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Volume 39 Number 41

FREE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Franklin High School Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz bands hosted Macon Middle School Honor Band, and the Hayesville Middle School and high school bands performing the state festival competition music at the FHS Fine Arts Center Monday night. Iiah Williams (above) plays with the FHS Jazz band which opened the program "jamming" at 6:30 p.m. as people came in. Four state certified judges were there to evaluate the bands.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

New programs to teach integrity, respect

Diane Peltz – Contributing Writer

The Macon County School Board met on Monday, Feb. 28 for its regularly scheduled meeting. Several items of importance were on the agenda.

School Programs

The Student Lighthouse Team from Iotla Valley Elementary made an appearance at the board meeting to showcase the Lighthouse program. The team is composed of students in grades K-4 who have filled out an application to apply to the team, and who have undergone a lengthy interview process. Teachers who are on the "Action Team" interview the students and choose three to four children from each grade level. This year two kindergarten students were chosen to participate. Students meet once a week to discuss school and community issues. Students on this team along with the Rotary Club have contributed to community outreach. The students have helped with wrapping Christmas presents, canned food drives and assisting with the shoe drive for Haiti, at First United Methodist Church.

The Lighthouse Team evolved from the "Leader in Me" program, which was implemented several years ago at the school. This program incorporates the "7 Habits of Happy Kids" and are based on Dr. Stephen Covey's works and on

the premise that in today's world, success in life requires not only good grades or expertise in a particular field, but also a person that is well-rounded with social skills, good character, purposeful drive, perseverance, and positive leadership ability. A leadership project forum will be held at Iotla Valley Elementary School on March 25 that will include community members.

South Macon Elementary has implemented their RISE (respect, integrity, standards, expectations) Program. Its mission is to mentor and teach 3rd and 4th grade boys the importance of respect and integrity. Students and teachers will meet one day per month and will keep an open dialogue on students' lives. Team building exercises along with fun times will be on the agenda. Some proposed fun days are, fishing, zip lining, hiking, laser tag, and gem mining.

Summer Career Activation Camps

Franklin High School will be host to CTE (career and technical education) Camps this summer. The camps will provide reality-based game show type camps focused on careers in food and nutrition, natural resources, public safety, automotive entrepreneurship, and cyber security. The career accelerator camps will align to the CTE pathways offered at

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Student Summit explores sustainability



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Author offers best practices for an A.T. Trail Town



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Kyle Larson wins action-filled race at Fontana

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SCHOOL BOARD

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the local high schools and align directly to local employment needs. Camp themes may include Food Truck Wars, Cyber Patriots, First on Scene, Trail Corp, Forged in Fire, Fast and Furious, and Shark Tank.

One goal of the camps will be to have 80% of participating students identify a career pathway and required courses for completion by the end of the summer. Another goal for participating students will be to improve their knowledge and application of soft/employability skills needed to enter the workforce by the end of the summer.

Camps will be offered in one week sessions, four hours per day, four days per week. Camps will be provided to upcoming 6th - 8th graders and upcoming 9th - 12th graders. Camp dates will vary throughout the summer. Registration forms will be sent home with eligible students.

Teacher Supplements

John deVille, FHS History Teacher, spoke about the broken promise from Representative Kevin Corbin, regarding the \$2,750 permanent bonus to teachers. He explained that teachers were promised a 5% pay raise

along with \$2,800 bonuses, 5% state and teacher retiree COLA (cost of living adjustment) bonus and \$15 minimum wage for school and community college staff. This was to come from the \$97 million from new capital projects in the seven western counties, which Corbin stated he would be sharing soon. That was back in November 2021.

DeVille pointed out that raises for teachers with 15 years experience are closer to 1.5% rather than 5%. Macon County teachers will receive a \$1,000 supplement not the promised \$2,750. Teacher retirees did not receive a COLA bonus – there is no such thing – payments are either a COLA which is a permanent, ongoing adjustment, or they are a one-time bonus with no ongoing commitment. The 2021 budget provided the latter to retirees. Senator Corbin stated that the teacher supplements are "permanent." They are not, nor could they be under the North Carolina constitution, said deVille. The supplements were funded by a one-time creation of \$100 million dollar fund. Once that fund runs out the supplements disappear, the future of the supplements cannot be guaranteed as a current General Assembly cannot set decisions for future legislators.

However, Senator Corbin noted that with anything budgeted by a current General Assembly – future state leaders can change it



The Student Lighthouse team from Iotla Valley Elementary stopped by the school board meeting to showcase the Lighthouse program. The program was evolved from the "Leader in Me" and incorporates Dr. Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Happy Kids."

and rest of the year budgets around the \$2,750 promised supplement.

"Consider the fact that married couples who work for Macon County Schools were expecting \$5,500 before taxes. There is an increasing feeling among teacher corps that we have been 'sucker punched' right to the gut and our bank accounts and if there is anything within your power, within the NC Senate and House to make good on the promise, then we would be exceptionally appreciative."

The School Board made a decision on how to distribute the \$1,000

once they are elected — that is the nature of changing legislators during an election cycle, however, it was the intent of the \$100 million fund that it would be maintained well into the future.

In a letter to Corbin, deVille also noted that teachers had been budgeting their spring

bonus to Macon County teachers. In order to include all teachers, which includes retirees from December 2021, an additional \$91,000 will be taken out of the discretionary budget, to allow all teachers to receive the

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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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Candidate filing resumes; primary election set for Tuesday, May 17

Brittney Lofthouse – Contributing Writer

Candidate filing resumed last Thursday morning across North Carolina and will continue until the filing deadline at noon on Friday, March 4. From local races to Congressional seats, candidates across the state have been signing up this week to appear on the primary ballot. The primary election is now scheduled for Tuesday, May 17.

Despite announcing in November that he would not be seeking re-election to Western North Carolina's District 11 and instead would be running in the redrawn District 14, Rep. Madison Cawthorn announced on Monday in a press release that he would be seeking re-election for District 11 after the release of new congressional maps last week.

The state Supreme Court struck down those lines and the entire congressional map in early February, saying they were illegal partisan gerrymanders. The GOP-controlled General Assembly passed a new map Feb. 17, but a three-judge panel reworked it again last week, saying it didn't meet fairness standards mentioned by the state justices.

Candidate filing under the map adopted by the trial judges, resumed Thursday. The next day, Republican legislative leaders asked the U.S. Supreme Court to block the use of the court-adopted map. The case is pending.

The freshman Republican faces several primary challengers for the District 11 seat including Bruce O'Connell, Wendy Marie-Limbaugh Nevarez, Matthew Burrill, Chuck Edwards and Rod Honeycutt.

While early voting has not yet begun, any registered and eligible North Carolina voter may now request an absentee ballot for the 2022 primary election online through the North Carolina Absentee Ballot Portal, available on the State Board of Elections' website. To request a ballot through the portal, voters must verify their identity by providing their full name, date of birth, address, and either their driver's license number (or other DMV ID number) or last four digits of their Social Security number. Voters will sign and submit the form online. If a voter provides their email address, they will receive a confirmation email after the request is submitted through the portal.

The deadline to submit a request for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, May 10, at 5 p.m., one week before Election Day. The State Board encourages voters to request a ballot sooner to ensure they can return their ballot in time to be counted. In late March or early April, after ballots are prepared, county boards of elections across North Carolina will begin sending them out to voters who request them.

Absentee voters must return their ballot, sealed inside the specially provided envelope,

to their county board of elections no later than 5 p.m. on Election Day, May 17, 2022.

Absentee ballots received after 5 p.m. on Election Day will be counted only if they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received by mail no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday after the election. Ballots without a postmark must be received by Election Day.

Candidates filing as of Wednesday are:

Board of Commissioners District 1
Don Willis - Republican

Board of Commissioners District 2
Ronnie Beale - Democrat
Gary Shields - Republican
Richard Lightner - Republican
Danny Antoine - Republican
Danny Reitmeier - Republican
Gregg Jones - Republican

Clerk of Superior Court
Justin Stamey - Republican
Shawna Thun Lamb - Republican
Mike Trammel - Republican

Register of Deeds
Todd Raby - Democrat

Macon County Sheriff
Chris Browning - Republican
Clay Bryson - Republican
Bob Cook - Republican
Brent Holbrooks - Republican
Dereck Jones - Republican

Senate District 50
Kevin Corbin - Republican - Franklin, NC

NC House of Representatives District 119
Mike Clampitt - Republican - Bryson City

NC House of Representatives District 120
Karl Gillespie - Republican - Franklin

NC Superior Court Judge Dist. 30A Seat 01
William (Bill) Coward - Republican

NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 01
Donna Forga

NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 02
Kristina Earwood

NC District Court Judge District 30 Seat 03
Roy Wijewickrama

District Attorney District 43
Ashley Hornsby Welch

U.S. Congressional District 11
David Adam Coatney - Libertarian - Fletcher
Virginia Ann Foxx - Republican - Banner Elk
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Bruce O'Connell - Republican - Candler
Wendy Marie-Limbaugh Nevarez - Republican - Asheville

Matthew Burril - Republican - Fletcher
Chuck Edwards - Republican - Flat Rock
Rod Honeycutt - Republican - Alexander
Madison Cawthorn - Republican - Hendersonville
Michele V. Woodhouse - Republican - Hendersonville

Katie Dean - Democrat - Swannanoa
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara - Democrat - Asheville

Bo Hess - Democrat - Asheville

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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

bonus. This bonus should appear in their March 30th paycheck.

