the garden in a sunny area if possible. Most plants require at least six hours of sun, and vegetables like tomatoes, peppers and melons produce best with a full day of sunlight.

Select a long-lasting material such as interlocking block, fieldstone, plastic lumber or naturally long lasting wood like cedar. The material selected will influence the shape and size of your garden. Some materials allow for curved beds while others are limited to squares, rectangles and other angular shapes.

Design your raised bed to fit your space and your needs. A three- or four-foot width makes it easy to reach all parts of the garden for planting, weeding and harvesting. Raising your planting bed at least 8 to 12 inches improves drainage and provides an adequate space for most plants to root and grow. If you want to minimize bending, go higher. Add



Raised bed gardens with benches make it easier to plant, maintain and harvest.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Plants

benches to increase your gardening comfort and ease. Bonnie Plants has free downloadable plans (bonnieplants.com/library) for building a raised bed garden with benches in just one afternoon.

Roughen or loosen the existing soil surface if your bed is built on compact, slow-draining soil. This will allow water

to readily move from the raised bed into the soil below. Cover the bottom of the bed with newspaper or cardboard, if needed, to suffocate existing weeds and grass.

Line the bottom of your raised bed with hardware cloth to reduce the risk of animals burrowing into your garden. Lay the hardware cloth over the ground and bend it up along the inside of the raised bed walls.

Fill the bed with a quality growing mix that is well drained but also able to retain moisture and nutrients. This may be a mixture of quality topsoil and compost, a high quality potting mix, or a planting mix designed specifically for raised bed gardens.

Grow any plants that you normally would grow in ground. Just make sure the plants are suited to the growing conditions (such as sunlight, heat and wind) in your area. Since the soil mix and drainage is ideal in a raised garden, you will be able to grow more plants per square foot. Just be sure to leave sufficient room for plants to reach their mature size.

Keep your plants healthy and productive with proper watering. This is critical for growing any garden, but even more crucial in a fast-draining raised bed. The simple act of raising the garden height increases drainage, and a raised bed filled with planting mix means more frequent watering. Consider using drip irrigation or soaker hoses for watering ease. Always water thoroughly when the top inch of soil is dry.

Add some mulch to help reduce watering and the need for other garden maintenance. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, pine straw, shredded leaves or other organic matter over the soil surface. This helps conserve moisture, suppresses weeds and adds nutrients to the soil as it decomposes. You'll spend less time watering and weeding throughout the season.

Add an organic fertilizer at planting if your planting mix does not already contain one. Apply again mid-season if the plants need a nutrient boost. Always follow the label directions on the fertilizer container.

The time and effort invested in creating raised beds will be returned many times over with years of healthy and productive gardens.

Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of gardening experience has written more than 20 gardening books. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



Deaths & Funerals

Allie Cabe Lee

Allie Cabe Lee, 78, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, March 7, 2022.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late James Erastus and Margrette Chastain Cabe. She retired from the Macon County Sheriff's Department, where she worked as dispatcher/jailor, civil process officer, and juvenile department investigator. She was the first female road deputy in Macon County. She graduated Southwestern Community College with a degree in Basic Law Enforcement training and was a member of the Longview Baptist Church.

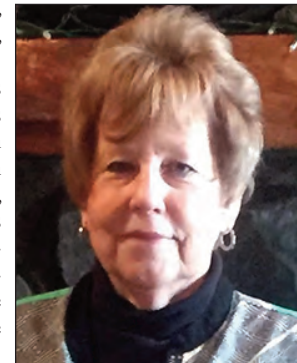
She is survived by her husband of nearly 59 years, Darrell Lee; son, Tim Lee (Lynette) of Sumter, S.C.; daughter, Tonya Ashe (Tim) of Franklin; and two sisters, Barbara Dills and Eloise Gribble, both of Otto; four grandchildren, Justin Lee, Chelsea Jackson (Jimmy), Keshia Parris (Keith), Clell Ashe (Savannah); five great grandchildren, Lyla Jackson, Jolene Jackson, Colt Jackson, London Ashe, and Cade Bowling; and one additional great grandchild on the way; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 9, in the chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Clell Ashe, Justin Lee, Keith Parris, Todd Sanders, Ed Patterson, and Jimmy Jackson. Honorary pallbearers were Bud Talley, Jamie Henson, Dot Gibson, George Moses, Homer Holbrooks, and Ruth Ledford.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607.