The bonus that was discussed was provided by the General Assembly through the Special Allotment for Teacher Compensation," said Dr. Baldwin. "With the school board electing to provide additional funding in order to include local and federally paid teachers, each school teacher in Macon County will receive an additional supplement of \$1,012 before withholdings. This supplement will be included in the March payroll."

While it is still unclear whether the state or local district is responsible for the delay in distributing the supplement to employees, Senator Corbin did offer clarification on the discrepancy in the allotted amount that will be provided to teachers.

"We were told the formula added supplements to each rural county and we were told the amounts for each by the non-partisan budget office," explained Senator Corbin. "All seven of my county's estimates were

pretty much dead on but Macon. They gave us the wrong number and that's the number I gave Dr. Chris Baldwin because that is what I was told. I am so sorry and I regret that we were given the wrong amount for Macon County."

"Mr. deVille failed to recognize that in addition to the \$1,000 supplemental bonus, most teachers also received a \$2,800 bonus in January plus pay raises paid retroactively back to July 2021," said Senator Corbin. "Of course, a future legislature could decrease or even increase the supplement. Fact is, this is the first time rural North Carolina counties have been given a teacher supplement from the State. I advocated for that and will continue to do so ..."

Masks optional on busses

Based on the low number of COVID cases in the community and reduced quarantines the school board voted to make face coverings optional at school and on school buses beginning March 1, 2022.

The next meeting of the Macon School Board will be held on March 28 at Highlands School.

Brittney Lofthouse contributed to this article.

Nominations open for N.C. Heritage Award

Nominations are open for the North Carolina Heritage Award, the state's highest honor for traditional artists, until May 2. A program of the N.C. Arts Council, the Heritage Award honors active traditional artists, recognizes artistic excellence in a traditional art, celebrates contributions to communities, and promotes North Carolina's cultural heritage.

Artists who are recognized within their communities as keepers of North Carolina's living traditions may be nominated for the award. Anyone can nominate a traditional artist or group of artists for a N.C. Heritage Award.

Past award recipients have included masters of such traditions as string band, gospel, balladry, and blues music; storytelling; and crafts such as pottery, basketry, blacksmithing, weaving, boatbuilding, and carving. As new traditions take root, their practitioners are nominated and the list of examples grows. To date the award has honored 144 artists—some professionally acclaimed and others who practice their art in family and community settings.

"The Heritage Awards are an opportunity to celebrate exceptional people who keep and nurture traditional creative practice. Through them, we also honor the cultural contributions of their entire communities," said the N.C. Arts Council's Folklife Director Zoe Van Buren. "With each new cohort, we can witness the changing seasons of our state's dynamic cultural life, see traditions emerge and adapt, and learn how North Carolinians use the arts to know who we are,

where we came from, and where we are going."

Many Heritage Award recipients have gained national and international attention. Arthel "Doc" Watson, Earl Scruggs, Etta Baker, Ray Hicks, and 12 others have



Asha Bala, a performer, scholar and instructor of the South Indian classical dance tradition Bharatanatyam, received an N.C. Heritage Award in 2018.

ceived National Heritage Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The criteria for selection are authenticity, current and past record of excellence, and significance of the work within the context of the nominees' specific cultural tradition.

The Heritage Award ceremony and concert in the spring of 2023 will feature performances and demonstrations by the Heritage Award recipients.

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Mission names new CMO

Mission Health has named Philip Stahel, MD, FACS, as Chief Medical Officer for the HCA Healthcare North Carolina Division. Dr. Stahel comes to Mission from The Medical Center of Aurora, after two years there as CMO. He will begin in April.

Dr. Stahel was born in Zurich Switzerland, grew up in Milano, Italy, and attended the Medical School in Zurich, Switzerland. He is a triple-board certified European trauma surgeon, re-

recruited to Denver Health in 2006 from Charité University Medical Center in Berlin, Germany.

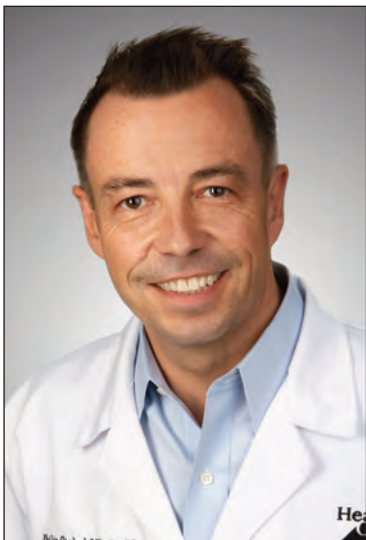
“We are so fortunate to have Philip Stahel join the Mission Health team in April. Dr. Stahel has been nationally recognized for his leadership in patient safety initiatives and we welcome his passion for quality care,” said Greg Lowe, President, HCA North Carolina Division.

Prior to being at The Medical Center of Aurora, Dr. Stahel severed at CMO at North Suburban Medical Center and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Fellow of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) and a former Professor of Orthopedics and Neurosurgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (2010-2017) and at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (since 2017). Dr. Stahel is also the founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the peer-reviewed and PubMed-indexed journal “Patient Safety in Surgery” (www.pssjournal.com)

The leadership team at The Medical Center of Aurora has said of “Dr. Phil” that he has never met a stranger and they will miss his passion, energy and can-do attitude.

In his new role, Dr. Stahel will join Mission Health’s Executive Team where he will lead our clinical agenda, regulatory readiness, and provide executive support to the medical staff.

Dr. Stahel and his wife, Aimeé, have 3 children, Vanessa, 25, and Vincent & Cedric, 22 and a chihuahua named Hector. In his free time, Dr. Stahel enjoys playing music and running.



Philip Stahel, MD

Dogwood Trust releases 2021 annual report

Dogwood Health Trust announced today that its 2021 Annual Report is now available in a digital version that includes a full report as a PDF download. In total, Dogwood made more than \$92 million in total community investments in 2021.

“The past year was a very busy one for Dogwood and our partners,” said Dr. Susan Mims, CEO of Dogwood Health Trust. “In addition to the grants highlighted in the report, we made hundreds of community connections, created a robust yet streamlined grantmaking process, and developed meaningful goals and objectives that support our Strategic Priorities and guide our path forward.”

In 2021, Dogwood invested \$78.6 million in traditional grant awards, \$12.1 million in Impact Investments, and \$1.2 million in program-related expenses. Additionally, by investing another \$1.2 million through its Leverage Fund and capacity building grants — a strategy in which Dogwood connects regional nonprofit organizations with proven successful grant writers who help them pursue and attract significant funding from public and private sources outside of the

region — Dogwood helped attract more than \$8.7 million in funding from state and federal sources, as well as from national private funders.

In addition to providing funding, Dogwood also grew its program team significantly in 2021 to ensure more and deeper community connections as it partners throughout the region to achieve positive outcomes within its four strategic priorities of Housing, Education, Economic Opportunity, and Health & Wellness.

“We are thrilled by the support and engagement from our community partners and the momentum we are creating together to create a region where every generation can live, learn, earn and thrive — no exceptions,” Mims said. “We are excited to continue this journey together through 2022 and beyond.”

Dogwood Health Trust is a private foundation based in Asheville, North Carolina with the sole purpose of dramatically improving the health and wellbeing of all people and communities of 18 counties and the Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina. no exceptions. To learn more, please visit www.dht.org.

Celebrate Red Cross Month by donating blood

In March, the Greater Carolinas Region is honoring the people who make its mission possible every day during its annual Red Cross Month celebration — a national tradition started nearly 80 years ago when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first national Red Cross Month proclamation recognizing those who give back through the American Red Cross. Each U.S. president has issued a proclamation ever since.

“When emergencies strike, our community rallies together to help families and individuals when it matters most,” said Allison Taylor, regional executive, Greater Carolinas Region. “We honor this dedication during our Red Cross Month celebration, and we invite everyone to turn their compassion into action by donating, volunteering, giving blood or taking a lifesaving skills course.”

Join Red Cross Month by visiting redcross.org to make a financial donation, give blood, become a volunteer or take a class in lifesaving skills, such as first aid and CPR. On March 23, you can also join the annual Red Cross Giving Day campaign by donating at redcross.org/givingday to help provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance for people affected by disasters big and small.

Help can’t wait during emergencies. Last year alone, the Greater Carolinas Region of the Red Cross responded to

nearly 1,300 home fires — assisting nearly 1,900 families by distributing nearly \$2 million in direct financial assistance. Additionally, the Greater Carolinas Region made more than 800 homes safer, installed nearly 1,300 free smoke alarms with community partners and served more than 4,400 active duty military, veterans and their families through emergency communications and critical needs.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. The Red Cross blood supply remains incredibly vulnerable — especially as doctors begin to resume elective surgeries previously delayed by omicron. It’s critical that individuals schedule a blood or platelet donation immediately to help ensure patients get the care they need as soon as possible. To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Red Cross Blood Donor App. A blood drive is scheduled for March 7 in Highlands at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As a thank-you, all those who come to give March 1-31 will receive a \$10 e-gift card, thanks to Fanatics. Plus, those who come to donate in March will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to the 2022 MLB® All-Star Game® in Los Angeles, Calif. Terms apply. Visit rcblood.org/team for details.



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Mini Acts of Kindness offering offsite equine healing for veterans

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Horses have been used for many years to help people overcome or at least minimize mental health struggles. And although nonprofit Special Liberty Project, at its Franklin farm facility, incorporates equine healing during monthly retreats for veteran spouses as well as Gold Star widows, the organization's new Mini Acts of Kindness is an off-site equine healing program. Essentially, miniature horses are loaded onto a trailer and taken to facilities where veterans live or congregate.

Special Liberty Project was founded to provide nature-oriented programs for individuals and groups of people who have experienced traumatic military-related loss. And Executive Director Jessica Merritt announced that the first off-site Mini Acts of Kindness session takes place Friday, March 4, at 11 a.m. at Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility.

There, the miniature horses, which stand approximately 35 inches in height, will be led inside the facility where veterans, as well as other residents, can experience the animals.

"The minis really help people shift a potentially negative mental state to a much more positive and uplifting attitude," said Merritt. "Our minis who are part of our larger Healing Herd of Horses at our farm here in Franklin, not only bring joy, we've also seen them inspire motivation to overcome struggles and help people move past something holding them back."

Merritt explained that Macon Valley's Bridget Karcher, a therapist, arranged the first Mini Acts of Kindness visit. Veteran spouse Elsa McCowan, who is the new director of Special Liberty Project's equine healing program, as well as Merritt's 11-year-old daughter, Charlie, has been "working every single day rain or shine with the minis to make this program possible," explained Merritt. "They are going through an entire syllabus from Hearts and Hooves Healing with the goal of getting certified by the end of February. The training has helped the minis get familiar with wheelchairs, being taken through buildings, and exposure to different people, emotions, noises, and sites."

"I really enjoy spending time with our Healing Herd of Horses. I love working with them and making true connections and progress in their training. I love seeing the hard work pay



Charlie Merritt, the 11-year-old daughter of Special Liberty Project director Jessica Merritt, has been working with the miniature horses to ready them for transport to sites where veterans can benefit from equine healing; here she poses with Sunshine.

off when they bring happiness to others. This is a true passion of mine. I plan on continuing my education in equine therapy, I just love it so much," commented Charlie Merritt.

The two miniature horses that will participate in the first off-site Mini Acts of Kindness are Queen Ann's Lace (Queenie) and Sunshine on My Shoulder (Sunshine).

"We, as humans, are part of nature, but we forget that so often and horses can remind us of that. The sensory aspects of being around them and touching them, plus their cuteness, brings smiles and laughter. Being around horses can change moods and attitudes for the better."

Amber Welch, this year's Miss Rodeo North Carolina and a rodeo sport competitor, will volunteer on Friday, March 4, to assist with Mini Acts of Kindness as a horse handler.

"Equine healing holds a special place in my heart. I have witnessed breakthrough therapeutic approaches using horses. To put this into perspective, a horse can feel a fly on its back and can certainly detect our emotional state. Being able to work alongside the Special Liberty Project, which helps foster so much healing in our community, is a blessing to me," said Welch.

A lifetime equestrian, Welch is looking forward to interacting with the miniature horses as well as the veteran residents at Macon Valley.

"I will be co-facilitating with Jessica [Merritt] on horse safety, and helping to make this a positive experience for our veterans. It's a small way to give back."

Merritt said support and volunteerism is needed at Special Liberty Project. And veterans in the community can arrange for a visit from the miniature horses trained for the Mini Acts of Kindness program. For more information, visit speciallibertyproject.org or call (828)222-3105.



The two miniature horses that will participate in the first off-site Mini Acts of Kindness are Sunshine on My Shoulder (Sunshine) and Queen Ann's Lace (Queenie). They have been trained by Elsa McCowan, the new director of Special Liberty Project's equine healing program, as well as 11-year-old Charlie Merritt.



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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor



Patrick Taylor

I want to thank everyone for a very successful and civil public hearing last Thursday night that addressed the Highlands Planning Board's recommendations concerning short term rental (STR) amendments to the UDO. Over 30 people spoke at the hearing and expressed positions both for and against the recommendations being considered.

The Highlands Town Board of Commissioners has been given written public comments submitted for the hearing. Everyone on the Highlands Sunshine List has been sent a final agenda with those comments included. To join the Sunshine List contact Gibby Shaheen at 526-2118, or email her at Gibby.shaheen@highlandsc.org.

I want to thank Gibby and our staff for organizing the hearing. The YouTube telecast that staff set up was free of the audio problems that were experienced at the recent town board meeting.

I also want to thank the Highlands Planning Board, and especially their chairperson, Brad Armstrong, for developing the STR recommendations. They were given a draft proposal from the town attorneys who were working on the short term rental issue. Members of this board spent many hours reviewing the draft. The planning board made some difficult decisions as community volunteers. I speak for the town board in expressing our appreciation for their service.

I want to express my gratitude to all who attended and participated in the hearing. The hearing was a candid airing of different views. In the great community spirit of Highlands we had a civil and respectful meeting. I came away from this meeting with the affirmation that the people of Highlands love this community and respect their fellow citizens.

The next step will be for the town board to begin addressing the recommendations. I anticipate holding special meetings as part of this process. The board's next scheduled meeting is the March 10 Highlands Town Retreat. The STR is not be on the retreat agenda. The retreat agenda is reserved for budget and annual planning issues.

The retreat will be held at Coleman Hall at the Highlands Presbyterian Church this coming Thursday, March 10. The session will begin at 9 a.m. and continue into the afternoon.

There will be a lunch break where staff and commissioners will enjoy a locally catered box lunch. I say this

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

President Biden skillfully handling Ukraine crisis

Unequivocally, I'm proud of President Biden for the actions he's taken thus far and his ongoing commitment to diplomatic resolution in Ukraine. He's handled the crisis skillfully — raising the alarm early, steadily aligning allies behind a smart diplomatic strategy (and, in doing so creating a strong anti-authoritarian global alliance), and staying focused on avoiding escalation while holding Russia accountable.

It's not hard to imagine where we'd be if Trump were still president (remember: Trump was impeached for the first time because of a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky where he threatened to withhold military aid to the country if Zelensky didn't do him a "favor" and find dirt on Biden's son Hunter — and just last week, Trump called Putin a genius).

The kind of leadership we've seen from Biden thus far is the kind of leadership we need to see continue. Over the coming days and weeks, we all should be looking for the Administration to do four things:

1. Pursue peace: President Biden must continue his focus on diplomacy to encourage Russia to cease its offensive
2. Hold aggressors accountable: The United States and our allies must continue ongoing and escalating sanctions targeting Putin and his oligarchs
3. Provide humanitarian assistance and relief to those impacted, including protections for Ukrainians in the United States: As of now, the United States has announced that we're sending nearly \$54 million in humanitarian aid. But, our responsibility doesn't end there. We echo the calls of 177 organizations demanding protection for Ukrainians currently in the U.S., as well as calls to support resettlement for those currently fleeing the country as refugees.
4. Make urgent investments in green energy: This isn't a silver bullet, but it is an important step in fighting back against authoritarian regimes like Putin's.

Elizabeth Swift – Franklin, N.C.

Peaceful activism needed in today's fractured world

Today, I feel compelled to write some thoughts down that have been plaguing my brain. It's about the suffering of the Ukrainian people. It's about the horror of another world war. It's about an unsurvivable world war. It's about how our inhumane race has sinfully evolved on our glorious earth to have gained the ability to completely annihilate ourselves. It's about the greed-driven, mentally soured people in government power, in their mega-yachts, laundering their mega-money, all the while grabbing for more, more, more, while babies are born in bomb shelters with their

tearful parents holding them, wondering what have they done to bring another precious life into this horribly fractured world.

And then my thoughts go to a little girl from Maine who, back in the early '80s, wrote a letter of 99 words. The little girl's name is Samantha Smith. Samantha asked, in her letter to the Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov, why the Soviet Union wanted to go to war with the United States. Her answer from the premier was received. Her letter and his response went world wide (this was "pre" the present "going viral" capabilities of today). Samantha's courage to write down how she felt and to send her thoughts in a letter to a world leader magnifies what a strong and, broad thinking, globally thoughtful little girl she was.

I'd like to add a paragraph from a newspaper clipping for you to read and think about. I feel a little better now that I have written down some of my feelings.

"And a child shall lead us..."

Her letter read, "God made the world for us to live together in peace, and not to fight. I would like to know why you want to conquer the world, or at least our country." Thus was launched a saga of peaceful activism between the United States and the Soviet Union that has been unequalled to in recent years. This youthful ambassador for peace was described as a "brilliant beam of sunshine" in a statement from Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev read by a Russian official at a memorial service for the Maine youth and her father, victims of a plane crash. The Soviet official expressed the hope that the superpowers would continue the dialogue Samantha started and "reach over our borders with goodwill, friendship and love." Samantha accomplished more with her 99-word letter to Yuri Andropov and a two-week visit to the Soviet Union than countless other efforts in the interminable search for peace.

"And a child shall lead us ..." So, rest in peace, sweet Samantha Smith, and rest in peace to your father, Arthur Smith. As you wrote nearly 40 years ago, "God made the world for us to live together in peace." Yes, maybe someday, we will.

Mary Barbour – Franklin, N.C.

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We need to get back to the basics

The church age started over 2000 years ago in Jerusalem when about 120 people from different areas who spoke different languages all came together to hear Peter and the disciples talk about Jesus Christ. I do not know what they expected when they went there but they received more than they had hope for, when they became filled with the Holy Spirit.

Yes, our church today has Jewish roots but over the ages they seem to have departed from our ancestral roots. Little by little we have let America take God out of our public life. They have taken God out of our educational system, out of our government, and out of our culture. Prayer has been banned from public events, Bibles removed from schools, and the Ten Commandments removed from public places.