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



Allie Cabe Lee

Kenneth Edward Smith

Kenneth Edward Smith, 81, of Franklin, N.C., went to his Heavenly home on Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Born in Fairfax, Va., he was the son of the late Edmund Crowl and Muriel Hayes Smith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Allen Smith; and wife, JoAn Marie Spizzeri Smith.

He was a member of East Franklin Baptist Church. He was a minister and had previously helped with the Boy Scouts.

He is survived by his wife, Lillie Mae Ammons Smith of Franklin; son, Kenneth E. Smith of Brooksville, Fla.; two daughters, Cheryl JoAn Northfield of Leesburg, Fla., and Erica Guenther of Hernando Beach, Fla.; stepchildren, Martha Peak, Kenneth Ammons, Doug Ammons, and Jimmy Ammons, all of Franklin; four grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and numerous step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to East Franklin Baptist Church.

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



Kenneth Edward Smith

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Deaths & Funerals

Golda 'June' Yates Robbins

Golda "June" Yates Robbins, 73, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Born in Erwin, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Ernest and Pauline Randell Yates. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Vance Henry Robbins; siblings, Barbara Casey, and Brenda Yates; and two granddaughters, Alyssa Winfield and Nicole Davis.

She loved antiques, gardening, yard sales, flea markets, and raising pot belly pigs, but what she loved most was time spent with her family.

She is survived by three sons, Tim Hill (Virginia) of Franklin, Hank Hill (Billie) of Sophia, N.C., and Byron Hill (Marcella) of Asheboro, N.C.; three daughters, Kim Metcalf (James) of Franklin, Tammy Reynolds of Franklin, Dawn Loflin (Will Simmons) of Thomasville, N.C.; stepchildren, Maurice "Bunky" Robbins and Edna "Peanut" Robbins, both of Archdale, N.C.; 16 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren; three brothers, Lenard Yates, David Yates, and Frankie Yates; sisters, Gracie Burrell, and Julie Bryant; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, March 10, at 2 p.m., at Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30pm to 1:30pm, prior to the service at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Davidson County Hospice or WNC Hospice House Foundation.

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

Ginny Rebecca Reeves

Ginny Rebecca Reeves, 46, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Born in Jackson County, she was the daughter of Steve and Debbie Fossick Reeves. She received both a bachelor's in musical education and a bachelor's degree in nursing. She was a critical care registered nurse and had been recently working as a traveling nurse. She loved singing, playing the piano, painting, and board games; she was very competitive. She was a member of the Iotla Baptist Church. Recently, she found out that she was about to become a "Gigi" and she was so excited about it. She also loved her two beloved dogs, Ginger and Kirby.

She is survived by her parents, Rev. Steve Reeves and Debbie Fossick Reeves of Franklin; her three beautiful children, Bethany Reeves, Kylie Bates (and soon to be first born grandchild), and Cole Bates (Jaiden Vanhook) all of Franklin; one brother, Steve Reeves of Leicester, N.C.; and a very special cousin, Michelle Dowdle of Franklin (who she loved like a sister).

A service was held on Tuesday, March 8, at Iotla Baptist Church with Rev. Brandon Breedlove officiating.

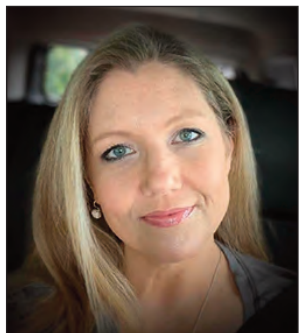
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Appalachian Animal Rescue, PO Box 81, Franklin, NC 28744.

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

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Golda 'June' Robbins



Ginny Rebecca Reeves

Jessie Zachary Manley

Jessie Zachary Manley, 84, of Highlands, N.C., gained her heavenly wings Saturday, March 5, 2022. The last 40 years she has enjoyed being a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church; she loved camping, having family gatherings, working in her flower gardens and loved to travel. She and her husband had a great love for their family and the community they lived in.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Lonnie Lynwood Manley; parents Bert and Callie Talley Zachary; sister, Elizabeth (Tib) Swafford, brothers Charles Zachary, Harvey Zachary, Sam Zachary, George (Scrubby) Zachary, and Mike Zachary.