We are returning to pagan views and practices concerning sexuality, gender and marriage. We need to stop making worldly views seem like Christian views, because they are not alike. God's power broke down ancient walls, made kingdoms shake, opened prison doors, set captives free and made the world take notice. It is still the same power today. God's words spoken to the men at Pentecost have the same meaning today. God's values have not and will not change. We need to change! We need to get back to the basics - to our Jewish/Christian roots.

Mike Townsend - Franklin, N.C.

History, in need of response

For many as for myself, I was never was quite sure of the relevance of the Bible and the world I lived in. It seemed that the Biblical worldview was not matching or had any relevance with the reality of living life. This I feel is ever present in many who question life and finding reason in a world which seems has lost all reason. As one who learns slowly, or as I like to put it, cautiously, my world of living was separate from my Biblical worldview which now has become one in harmony and making sense from a more younger confused life.

The Bible starts with the beginning of time and creation with "everything being good," so we being part of His creation and goodness. Yet in this goodness, He has given us our right to choose, for if we were not given this right we would just be subjects with no ability to choose His goodness over what would seem our goodness. Love cannot be forced, and true love can only be given and taken willfully.

This harmony of true love is broken when we choose to follow everything that replaces God. So, the tension of good and evil, (God vs. Satan) is clearly seen to this present day. After Genesis 3 throughout Biblical history and our history, which is really the same history, is in tension and is forever with us, as in every movie we watch or children's story of life's unending struggle of good versus evil. But in this we continue to strive the truest sense of goodness, which all humanity would like, but never gets there. If there is no God, there is no reason to care about these things which show themselves daily.

Blending truth in history, which was foretold in Biblical history before realized in modern history, yet some deny. One prominent truth within modern history is the coming of Israel as a nation on May 14, 1948, which was written in Biblical history before it ever entered modern history. Jews themselves have been a unique race in a unified people as no other. Which was evident in Biblical history before modern history. Also, the focal point of our world is Jerusalem and the middle east, again written in Biblical history before modern history. Then asking, why does man search for truth, justice, equality, and all the attributes of God? Political systems strive for this, and we want this, but within our selfishness it becomes obvious we are incapable of getting there, yet this matters greatly within humanity. In nature it's the survival of the fittest, if we are part of nature, why are we uniquely different? We know this to be true and His goodness is something to strive for, deep within we wish to find ourselves surrounded in all that is good. This deep hunger we all seek is the same hunger the Bible shows throughout its beginning through its end. We have this internal sense there's something calling in need of being answered, yet many struggle with this and few seem to find it. This, too, is mentioned in Biblical history and is obvious throughout all history.

The sense we are more than mere man is overwhelming, we are earthly humans but have a spiritual soul which goes beyond humanity. Otherwise life and its ending makes no sense, but as in the garden we choose what we seek. If we all want what is truly good, we must put a trust in God who seeks out each of us, it's then a personal harmony and peace as never realized. If we seek elsewhere we live in an eternal opposite of any hope that may have been once desired. I see no other way to make sense or reason of our world which makes no sense yet is completely understood when view through a Biblical worldview which tells the story.... "of a truth I now see."

Re-thinking life,

Deni Shepard - nds13@frontier.com

NCHP participates in Operation SafeDRIVE

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCHP) will again join forces with law enforcement partners in adjoining states to conduct a concentrated highway traffic enforcement period as part of Operation SafeDRIVE (Distracted Reckless Impaired Visibility Enforcement). Operation efforts aim to eliminate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) traffic collisions through periods of high visibility enforcement along the southeast I-95 corridor where 13% of the nation's fatal CMV collisions occur. The enforcement period will run through March 3.

"We are committed to reducing dangerous driving behaviors on our essential commercial routes. Our aim is to educate and build awareness for all motorists including both passenger vehicle and CMV drivers on how to share the road safely," said Colonel Freddy L. Johnson Jr., commander of the State Highway Patrol.

SafeDRIVE's enforcement efforts will focus on both passenger and commercial motor vehicles, and include monitoring for aggressive driving, speeding, tailgating, failing to wear safety belts, distracted driving and impaired driving. Efforts will also help ensure CMV drivers are following industry reg-

ulations, including hours of service compliance, commercial driver license compliance, medical certification and commercial motor vehicle credentialing.

SafeDRIVE's enforcement efforts complement a national campaign run by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, "Our Roads, Our Safety" campaign, which educates motorists on how to share the road effectively and safely with CMV's.

All motorists should follow these safety tips:

- Stay out of blind spots. Large trucks and buses have huge blind spots on all four sides.
- Pass safely. Make sure you can see the CMV driver in their side mirror. Signal clearly and safely pass the truck or bus. Do not linger in the blind spot.
- Do not cut off large vehicles. It takes a large truck traveling at speeds the length of two football fields to stop.
- Do not tailgate. Tailgating a truck or bus puts you in a blind spot.

The goal of SafeDRIVE is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions. All drivers should share the road safely.

TAYLOR

From previous page

jokingly that the box lunch is the one big perk Highlands elected officials receive yearly.

The retreat is open to the public. Folks can come listen to the staff reports and discussion during the retreat. The retreat is not a time where public comment is taken. During the sessions no final budget actions are made. The retreat is actually a preliminary planning session for developing the town budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.

There will be several budget workshops this spring as the town manager and staff develop the new budget. At these workshops final priorities and adjustments will be set. At the June town board meeting a public hearing will be held concerning the proposed new budget. The new budget will go into effect on July 1.

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Student summit explores local and global sustainability needs

Deena C. Bouknight
Contributing Writer

A “big” word used to describe the current geological age is Anthropocene. Jason Love, associate director at Highlands Biological Station, focused on the meaning during the Feb. 25 introduction of the three-day Student Sustainability Summit, which included middle and high school students from Macon County schools. The term, Anthropocene, indicates the current era in which human activity is the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

To a group of more than a dozen students from Macon Middle School, Franklin High School, Macon Early College, and Highlands School, Love noted how humans are shaping the planet at both the global level and in Macon County.

“I used data from Coweeta Hydrologic Lab, Coweeta LTER program, and other sources to show how Macon County is experiencing some human impacts, such as landcover change, water use/quality, plastic pollution, loss of biodiversity, and more.”

Love shared with students some steps that ordinary citizens can take that can positively impact the area and help to conserve natural resources.

- “Consider eating less meat. A recent report found that if you put all the mammals (humans, dogs, whales, elephants, shrews, bats, etc.) on a scale, humans would represent 36% of the total biomass, cattle, pigs, sheep, and other domesticated mammals that humans eat represent a whopping 60%, and wild animals would only represent 4% of the total biomass of mammals. Not only would eating less meat cut down on deforestation (80% of the loss of tropical forests in the Amazon can be contributed to cattle farming) but it would



Local foods regional specialist Jessica Mrugala, discussed the benefits of eating seasonal, local produce.

also decrease greenhouse gases such as methane. Livestock such as cattle contribute to 14.5% of global methane emissions.”

- “Shade your stream. We live in a wet, mountainous area. There are thousands of small streams that feed into larger streams, which feed into rivers. Removing vegetation from these streams causes more sunlight to enter, which causes the temperature of the water to rise. As temperatures rise, dissolved oxygen decreases. This combination makes the water less suitable for native cold water organisms such as salamanders and brook trout. Removing vegetation also makes the stream banks more susceptible to erosion, reduces the input of leaves and twigs to the

stream, which form the base of the food chain in these small streams. This in turn reduces the number of stream insects, which in turn reduces the number of fish such as trout.”

- “Consider reducing the size of your lawn and plant natives. Lawns require fertilizers and water. Native plants attract native pollinators and serve as food for caterpillars and other beneficial insects, which are in turn fed upon by songbirds, especially nestlings.”

Students who signed up for the area’s first-ever free Student Sustainability Summit were exposed to hands-on workshops and activities on the topics of sustainability and climate science.

Daniel Pope, a freshman at Macon Early

College, said he decided to attend the Summit because he wants a diverse education.

“I’m interested in environmental topics, and I thought it was really cool what Mr. Jason showed us about Macon County and its ecological cycles.”

Participating students stayed in housing on the grounds of the Highlands Biological Station from Friday, Feb. 25 to Sunday, Feb. 27, and attended programs taught by professionals in the many labs and lecture rooms throughout the station’s campus.

For example, Gloria Painter, a science educator at Macon Early College, presented students with a biodiversity lesson that directly impacts their daily experiences.

“I collected three bags of trash from the school to take with us up to the Summit,” she said. “Those bags of trash were general trash that is thrown away by the students and teachers during the day. During my session we talked about how we can be better stewards of putting our trash in the appropriate places, such as recycling bins and composters.”

“One of the largest generators of our trash is Styrofoam,” said Painter. “We had a discussion around the fact that Styrofoam cannot be broken down. However, other materials could be used in place of Styrofoam that are compostable. We sifted through the trash once and took out what the students thought could be recyclable or compostable. We took individual masses of each category. [Shaun Cribbs] then joined us from Macon County Solid Waste Management (SWM). He went back through the trash with the students. During this time the students were able to see that the trash that they had put back into the trash bin after being sorted once was

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then able to be sorted to about half and half. Meaning that half of the overall garbage would have gone to the landfill and half of the garbage would have been able to be recycled.”

Added Cribbs, who is a SWM recycle coordinator, “It seems that the event went very well and the students that attended were very interested in recycling and what they might be able to do in their schools to increase recycling efforts. During our discussions we spoke on what was recyclable and what was not from the trash that they had collected from their school. We also discussed the different things that we recycle here in the county other than cardboard, paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, and metal. Those included tires, electronics, pallets, motor oil, cooking oil, and anti-freeze. We also touched on the different careers at Solid Waste that they could pursue, i.e. recycling, business administration, finance, equipment operator, environmental health, mechanic, and truck drivers.”

Presenters conveyed that students generated numerous questions about sustainability, the environment, recycling, composting, growing food, and more.

“They came up with ideas to approach leadership in their schools to start recycling programs or environmental clubs,” said Painter. “Students want to be able to make a difference and to have a voice. As students are able to have leadership roles in their schools, they can have a lasting impact on the waste that is generated at their schools, homes, and in their community.”

Helen Chickering, a reporter for Blue Ridge Public Radio, NPR (National Public Radio) in Western N.C., presented “Climate Communication.” She explained why it is important for students to be able to communicate issues and topics related to science.

“I was so excited about this opportunity to work with students. I hid from science classes in high school and college and was mortified when I was assigned the health and science beat as a young reporter,” said Chickering. “Fate connected me with an amazing mentor who helped me learn how to read a study, ask the right questions, and translate complicated science lingo into language everybody could understand. That experience changed my life and career path and I jump at any chance I get to help students unpack some of the basics of communicating science.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic underscores why science communication is such an important skill. Students today are way ahead of the game when it comes to packaging messages and engaging audiences for a menu of social media platforms. So, the more students can combine those talents with the ability to accurately convey complicated messages to the public – the better. I am excited to see what the students who attended the Summit produce.”

Jennifer Love, Macon County School’s STEM coordinator, helped organize the Summit and assisted with the three-day



Students at the Student Sustainability Summit tried locally grown microgreens and kale before making up a salad to be shared with participants and presenters.

event.

“We want students to have skills to dive deeper ... to look at different forms of media and determine which are credible sources,” said Love.

Highlands Biological Station’s Education Specialist Paige Engelbrektsen posed such carbon-footprint-related questions to students as: What exactly is a carbon footprint and does it matter? What can we do to change it? She took them through an exercise to examine their personal and household habits and choices in relation to their own carbon footprint, and to learn to identify which personal activities and household choices produce the most CO2 emissions. Plus, the students compared their carbon footprint to the U.S. and global averages and identified changes they could make to reduce their footprint.

Jessica Mrugala, a local foods regional specialist for the EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems Project in Western N.C., took a group of students through identifying the origins of all the ingredients in their salad and encouraged students to “eat seasonally and locally whenever possible.” Varieties of Old Edwards Inn-donated locally grown microgreens as well as fresh kale were tasted by students and then used to make a large salad for all the students and presenters to eat.

The Student Sustainability Summit was made available through support by the Macon County STEM Program, Highlands Biological Station, Highlands Biological Foundation, The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts, Jackson County Green Energy Park, Yoga Highlands, Blue Ridge Public Radio, Operation Climate, Macon County Solid Waste Department, Empowering Mountain Food Systems, and The Science House at North Carolina State University. Funding was from Macon County STEM Program and The Highlands Biological Foundation.

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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 Dec. 1 - 10. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

February 22

Kari Huskay Conard, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Cassie J. Shuler made the arrest.

Renee Marie Hernadez, was charged with resist/obstruct/delay law enforcement officer. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

February 23

Harley Francis Simmel, was charged with aid and abet/breaking and entering a motor vehicle and aid and abet attempted motor vehicle theft. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Christina Hope Perez, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury. Costin Jiglaui made the arrest.

Joseph Michael Cyphers, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, injury to real property, attempted larceny, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle. Lieutenant Tim Holland made the arrest.

Harley Francis Simmel, was charged with injury to real property, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods/property, possession of stolen motor vehicle, aid and abet larceny and aid and abet breaking or entering of a residence. Johnathan C. Bean made the arrest.

February 24

Joseph Michael Cyphers, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and attempted motor vehicle theft. Jonathan C. Bean made the arrest.

Kevin Jacob Holland, was charged with failure to appear. Costin Jiglaui made the arrest.

Derek Gene Camp, was charged with trafficking in a schedule I controlled substance, felony possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Lieutenant Jonathan Phillips made the arrest.

Misty Michelle Bates, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

James Julius Sarvis, was charged with failure to appear. Jordan C. Sutton made the arrest.

February 25

Tyler Elden Deats, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Timothy Michael Carson, was issued warrant service. Gabe D. Bingham made the arrest.

February 26

Kelly William Braiser, was issued warrant service for offense committed in jurisdiction. Nick Lofthouse made the arrest.

February 27

Travis James Gregg, was charged with flee/elude arrest, reckless driving and possession of methamphetamine. Matthew L. Long made the arrest.

February 28

Jeffery Michael Miller, was issued warrant service for of-

fense committed in jurisdiction. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

February 18

Henry Stacey Phillips, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, speeding and brake light violation. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Melissa Lynn Pruett, was issued an order for arrest for felony probation violation. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 22

Andrew Ray Hyer, was issued an order for arrest for felony indictment for sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

February 23

Joseph William-Ferro Grier, was charged with possession of methamphetamines, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. R.S. Dula made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

February 21

Whitfield Jordan Anderson, 33, of Fall Circle, was charged with aid and abet for providing drugs to inmate. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Brooke Tiffany Clonch, 29, of Casel Rock Rd., was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to inmate. A secured bond of \$40,000 was set.

Albert J. Dillard, 31, of Ahbor Lane, Cashiers, was charged with possession of stolen property and felony larceny. An unsecured bond of \$10,000 was set.

February 22

Tony Dustin Gregory, 31, of Nightingale Place, Waynesville, was charged with injury to personal property. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Hunter Lee Lewis, 25, of Mayor Dr., was charged with injury to personal property. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

February 23

Preston Richard Ramsey, 27, of Tarheel Lane, Whittier, was charged with simple assault. An unsecured bond of \$1,500 was set.

February 24

Ralph Leroy Knope, 52, of Globe Rd., Glenville, was charged with domestic protective order violation and assault on a female. No bond was set.

February 25

Baron Houston Sutton, 35, of Rector St., Bryson City, was charged with possession of a controlled substance on jail premises and trafficking in opium, heroin or fentanyl. A secured bond of \$85,000 was set.

Tiffany Marie Ward, 32, of Acree Dr., Cherokee, was charged with first degree trespass. A secured bond of \$500 was set.

William Donald Cline, 31, of Jonny Allen Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for larceny remove/destroy components. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set.

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

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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Valley River Arts Guild is offering classes for Making Hand Built Clay Mugs on Saturday, March 5, 2 to 4 p.m.; Making Silhouette Cards, on Wednesday, March 9, 1 to 3 p.m.; 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; Classes are conducted at the Murphy Art Center and are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Free Online Seminar on How to Start and Foster Your Fruit Tree Home Orchard Monday, March 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. via zoom. Individuals who have a small orchard or desire one will learn more about the basic cultural needs of apple, pear, peach and other fruit trees. 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 Brendenkamp at clbrenden@ncsu.edu

Quilts of Valor will present quilts to seven veterans on Tuesdays, March 8, 4 p.m., at the American Legion Post located at 614 W. Main Street. The public is invited.

American Legion Meeting and Dinner will be held on March 8, 6 p.m. They will be celebrating 103 years of service to veterans. The public is invited to join the celebration. The post is located at 614 W. Main Street.

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

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.

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., on Monday evening. Classes will be 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+ are invited to attend.

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.

Macon County Schools Preschool Program is 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, March 6, 11 a.m., Tom Wright will share on "The Most Influential Positive Thing You Will Ever Do." On Tuesdays, a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

First Alliance Church is holding Sunday Service, March 6, 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.

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".

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

A	L	S	O	R	N	A	S	C	A	R	
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E	N	A	C	T	W	A	R				

Author offers best practices on how to be an A.T. 'Trail' Town

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Since downtown Franklin is just 11 miles from the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) at Wind-ing Stair Gap at mile 110 from the trailhead at Springer Mountain, Ga., the town became the first to be named a Certified Appalachian Trail Community. Franklin businesses now celebrate the designation with a month-long Franklin A.T. Celebration that runs from the end of March to end of April.

Franklin is hitting the mark in terms of providing section and thru hikers, who are attempting the 2,200-mile A.T., with hospitality, services, accommodations, transportation and more.

Amy Camp, who penned the book “Deciding on Trails: 7 Practices of a Healthy Trail Town,” describes much of what the thousands of annual A.T. hikers find appealing when stopping at towns near trailheads.

“One of the practices is to cultivate a trail culture,” she said, during an interview from her home in Pennsylvania. “That’s a bedrock best practice. Creating a hospitable, welcoming culture and having a good infrastructure to make it safe and easy for hikers

to get in and out of town is what a good trail community is all about ... it’s a community that embraces a trail and sees the value of it and takes steps to invest in it.”

Camp, who is expected to be a featured author for one of Mainspring Conservation Trust’s upcoming monthly virtual book clubs, wrote “Deciding on Trails” because she was involved in a regional trail town program. She began to understand how towns along major trails, like the A.T., benefit from hikers as much as hikers benefit from the towns. Hikers rest, resupply, take in local culture, help a town’s economy, and more.

Her seven recommended best practices are:

- adopt a shared vision
- physically connect trail to town
- extend an invitation
- cultivate a trail culture
- know your market
- share your story
- commit to quality trails

“And it really sounds like Franklin is doing a lot of the things right,” said Camp.