She is survived by her three children, Kenneth Manley (Myra) of Sautee, Ga., Mary Lynn Manley (Sam) of Brevard, N.C., and James (Popcorn) Manley (Leesa) of Freeport, Fla.; three grandchildren, Daniel Manley (Cameron), Amber Manley Henry, and Zachary Manley (Kari); five great-grandchildren, Paisleigh Manley, Clay Henry, Archer Henry, Harlyn Manley, Irelyn Manley and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, March 26, at 2 p.m., at Pine Grove Baptist Church with the Rev. Greg Rogers officiating. The family will greet friends and family prior to the service at the church from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC 272 Maple St. Franklin, NC 28734, The Cindy Platt Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County 11 Gallimore Street, Brevard, NC 28712 or to Pine Grove Baptist Church 7454 Highlands Rd. Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Manley family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.



Jessie Zachary Manley

Retha Williams Day

Retha Williams Day, born on Oct. 6, 1922, went on to Glory on Feb. 25, 2022. The daughter of Alva James Williams and Alta Suggs Williams, Retha's faith was very important to her. She accepted Christ when she was just 12 years old and remained faithful to Him throughout her life.

She worked as a dietitian for 30 years with the school system in Collier County, Florida. Upon retirement her entrepreneurial spirit blossomed, and she owned several successful businesses. Despite staying busy with her career, she always found time for her passion for growing things. She loved working outside and was known as an avid gardener.

She was kind, funny, and dedicated to her children and grandchildren. She possessed a contagious positive attitude that, along with her great sense of humor, made her friends and family enjoy being with her. She will be remembered for being a wonderful person and a great human being.

She is survived by her children, Paul Williams (Ruth) and Linda Williams (Kirby) both of Florida and Judy St John (Chuck) of Franklin, N.C.; and her grandchildren, Jerry Rutledge, Denise Wahlers, Clay Taylor, and Clint Taylor along with numerous other friends and family.

She was a member of Windy Gap Baptist Church.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the church on Monday, March 14, at 3 p.m., with Rev. Mark Bishop and Rev. Don Moffitt officiating.

The family would like to thank Four Seasons Hospice and Franklin House for their genuine care, and for making everything so peaceful. Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfamilyfuneral-care.com.



Retha Williams Day

Marshall Glenn Martin

Marshall Glenn Martin, 87, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, March 7, 2022.

Born on March 10, 1934, he is the son of the late Richard and Allie Moore Martin. He served for four years in the United States Air Force. He moved to the mountains and took a job working for the LBJ Job Corps. He was an educator in the Macon County School system for many years and he was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin. He loved being outdoors gardening and mowing the yard.

He is survived by two daughters, Glynis Dills (Keith) of Lenoir, N.C. and Wendy Seys of Franklin; two grandchildren, Brittany Reese (Eli) and Holly Dills; one great grandchild, Brecken Reese; sister, Estelle Brown; sister-in-law, Barbara Williamson; brother-in-law, I.K. Williamson and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 12, at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Franklin with Dr. Robert Brown officiating. The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Interment will follow the service at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is assisting the Martin family.



Marshall Martin

Barbara Ruth Richardson Foppe

Barbara Ruth Richardson Foppe, 85, passed from this life on March 2, 2022. She was born on Dec. 22, 1936, the daughter of Cecil and Ruth Richardson.

Friends and family will remember her love for and devotion to her family. She was always their number one supporter. She was a faithful Christian and just a wonderful person.

Married to her husband, Andy, for 38 years, she was an accomplished pianist and singer. She loved animals and shared her home with many pets during her lifetime.

Her great sense of humor added to her personality and attracted friends from all walks of life. She retired as an administrator from Florida Power and Light before moving to the mountains of North Carolina.

Left with many wonderful memories are her husband, Andrew Lawrence (Andy) Foppe of Franklin, N.C.; her children, Robert McElroy (Deb) of Tampa, Fla., and Kim Gardner (Jamie) of Waynesville, N.C.; her grandchildren, Cindy and Megan; her great-grandchildren, Briar and Nathan; and her sister, Catherine (Kitty) Berger of Jacksonville, Fla. She was preceded in death by her parents.

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

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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Alex Bowman wins at Las Vegas in thrilling overtime

Holly Cain – NASCAR Wire Service

LAS VEGAS _ Alex Bowman won in a dramatic overtime ending in the Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway Sunday – gambling on a two-tire final pit stop for his No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet and holding off the field in a two-lap sprint to decide the NASCAR Cup Series race.

Bowman and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Larson made up the front row on the restart – the pair along with teammate William Byron took two tires on the final pit stop while Kyle Busch, who had led 40 of the previous 45 laps opted to get four tires and start just behind on the second row.