“The main focus of the A.T. Community Council is to support the hikers, the Franklin

community, and the community around the hikers,” said Natasha Sebring, co-chair, secretary, and acting treasurer of the Council. “Franklin does a good job of providing amenities, support ... businesses do a good job of knowing what hikers need. The Macon County Transit shuttle is especially helpful and valued.”

A representative from the Nantahala Hiking Club (NHC) sits on the Council, and the NHC is involved in Franklin A.T. Celebration activities. Said NHC’s president, Victor Treutel, “Thru-hikers have stated repeatedly that Franklin is a town they would love to come back to, following their journey. This is due to our friendly people, beauty of the area, how we embrace the hiker community, and the support we provide them.”

A more detailed schedule is forthcoming, but the Franklin A.T. Community Council, hosts of Franklin A.T. Celebration, along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, has

planned activities for hikers and the community with such local businesses as Lazy Hiker Brewing Company, Curahee Brewing Company, Outdoor 76, Three Eagles Outfitters, Gooder Grove Adventure Hostel, The Rathskeller, and more. Plus, the Macon County Public Library offers a full schedule of adventure, nature, and hiking-related events and lectures that are free to the public.



In past years, a large board has been erected at the gazebo on Main Street during hiking season upon which Appalachian Trail hikers could sign their name. Hikers also use the spot for photo opportunities to document their progress. The board is one of the many ways Franklin welcomes hikers to town.

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FHS basketball teams end winning season



The Franklin High School basketball teams ended their respective winning seasons last week – the girls team was defeated in the second round of the state playoffs Thursday against Ashbrook; and the boys advanced to the third round, losing to Cabarrus in Saturday's game. Both the girls and the boys varsity teams won the regular season conference championship and the tournament championship for the first time since 1969. Tori Ensley and Griffin Green were named The Mountain Seven Tournament's Most Valuable Players. All tournament team players were Sydney Williams, Roslynn McCollum, Miles McClure and Trey Penland. Ensley was also named Player of the Year and named to All-Conference along with Williams, McCollum, Andrea Terrell and Cali Queen. Ensley also entered the record books and the trophy case for breaking the steals record in a single season. Following the first round playoff win on Tuesday, Ensley was awarded a plaque for the most steals in a season which was previously 93 steals.



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Try a color-themed approach for arrangements

Melinda Myers – Columnist

Growing dahlias is a must for anyone who loves cutting and arranging flowers. But there are hundreds of beautiful dahlia varieties to choose from and that can be overwhelming. To make the selection process easier, choose compatible colors that will look good together in the garden and in arrangements.

The combination of peach and burgundy is both striking and sophisticated. Peach-colored flowers add a fresh and soothing feel to the garden. Dahlia American Dawn is a blend of peach, mango, and papaya with plum-purple highlights. Good partners include other varieties in the same warm, sunset tones, such as dinnerplate dahlia Belle of Barmera, decorative dahlia Great Silence and ball dahlia Maarn.

Planting dahlias in a perennial garden ensures non-stop color from July into October. The fluttering, melon-colored blooms of HS Date work particularly well, due to this variety's maroon foliage and open growth habit. Complete your peach and burgundy theme with the dark-hued flowers of Rip City. These large, velvety flowers are almost black in the center and soften to wine-red toward the petal edges. Add ball dahlia Jowey Mirella for blooms that are smaller in size yet equally striking.

For another eye-catching color combination, narrow your selection to dahlias



Melinda Myers

with purple and hot-pink flowers. Historically, purple was associated with royalty, spirituality, and knowledge. While pastel purple evokes a sense of calm and serenity, deeper tones add drama and excitement. Dinnerplate dahlia Lilac Time is an heirloom variety with fluffy, lavender blooms that can measure eight to ten inches across. Be sure to also include flowers in juicy grape and violet hues such as dahlias Thomas Edison, Cartouche and Purple Tai-heijo.

Complement these moody purples with vivid pink dahlias. Burlesca is a cute little pompon dahlia with tightly rolled petals that reveal hints of peach, burgundy and violet. Fascination's rose-pink, semi-double flowers contrast beautifully with the plant's dark foliage and the blossoms are irresistible to bees and butterflies. Ball dahlia Rocco is an all-star variety that is long lasting in both garden and vase.



This floral arrangement combines a burgundy colored dahlia with the peach hues of another, along with Maarn, Linda's Baby and Belle of Barmera dahlias.

Photo courtesy of Longfield-Gardens.com

If you prefer pastels to brights, choose dahlias in shades of pale yellow, soft pink and cream. The enormous flowers of dinnerplate dahlia Café au Lait are a must. Complement them with ball dahlias such as peachy Linda's Baby or buttery Boom Boom yellow. Decorative dahlia Fluffles has taffy-pink petals that fade to white, while Milena Fleur's are a mélange of pink, peach and pale butterscotch.

When you start with flowers in compatible colors, designing floral arrangements becomes so much easier. You'll have

all you need to quickly create a centerpiece for any gathering, an impressive bouquet for your own home, or an informal handful of blooms to share with friends.

For more tips about cut flowers, read the Longfield Gardens article How to Design a Cutting Garden (www.longfield-gardens.com).

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Deaths & Funerals

Arthur 'Art' McLellan

Arthur "Art" McLellan, 79, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. He was born in Boston, Mass., to the late Arthur and Grace McLellan.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, William McLellan and a daughter, Tammy McLellan.

He worked for 18 years with the city of Ft. Lauderdale Florida Police Department, progressing from patrol to detective. He then worked for 12 years as an investigator with the State Attorney's Office in the 20th Judicial Circuit in Ft. Myers, Fla. He was a member of WNC Macon Jackson County Lodge F.O.P. #081; Junaluska 0145 Mason in Franklin; the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, Franklin, and Smoky Mountain Shrine Club, Franklin.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara McLellan; a sister, Geraldine Kaptur of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; two granddaughters, Sarah Shillingford of Kissimmee, Fla. and Haley Elizabeth Ostrander of St. Augustine, Fla.; and five great grandchildren.

No services are planned.

A special thank you to the doctors and nurses at Mission Hospital. And a special thank you to all those who prayed for Art.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory are serving the McLellan family. Online condolences can be made to www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Gypsie Wrenn Kepley

Gypsie Yvonne Wrenn Kepley passed away peacefully Feb. 23, 2022.

Born in Salisbury, N.C., to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Whitson Wrenn, she was an accomplished singer and violinist, and still had many friends with whom she grew up.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, William and Charles Wrenn; her sister, Dorothy Wrenn; her husband of 55 years, Kenneth C. Kepley; and her beloved youngest daughter, Karen Kepley Etheridge.

She is survived by her daughter, Kelly Roberts and husband Alan; and her grandchildren, Courtney, Morgan, Kennieth, Lara and Craig.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach, 3810 Robert M Grissom Pkwy, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577; or Crawford Senior Center, 108 Wayah St, Franklin, NC 28734.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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



Gypsie Wrenn Kepley

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James Brownlow McCoy

James Brownlow McCoy, 76, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.

Born in Murphy, N.C., on Aug. 25, 1945, he was the son of the late Billy and Betty McCoy. He was a Vietnam War veteran serving in the United States Air Force. He was a business man who owned several businesses around town. He enjoyed listening to the Franklin High School Marching Band from his front porch, riding motorcycles and was an avid Atlanta Braves baseball fan.



James Brownlow McCoy

He is survived by his wife, Darlene McCoy; children, James McCoy, Jason McCoy and wife Elena, and Tiffany Birchum and husband Jeremiah; six grandchildren, Luca McCoy, Canaan McCoy, Neiva McCoy, Aria McCoy, Rhys Birchum and Revan Birchum; one brother, Bruce McCoy; mother-in-law, Charlene Roberson and her husband John; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is assisting the McCoy family.

Annie Ray Scott Angel

Annie Ray Scott Angel, 84, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022.

Born in Macon County on Oct. 15, 1937, she was the daughter of the late Wiley and Louise Scott. She worked for Belden Corporation for 35 years where she retired. She was a charter member of East Franklin Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school. She also loved to volunteer her time at CareNet.

Survivors include one brother, Zeb Scott and wife Dorothy; two sisters, Ruby Earls of Macon, Ga., and Joyce Horacek of Cherryville, N.C.; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded by her husband of 64 years Homer Lee Angel who passed away Dec. 24, 2021; and one brother Dale Scott.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 26, at East Franklin Baptist Church with Rev. Terry Jenkins officiating. Interment followed at the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ricky Scott, Dennis Scott, Gary Scott, Kegan Pevette, Stuart Beach and Timothy McClure. Honorary pallbearers were Greg Earls, Ricky Earls, Jimmy Camp, Madison McClure and Mykayla McClure.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to East Franklin Baptist Church c/o Rev. Terry Jenkins, 2059 Lakeside Dr. Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the family.

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

Joseph Biro

Joseph Biro, 104, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022.

He was born in Hartford, Conn., to the late Joseph and Martha Biro. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Veronica Biro; his daughter, Veronica Schurman; and his siblings, Julias Biro, Frank Biro, and Al Biro.

He retired as an aircraft engineer and enjoyed playing the piano, singing in Hungarian, and playing golf.

He is survived by his son, Paul Biro (Yvonne); son-in-law, Rog Schurman; and two grandchildren, John Brennan, and Tracy Deleception.

A memorial service will be held at Franklin Seventh Day Adventist Church at a later date.