The two-tire stop, however, proved to be enough with Busch unable to even make a pass attempt as the Hendrick cars decided the trophy. The Tucson-native Bowman, 28, crossed the line .178-seconds ahead of the reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion Larson to earn his first trophy of 2022 and seventh of his career. It was Bowman's first Top-20 finish after a frustrating start to the three-race old season.

"This thing was so fast all day," said Bowman, who led 16 of the 274 laps. "Just never really had the track position to show it. But man, what a call by [crew chief] Greg Ives and the guys to take two [tires] there and obviously it paid off.

"Racing Kyle [Larson] is always fun and I've got to race him for a couple wins and we always race each other super clean and super respectfully. It's been a pretty awful start to the year so to come out here and get a win on a last re-start, I feel like that's pretty special."

The runner-up finish for Larson, who led three times for 37 laps on the day, was good enough to propel him into the championship lead for the first time this season. He holds a six-point advantage over Joe Gibbs Racing's Martin Truex Jr., who finished eighth on Sunday.

Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain, who led a race-best 83 laps and scored the two-year-old team's first Stage victory, finished third. The Las Vegas native Busch was fourth and a third Hendrick Motorsports teammate, William Byron rounded out the Top Five.

Stewart-Haas Racing's Aric Almirola earned his third consecutive Top-10 with a sixth place finish. Tyler Reddick, Truex, Hendrick's Chase Elliott and polesitter, Christopher Bell completed the Top 10.

For most of the race's final laps, it looked like Busch would claim his first NASCAR Cup Series trophy at his "home track" since 2009. It's been 46 series wins since that triumph.

And Busch's work in the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota on Sunday was especially impressive considering he crashed in opening practice on Saturday and was forced to use a back-up car originally sent to the track for spare parts. The car wasn't prepared in time for qualifying so Busch started last in the race.

His rally for a near-win was enthusiastically appreciated by the home crowd even if the ultimate Top Five was still a bit disappointing for the former two-time series champion considering his time out front (49 laps) in the closing laps.

"Everybody really had a hand in making us go today, really appreciate that," Busch said, acknowledging crew members from all four JGR cars frantically worked to get his car race ready.

"It was good, fast at the end and tried to do what I could there to hold the lead with Truex. Felt like I inched away finally and we were coming to the white [flag] but it wasn't meant to be. Not our day. See you next week."

The race featuring the 1.5-mile debut of the NASCAR Cup Series Next Gen cars produced 23 lead changes among 15 different drivers with Bowman (Stage 1) and Chastain (Stage 2) winning the stages.

"We were like 30th in first practice, right off the truck and



Alex Bowman, driver of the #48 Ally Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 6, 2022 in Las Vegas, Nev. Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images

Gibbs' day started with a run-in with veteran Ryan Sieg on Lap 4 of the 200-lap race. The two made enough contact while racing hard to send Sieg's No. 39 RSS Racing Ford hard into the outside wall. The team was still making repairs when the red flag came out for rain and reports of light snow.

With drivers standing outside their cars, Sieg made his way down pit road to have what appeared to be an animated discussion with Gibbs

about the incident. And Sieg was visibly still frustrated after the talk.

"It's tough, but it is what it is," Sieg told reporters while still waiting by his car. "He's definitely going to have to learn his lesson, you know what I mean."

Gibbs remained adamant that he didn't do anything on purpose.

"I told him if my goal was to wreck you and end your day, you wouldn't have made it around another lap," a defiant Gibbs said.

A few minutes later, he softened his tone and apologized for ruining Sieg's day and the impact it had on the Sieg's small, family-owned team. The race re-started, and only a handful of laps later, Sieg pulled alongside Gibbs and looked as if he was trying to wreck Gibbs, but he missed and spun out himself.

Again, after the race, Gibbs apologized to Sieg on live television for starting the whole episode.

"I want to apologize to the 39 (Sieg) for the contact I made, it wasn't my best decision and I'm sorry to the whole group, Ryan's family they work so hard.

"I want to say thank you to Justin Allgaier for my push too," Gibbs added. "I had a fun time racing with the Junior cars (JR Motorsports) too so hopefully we can keep it going and win some more races.

"Let's go," he added with a scream.

Certainly it was a bitter pill for Gragson to swallow. He won both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the race and was leading when the final caution came out for a multi-car wreck in Turn 4. He

we slowly built up to it and if we can keep doing that and have cars like this, obviously we can compete," Chastain said.

The NASCAR Cup Series next stop is Phoenix Raceway for the Ruoff Mortgage 500, 3:30 p.m., next Sunday afternoon. Truex is the defending race winner.

Ty Gibbs makes his own luck in Xfinity win at Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS _ Ty Gibbs pulled away from the field on a restart with six laps remaining and held off the hometown favorite, Noah Gragson to claim his first NASCAR Xfinity Series win of the season in Saturday's Alcoso Uniforms 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

It was the first win of the year for Gibbs, 19, the grandson of NASCAR Hall of Fame Team Owner and three-time Super Bowl Champion Head Coach Joe Gibbs. He had an eventful day from the drop of the green flag. His No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota got just the nudge he needed from JR Motorsports' Justin Allgaier on that final restart then pulled away from Allgaier's teammate Gragson to take the lead for the first time on the day and ultimately score his fifth career series victory.

This race had a little bit of everything – from snowflakes in the air to dust-ups on the track. There were 17 lead changes, 11 caution flags and a 42-minute red flag for light snow and rain.

For the first half of the race, there was never more than a 15-lap period of green flag laps run between caution flags. There were seven yellow flags by Stage 2 (lap 90).

lined up with Kaulig Racing's Daniel Hemric behind him. His teammate Allgaier was behind Gibbs and Gibbs was able to pull away just enough to pull away to a nearly half-second lead before a wreck - after the white flag - froze the field.

Gragson finished runner-up followed by Hemric and JR Motorsports drivers Josh Berry and Allgaier. Landon Cassill, rookie Sheldon Creed, Brett Moffitt, polesitter A.J. Allmendinger and Brandon Jones completed the Top 10.

"I just kind of got beat at our own game there. Restarts just came up short," Gragson said, adding "Just needed to be better. Congrats to them and we'll keep working hard. Thankful to this team led by Luke Lambert and we'll come back stronger next week."

Though Gragson was immensely disappointed to miss out on the win, this marks his consecutive second runner-up finish in 2022. He has a third place and two second-place showings and holds the Xfinity Series championship lead by 17 points over Gibbs.

The next NASCAR Xfinity Series race is scheduled for Saturday at Phoenix Raceway, the United Rentals 200, 4:30 p.m. Austin Cindric is the defending winner, taking the trophy over runner-up Gibbs.

Chandler Smith drives to front in closing laps to win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

LAS VEGAS – Nineteen year-old Chandler Smith took the lead with two laps remaining and held off 2021 championship contender Zane Smith and the winningest driver in NASCAR national-series history, his team owner Kyle Busch, to win the Victoria's Voice 200 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

It was a deservedly dramatic ending for a hugely competitive race at the 1.5-mile Las Vegas track – marking the ninth consecutive truck series race won by a driver 23 years of age or younger. Smith's .289-second win over Zane Smith was his first of the season and third of his career and good enough to propel him to the championship points lead by five points over Tanner Gray.

The move for the win came after a restart with three laps remaining. Smith, of Talking Rock, Georgia, got around his team owner Busch, then pulled alongside Zane Smith at the finish line with one lap to go and finally drove out front for the final of the 134 laps to take the win.

"When you guys tune into me halfway through the race, 'how did he get up there?'" Smith said motioning toward the sky. "It's the good Lord man, he performs miracles all day.



Chandler Smith, driver of the #18 Safelite AutoGlass Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Victoria's Voice Foundation 200 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 04, 2022 in Las Vegas, Nev.



Ty Gibbs, driver of the #54 Monster Energy Toyota, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series AlSCO Uniforms 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 5, 2022 in Las Vegas, Nev.

He's given me this talent, this opportunity to drive this truck for Kyle Busch Motorsports and for [sponsor] Safelite.

"I'm just beyond thankful for this whole opportunity. All the glory goes to him, my guys, my wife, all the guys part of this deal. I'm just super thankful right now."

There were five different leaders in the final furious 11 laps that included a caution for Christian Eckes, who was tagged from behind by Busch while leading the race with eight laps remaining. The final restart produced a wild – sometimes three-wide contest to the checkered.