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



Joseph Biro

Selma Ann Roane Ledford

On Feb. 22, 2022, Selma Ann Roane Ledford went to heaven to once again be with her mother and husband. She was born in 1934 in Macon County to Zebulon Roane and Ivy Lee Waldroup Roane. She lived her early years in the Jones Creek area among a large extended family. She married William Edward Ledford, also of Franklin, in 1951. He was immediately drafted into the Korean War, and she subsequently completed school graduating with Honors from Franklin High School in 1953.



Selma Ann Ledford

She loved flowers and gardening. A very accomplished cook, she stayed at home with her children until they started grammar school in 1961. After working in a cut flower farm for many years, she and her husband opened and operated Rainbow Springs Greenhouses for several years growing chrysanthemums, potted plants and Poinsettias. In 1974, she opened Franklin Florist. She was a self-taught floral designer with a natural artistic skill which was clearly evident to all the customers she would serve over the next 42 years. Her family was a very important part of her life as her two daughters often worked with her, and family and friends always chipped in at holidays and special occasions when extra help was needed. At the age of 83 she finally retired from her business and spent the rest of her life among her family in the Rainbow Springs area. She was very active in Maidens Chapel Methodist Church serving on several committees and spent many a Sunday sitting in the parking lot listening to the service on her radio during the Covid outbreak. She was an active member of Nequassa Chapter Order of the Eastern Star for many years and was recently awarded a 50-year membership pin.

She is survived by her daughters, Joan and Johnny Willis of Franklin and Julia and Kenneth Crisp of Franklin; grandchildren she loved so dearly, Darrin Crisp, Rebecca Crisp, Regina Crisp and Sarah Carpenter (Clint); nine great grandchildren, who were one of the true gifts of her life, Cody Lindley (Kelsey), Joshua Lindley (Caitlin), Brittany Lindley (Tim), Amber Reese, Michael Ensley, Ethan Crisp, Jade Ensley, Colby Crisp, Mia Crisp and Cadence Carpenter; her first great, great grandchild, little Arden Lindley who was born in December.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 5, at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with visitation from 1 to 3 p.m., with the service at 3 p.m. Interment will be in the church cemetery of Maidens Chapel Methodist Church.

She loved working with the people and spoke with fond memories and great pride of the many years she worked as a florist in Franklin. She is fondly remembered by her many friends in Macon County. The family is forever grateful for the outpouring of support for our grief during this time.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the family. Online condolences at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Clayton O. Marshall

Clayton Marshall "Yankee," 85, of Franklin, N.C., went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022.

He was born in Miami, Fla., on March 25, 1936. He was married to Elaine Wescott Marshall on Aug. 3, 1957.

He had a career as a contractor for Clayton Construction and Cugin Construction. He was a member of First Christian Church of Franklin. He had a passion for "working hard."

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elaine Marshall; children, Debby Westerman (Rick), Dennis Marshall (Teresa), Daniel Marshall, Donna Marshall (Raymond); grandchildren, Joseph Westerman (Heather), Justin Westerman (Kendra), Erica Ray (Don), Laura Roney (John), Jennifer Westerman, Jordan Westerman; great grandchildren, Jonas Westerman, Harper Westerman and Jensen Ray.



Clayton O. Marshall

Mona Lou Lewis

Mona Lou Lewis (affectionately known as Momma Lou, LuLu and Grandma) 86, passed away at her home on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022.

She was born in Logansport, Ind., on Nov. 9, 1935, to Leon and Violet Loop. She loved her home state, the family and friends that were so precious to her there; Indiana Beach (where she worked as a girl) and the cottage across the lake that her grandmother had. A trip back to Indiana wouldn't have been complete if she didn't get to Indiana Beach to go on the rides, eat a Pronto Pup, take a cruise on The Shafer Queen and reminisce about the good times she had there as a girl.

Her family moved to Osprey, Fla., when she was 13. She became active at Osprey Baptist Church, and it's there that she met her future husband. She attended Sarasota High School, joined The Sailor Circus and performed on the Giant Whorl, the Web and rode elephants. There was never any problem trying to think of a gift for her...anything to do with elephants always made her happy.

She and Odell were married on Aug. 18, 1956, in Kingsland, Ga., and began their life together raising their family while living in Osprey and then in the home they bought in Sarasota. From there they moved to St. Cloud, Fla.; Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and Tirrenia, Italy; due to Odell's work as an offshore powerboat racer. After they returned from Europe they moved back to Sarasota and finally settled in Franklin.

Over the years she worked as a homemaker, deli manager at Winn Dixie, ADAP coordinator and group home manager at Macon Citizens for the Handicapped.

She devoted her life to caring for her daughter Tina and was a perfect example of unconditional love. The bond they shared was unbreakable. She loved her family and friends, animals of all kinds and everyone she came in contact with that had special needs. Her heart was full of love and she never hesitated to show it.

Her hobbies included reading, having a book in every room and one in her purse; writing poetry; painting (a talent that she found later in life); and of course, the many pets she cared for and loved over the years. And, she was a big fan of Elvis Presley.

She had a beautiful voice and loved to sing. Over the years she sang solo, in a trio, in a quartet and in many church choirs. She led The Singing Angels, a group of special needs folks (including her daughter Tina) that performed for churches and other organizations.

She is survived by her husband of 65 1/2 years, Douglas Odell Lewis; her four children, Terri Lou Head, Michael Odell Lewis, Orville Cribbins Lewis and Tina Leone Lewis; grandsons, Bradley Odell Lewis, Kenyon Michael Lewis and Michael Brooks Wheeler all of Franklin; sister, Anita Leone Mathis (Gene) of Bradenton, Fla.; nieces, Debbie Wagner (Jerry) of Myakka City, Fla.; Traci Telford (Jerry) of Sarasota, Fla.; nephew, Brett Allan Mathis of Sarasota, Fla.; two great nieces, Britany Mills of Smyrna, Ga., Kelly Telford of Tampa, Fla.; two great nephews, Joshua Wagner of Avondale, Colo., Mark Wagner of St. Petersburg, Fla.; cousins, Kay Miller (Bill) of Lafayette, Ind., Craig Shanks (Liz) of Washburn, Wisc., Thomas Lloyd (Bea) of Playa del Carmen, Mexico, Lily Bouwkamp (Tim) of Monticello, Ind.; lots of other cousins (that meant the world to her!); many friends and her poodle, Jack.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Violet Ardella White and step-dad, Jim White; father, Leon Loop and step-mom, Leota Loop; grandparents, Pearl Norris, Dean and Code Zellers and her aunt and uncle, Maurice and Eileen Shanks.

Mona Lou had a life that was full of family, friends, travel, pets, laughter, love and a lot of exciting adventures. Our lives have been made better because she was a part of them. The song has ended, but the melody will always linger...

A Celebration of her Life will be held on Saturday, March 5, at Macon Funeral Home in Franklin. Visitation will start at 11 a.m., with the service at 12 noon. Coweeta Baptist Church, where she was a member, will provide a meal for the family afterwards.

The family would like to thank Care Partners Hospice for providing such excellent care for her during the last two years. The nurses and aides did an outstanding job and was much appreciated.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to Macon Citizens Abilities, P. O. Box 698, Franklin, NC 28744.



Mona Lou Lewis

Kyle Larson wins action-filled NASCAR Cup race at Fontana

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

Reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Larson waited until late in Sunday's Wise Power 400 to flex his muscles.

But in the end, the driver of the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet held off a charging Austin Dillon by .195 seconds at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif., to notch his first victory of the season, his second at the 2-mile track and the 17th of his career.

In a race that featured 12 cautions for 59 laps, Larson, who started from the rear of the field because of unapproved adjustments to his Camaro, took the lead from Joey Logano on Lap 167 of 200 and held it for 27 of the final 34 circuits on the way to the victory.

That was after the dominant car of Tyler Reddick suffered a flat left rear tire while leading on Lap 152, and in the aftermath of that incident was collected by the sliding car of William Byron.

Reddick had led 90 laps to that point—17 more than in his first 75 Cup starts combined—and had won the first and second stages in convincing fashion.

Larson, however, outlasted arguably stronger cars and was in position to win at the end of the race.

"It's always fun to win here in the home state," said the Elk Grove, Calif., native Kyle Larson. "There were definitely some guys that were quicker than us, but they had their misfortunes."

"Just kept our heads in it all day—long race. Restarts were crazy. The whole runs were crazy. So definitely wild, but cool to get a win here in California and hope we get on a little streak."

Larson's victory came at the expense of teammate Chase Elliott, who fell two laps down after scraping the wall on Lap 33 and spinning off Turn 2 five laps later.

As the beneficiary under two cautions, Elliott regained the lead lap, drove through the field and was battling Larson and Logano for the lead when Larson shot up the track and pinched Elliott's Chevrolet into the outside wall. Larson said on his radio that he didn't know Elliott was there.

It was Elliott who spun on Lap 192 to cause the final caution and set up a dramatic four-lap sprint to the finish that saw Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suarez briefly wrestle the lead from Larson, thanks to a push from Petty GMS Motorsport's Erik Jones. But Larson regained the lead off Turn 4 with just over two laps left and held it the rest of the way.

In a testament to the relative parity achieved by NASCAR's new Next Gen race car—admittedly with a small sample size so far—nine different Cup organizations finished in the top 10 at Fontana.

One of those was the Trackhouse Racing team of Suarez, who rolled home fourth behind the Chevrolets of Larson, Dillon and Jones.

"We're going to win a few races very soon here," Suarez said. "I just can't thank everyone enough on my team. We had a fast car, but we went through a lot of adversity. We had a few issues. We hit the wall once. We had an issue with a diffuser. My pit crew, those guys are legends, it's unbelievable."