Behind Smith, who led a race-best 32 laps, Busch, Stewart Friesen, Ryan Preece and Gray rounded out the Top five. Preece, making only his third Truck Series start, was leading when the final caution flag came out but was penalized five positions for not maintaining speed behind the pace car. Zane Smith originally finished second, but was disqualified following post-race inspection. Smith's No. 38 truck was found to not conform to NASCAR rule book specifications per the following rules: 14.16.1 – 1-4 Lug Nuts.

Matt DiBenedetto, Matt Crafton, Bret Holmes, Austin Wayne Self and Ty Majeski rounded out the Top 10.

Defending series champion Ben Rhodes won both Stage 1 and Stage 2 and led nine laps on the night, but a collision with his ThorSport Racing teammate Majeski with 30 laps remaining badly damaged his No. 99 ThorSport Toyota, eliminating him from competition. Instead of contending for the win, the race favorite took his first DNF since the 2020 Daytona season-opener.

"I can't speak to what happened with my teammate there, I'm just going to try to stay positive," said Rhodes, who was credited with a 32nd-place finish. "Can't imagine my teammate trying to wreck me."

"Just a bummer," he added.

Sentimental favorite, Todd Bodine, a two-time series champion who last raced in 2013, finished 22nd in the first of his six scheduled starts for 2022 in an effort to reach 800 NASCAR national series starts.

Bodine had an eventful night in the No. 62 Toyota, including two pit road speeding penalties, a penalty to his crew for being over the wall too soon and even surviving a pair of on-track incidents to finish on the lead lap.

With his win Smith takes a six-point lead over Zane Smith in the championship standings.

The Camping World Truck Series returns to action March 19 in the Fr8Auctions 200, 2:30 p.m., at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

Potts Mutual Burial Association, INC. Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS

Assessments Collected	\$740.08
Total Interest Earned - Lincoln Financial	-0-
Other	-0-
Total Receipts	\$742.08

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries.....	-0-
Collection Commissions	-0-
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$405.00
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	\$405.00
Membership Fees Paid Agents	-0-
Refunds.....	\$2.40
Death Benefits Paid @\$50	-0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100	\$200.00
Death Benefits Paid @200	\$2,200.00
Total	\$2,807.40

ASSETS

Cash on Hand	\$545.00
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities Account AAU-041746	\$50,614.49
Total	\$51,159.49

LIABILITIES

Death Benefits Unpaid	-0-
Other Unpaid Expenses	-0-
Total Payables.....	-0-
Reserve : 217 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books).....	\$4,557.00
Total	\$4,557.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Kimberly Page, President
Kathy Rogers, Vice-President • Carolyn Young, Secretary-Treasurer
DIRECTORS: Turner Page, Linda McCall Garner, Judy Keener, Carolyn Crisp

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PG. 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

- In ill humor
- Like a ship?
- Repeating word on South Pacific map
- Man-eating fairy tail giant
- Newspaper piece
- Pertaining to the ear
- Family group
- Not the life of the party
- Andean animal
- *Like Sunday, the day of announcements
- Bodily disorders
- 19th century Robber baron Jay _____
- Architect's software, acr.
- Articulates
- Soak up
- Cuban dance step
- Auditory canal, e.g.
- Needlefish, pl.
- "Star Wars" creator
- Swindle
- March edition, e.g.
- Rest or settle
- Johnny Cash's "Get _____"
- *It never ends this way
- Another word for acetylene
- High or hilly land
- Grazing spot
- Copying machine
- ____ code
- *Those remaining in last weekend (Two words)
- Gives off
- Afghanistan's western neighbor
- Beginner

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| 59. Send in payment | from Washington | 32. Ken or Barbie, e.g. |
| 60. Halfway around links | 9. Like word of mouth | 34. *Placement |
| 61. Besides | 10. Those born under Aries | 36. *First A in NCAA |
| 62. Biz bigwig | 11. Chicken _____ king | 38. Motivate |
| 63. *D-____ schools only | 13. Between 90 and 180 degrees | 40. Biology class acronym |
| 64. Swedish shag rugs | 14. Spy's cover | 41. Benevolent |
| | 19. Crocus bulbs, e.g. | 44. Leavening agent |
| | 22. *Network | 46. Another word for golf club |
| | 23. *School with most titles | 48. Rice wine |
| | 24. Car rack manufacturer | 49. Lacking sense |
| | 25. Like an implied agreement | 50. NYSE MKT, formerly |
| | 26. Your mom's sister | 51. Frost design on a window |
| | 27. Haile Selassie's disciple | 52. Porto____, Italy |
| | 28. Boston hockey player | 53. Like acne-prone skin |
| | 31. Heart pain | 54. Bear constellation |
| | | 55. Fish eggs, pl. |
| | | 56. Before, archaic |

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FISH FRY Friday March 18, 4:30 - 7 p.m. St. Francis Catholic Church, 299 Maple St., fried whole fish and fish filets with sides and desserts. Dine-in or Take-outs Available. Adults \$15, Childs plate \$6.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

Bryant Mutual Burial Association, INC.

Franklin, NC

RECEIPTS	
Assessments Collected	\$2,665.30
Total Interest Earned.....	0-
Other	0-
Total Receipts	\$2,665.30
DISBURSEMENTS	
Salaries.....	0-
Collection Commissions.....	0-
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$868.29
Total (not to exceed 30% of amounts of 1 & 4)	0-
Membership Fees Paid Agents	0-
Refunds.....	\$17.70
Death Benefits Paid @\$50	0-
Death Benefits Paid @\$100	\$600.00
Death Benefits Paid @200	\$7,400.00
Total	\$8,885.99
ASSETS	
Cash on Hand	\$9,547.74
Investment Account - Lincoln Financial Securities	
Account AAU-041745.....	\$176,357.96
Total	\$185,905.70
LIABILITIES	
Death Benefits Unpaid	0-
Other Unpaid Expenses.....	0-
Total Payables.....	0-
Reserve : 992 Members x \$21 (Members in good standing at close of books).....	\$20,832.00
Total	\$20,832.00

Note: The data reported herein represents the total cash assets and liabilities of the Mutual Burial Association. The Association is subject to complete financial review during routine on-site examination by Board Staff.

OFFICERS: Nicholas E. Page, President • Jack J. Dendy, Vice-President
Guy E. Grant, Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS: Patricia Safko, Ashley Grant Virga,
Edwin Grant, Dale Roper

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PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

CARS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	BMW	Alpina XB7	536
2022	BMW	M850 Gran Coup	275
2022	BMW	530	240
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
2020	Charger	RT Daytona	23,585
2019	Chevrolet	Sonic	59,039
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Golf SportWagen	56,048
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze LS	54,872
2018	Toyota	Camry	60,256
2015	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	15,349
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2015	Buick	LaCrosse	104,189
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2013	Hyundia	Elantra	55,328
2011	Cadillac	CTS Sedan Luxury	73,798
2011	Chevrolet	Impala	102,588
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007
1983	Chevrolet	Corvette	61,350
1972	Chevrolet	Corvette	97,217

SUVS

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

2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	14,918
2021	Kia	Telluride S	8,173
2021	Toyota	Highlander	1,996
2021	Chevrolet	Suburban	388
2021	Ford	Bronco Badlands AWD	1,237
2021	Chevrolet	Equinox Premier AWD	16,427
2021	Jeep	Wrangle High Altitude	17,132
2020	Chevrolet	Traverse LT	14,559
2020	Cadillac	Escalade Premium Luxury	7,309
2020	GMC	Acadia AT4	28,261
2020	Subaru	Outback Onyx Edition XT	27,594
2020	Subaru	Crosstrek Limited	14,430
2020	Hyundai	Palisade	34,462
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Yukon XL Denali	63,696
2019	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic	37,751
2019	Chevrolet	Express 2500	12,089
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Volkswagen	Atlas 3.6L V6 SE	71,947
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2017	Volkswagen	Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition	59,132
2016	Buick	Enclave CXL AWD	81,859
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2012	Chevrolet	Traverse	120,790

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500HD High Country	3,761
2022	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	489
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	15,112

2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	5,822
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	435
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	16,244
2021	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	8,432
2021	Ford	Bronco Sport	209
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD	1,205
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD HC Diesel	23,536
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	44,359
2019	GMC	Sierra 1500	18,811
2019	Nissan	Frontier SV 4x4	60,592
2019	Toyota	Tacoma SR5	43,420
2018	Chevrolet	Colorado Z-71	23,542
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 Custom	104,810
2018	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	31,379
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	44,668
2018	GMC	Sierra 1500 Denali	25,059
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	55,201
2017	GMC	Sierra 1500 SLT	61,657
2016	Ram	Diesel Crew 2500	60,495
2015	Chevrolet	Colorado	95,530
2012	Chevrolet	Colorado LT w/1LT	117,555

OTHER

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2019	KAUF	Trailer	0



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