"It's the best pit crew I've ever had, and it's a lot of fun to race like that. The Freeway Insurance Chevrolet, everyone that helps Trackhouse out, to be able to be here and perform this way... I can tell you that I'm going to work very, very hard to go to Victory Lane very, very soon here."



Above, Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 Hendrick-Cars.com Chevrolet, and crew chief Cliff Daniels celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Wise Power 400 at Auto Club Speedway on Feb. 27, 2022 in Fontana, Calif. At left, Kyle Larson and crew take a selfie in victory lane.

Photos by James Gilbert/Getty Images

liance 300 NASCAR Xfinity Series race in Fontana, Calif.

Three overtimes, 12 cautions and more than three hours of official race time later, Custer was still the only former winner in the Fontana field, having beaten runner-up Noah Gragson to the finish line by .565 seconds.

It was a long day's journey into night, a race that started in mid-afternoon and unexpectedly ended under the lights in temperatures that dropped appreciably between the start and the finish. The three overtimes extended the event 15 laps beyond its scheduled distance of 150 circuits at the 2-mile track.

But Custer was the clear class of the field, leading 80 of the 165 laps and twice charging like a rocket from the outside of the fourth row to the lead after slower-than-usual late pit stops.

He got his second victory at Fontana in a No. 07 Ford that was a partnership entry between Stewart-Haas Racing and Bobby Dotter-owned SS Green Light Racing.

Custer was moonlighting—literally, as it turned out—from his Sunday ride in the No. 41 SHR Ford Mustang, which he'll be racing in the WISE Power 400 (3:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

"Man, it was just an awesome car," Custer said during his post-race frontstretch interview. "That thing was just a rocket ship all day. I can't thank Bobby Dotter enough—everybody that was involved on this car."

"It was unbelievable how fast we were... It's awesome to win at home—can't wait for tomorrow."

Gragson was competitive all day, leading 25 laps. Despite sliding through his pit stall during a pit stop under the eighth

Logano ran fifth, followed by Aric Almirola, Kevin Harvick and Kurt Busch (who started from the rear and served a pass-through penalty to start the race because of three inspection failures). Daniel Hemric and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. completed the top 10.

Polesitter and Daytona 500 winner Austin Cindric finished 12th after suffering damage in a four-car accident involving Brad Keselowski, Bubba Wallace and Harrison Burton on Lap 158.

Larson, who won 10 races last year in his first season at Hendrick Motorsports, led four times for 28 laps, second only to Reddick's 90. All told, there were 32 lead changes among nine drivers in an event in which radical shuffling of the running order was commonplace.

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 114.222 mph.

Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 3 Mins, 7 Secs. Margin of Victory: .195 Seconds.

Cautions: 12 for 59 laps.

Lead Changes: 32 among 9 drivers

Cole Custer dominates Xfinity race at Fontana in three NASCAR overtimes

Californian Cole Custer was the only former Auto Club Speedway winner in the field for Saturday's Production Al-



Cole Custer, driver of the #07 Production Alliance Group Ford, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Production Alliance 300 at Auto Club Speedway on Feb. 26, 2022 in Fontana, Calif.

caution on Lap 125, he surged back to the front from 14th, re-taking the top spot on the second lap after a restart on Lap 129.

Five laps later, however, Custer regained the lead and held it for all but one of the last 31 laps, through four more cautions and three overtime restarts.

“I felt like the car was really close all day, just struggled with the cloud cover and the temperature change—too loose or too tight,” Gragson said. “Hats off to all the guys on the 07 car and Cole Custer. He was really fast today.”

Trevor Bayne, the 2011 Daytona 500 winner, ran third in his first Xfinity Series start since a one-off in 2016. Josh Berry was fourth, as JR Motorsports drivers claimed four of the top eight finishing positions, with Gragson second, Sam

Mayer sixth and Justin Allgaier eighth.

Anthony Alfredo parlayed tire strategy into a fifth-place finish. Pole winner AJ Allmendinger recovered from an unscheduled pit stop for a loose wheel to come home seventh. Riley Herbst and Ryan Sieg were ninth and 10th, respectively.

The NASCAR Xfinity Series’ next stop is Las Vegas Motor Speedway for the AlSCO Uniforms 300 on Saturday, March 5 (4:30 p.m. ET on FS1, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

Notes: Average Speed of Race Winner: 105.682 mph.
Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 5 Mins, 5 Secs. Margin of Victory: .565 Seconds.

Cautions: 12 for 58 laps.
Lead Changes: 19 among 8 drivers.

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Cole Custer, driver of the #07 Production Alliance Group Ford, exits pit road during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Production Alliance 300 at Auto Club Speedway on Feb. 26, 2022, in Fontana, Calif.



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- 1. Decree
- 6. *U.S./U.S.S.R.'s cold one
- 9. Harry Potter's mark
- 13. Syrup flavor
- 14. ____ Khan
- 15. Bird of prey's nest
- 16. Lieu
- 17. H+, e.g.
- 18. Bashful or Happy
- 19. *"1984" author George
- 21. *Best-selling pop artist Bing
- 23. Writer ____ Monk Kidd
- 24. Genghis or Kubla
- 25. Cranberry habitat
- 28. Not nice
- 30. Saddle holders
- 35. *Boris Karloff's movie "The ____," pl.
- 37. Actress Barrymore
- 39. Asian goat antelope
- 40. Supernatural life force
- 41. Seethes
- 43. South African antelope
- 44. Cook from above
- 46. Rotisserie part
- 47. Not odd
- 48. Italy in Italian
- 50. What snob puts on
- 52. .000001 joule
- 53. Sound of a dropped tome
- 55. Beer acronym
- 57. * ____ Doctrine, U.S. foreign policy
- 60. *"How Green Was My ____"
- 63. Another word for nutria
- 64. Ciao in the U.S.
- 66. Trip guide
- 68. Surveyor's maps
- 69. Afflict

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- 70. Will alternative
- 71. Additionally
- 72. Nucleic acid
- 73. Term of endearment
- 12. Gridiron official, for short
- 15. Apollo Creed's son
- 20. City in northern England
- 22. Old towel, e.g.
- 24. Rollerskater's protector (2 words)
- 25. *Disney's 1942 orphan
- 26. Abstractionism using optical illusion
- 27. Kind of salami
- 29. Crafts' companion
- 31. Network of nerves
- 32. Treasure collection
- 33. Dreamer?
- 34. *Popular music style
- 36. Ship canvas
- 38. *1939-1945
- 42. Parallel grooves
- 45. Acid turns it red
- 49. "Bingo!"
- 51. Daryl Hannah's 1984 movie
- 54. Open up
- 56. In spite of the fact, arch.
- 57. Church sound
- 58. Swedish shag rugs
- 59. Plotting
- 60. Velum, pl.
- 61. Zeal
- 62. New Haven University
- 63. IRS employee?
- 65. Yang's opposite
- 67. Canny

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Misc. For Sale

FARMERS MARKET 10-12, Every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Winter Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Pastries, Cookies, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

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

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

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DALTONS CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE is hiring Retail Sales Associate - Excellent customer service, people skills, dependability. Apply online at: DaltonsChristianBook.com/contactus

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Community Fundraisers

FISH FRY Friday March 4 & 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.

FRIENDS OF THE GREENWAY Frog Fair May 7, 10-4, FROG Quarters, 573 E. Main at the Town bridge in Franklin. Vendor spaces available, Registration Forms on website (littletennessee.org) or stop by FROG Quarters. More information, email frog28734@gmail.com.

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

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

Garage & Yard Sales

HUGH INDOOR YARD SALE! Redken, pureology, Paul Mitchell and tons of beauty supplies. Dansko shoes, antiques, furniture, yard art, decor, JEWELRY and more. 308 Depot street next door to Sophisticut now trough March 15. Monday through Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-2.

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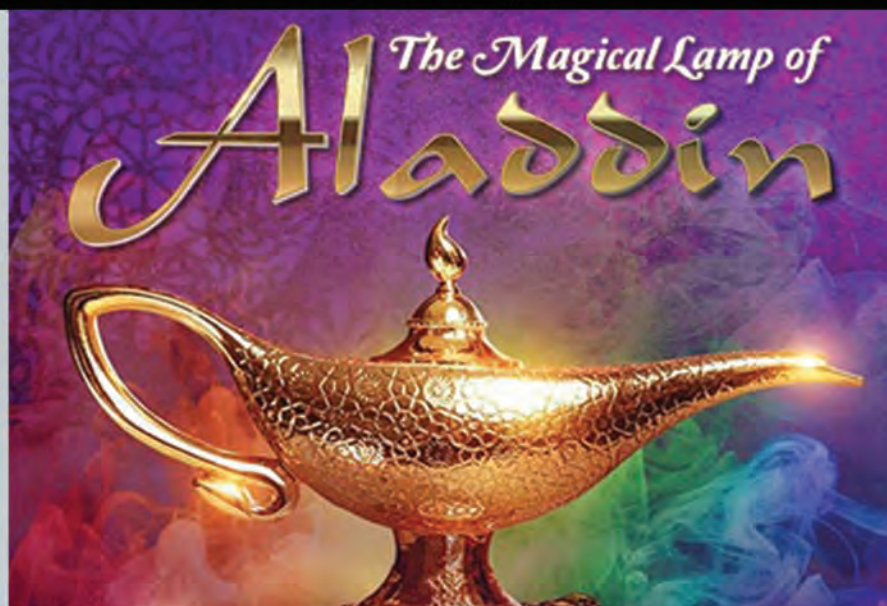
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