

Franklin woman assisting Ukrainian refugees in Poland

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

Gosia Babcock has been living in the United States since she was 10 years old. But even after 58 years, she still maintains deep family, emotional, and patriotic ties to her native Poland. Most of her mother's side of her family, in fact, is still in Poland. So when on Feb. 24, Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine, she was concerned for Poland, which borders Ukraine to the west.

As the bombings escalated and Russian troops began targeting Ukrainian civilians, many crossed borders into other Eastern European countries. As of April 10, 2.6 million Ukrainians refugees were in Poland.

Babcock began hearing from family members, including her cousin, Piotr Scherfenberg and his wife, also named Gosia, who lives in Jarocin, which is about 1,000 miles from the Ukrainian border. (Recent reports, including an April 9 article in *WORLD* magazine, indicate that refugees are having to travel farther into the country in order to find shelter and assistance. "... with Polish churches full to bursting and Polish social infrastructure strained, the reality is that peo-



Franklin resident Gosia Babcock, who is helping to raise money for Ukrainian refugees in her native Poland, receives regular photo updates from her cousin and his wife, who are helping to feed and clothe the refugees in a donated apartment building in west-central Poland.

Photo by Vickie Carpenter

ple will have to keep moving.") Babcock's cousin and his wife tearfully relayed to her the desperation, fear, and needs of the mostly women, children, and elderly that were flooding into their communities.

"My cousin has gone through his own closet to supply refugees with clothing," said Babcock, who has lived in

See REFUGEES page 2

Candidate profiles: District I commissioners

Early voting across North Carolina begins April 28 with the Primary voting day set for May 17. The Macon County Board of Commissioners currently have three seats up for election. Two seats in District II, which covers the Franklin Area, and one seat in District I which serves Ellijay, Flats, Highlands and Sugarfork. The May 17 primary ballot will feature Republican candidates for office. Since only two Democrats have filed to run – Ronnie Beale and Betty Cloer Wallace – a primary is not needed for the Democrats. The top Republican vote getters will be placed on the November ballot to face the two Democrat challengers or an independent challenger who secures enough signatures to be placed on the ballot by the deadline.

Leading up to the primary, *The Macon County News* will publish candidate profiles for local offices included Macon County Board of Commissioners District I, District II, Clerk of

Superior Court, and Macon County Sheriff.

Don Willis and John Shearl are vying for the District I seat. The candidates were asked to provide a short bio and were asked the same questions.

Don Willis

Don Willis' decided to run for public office two years ago after he retired from the Macon County Sheriff's Office. This election marks Willis' first time seeking an elected office.

"I decided two years ago that after I retired, I would run for office and give the citizens of Macon County a full time commissioner," said Willis. "With my 30-plus years of public service I am very familiar with all the departments of the county

See CANDIDATES page 4

IN THIS ISSUE



Page 12

'Walking With Spring' series continues at library



Page 17

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REFUGEES

Continued from page 1

Franklin for 11 years and is a part-time hair stylist at Sophisticuts on Depot Street in Franklin. "With tears, he has told me stories. It's just terrible what the Polish people are seeing in the Ukrainians who come there."

The Scherfenbergs found themselves assisting at least 300 refugees housed in a nearby donated apartment building. In fact, homes, businesses, churches, and other structures all over Poland have been transformed into shelters for refugees. Providing food, clothing, toiletries, laundry detergent, and other essentials has eroded the Polish people's resources, so they have turned to the generosity of people in other countries. That is why Babcock decided to step up and "help from afar."

Babcock, who visited her home country two years ago and credits the people with "compassion," began last month to spread the word that she would be collecting funds to send to her cousin so he could purchase food and needed items for refugees.

"I've raised close to \$7,000 so far," she said. "One hundred percent is used for what the refugees need. I have sent over money every week or two through Western Union, as it is raised. It's my pleasure to help. I want to do something for these people, who are neighbors to Poland."

Babcock said she will collect monetary donations for as long as they are needed to help refugees. "The community has been generous, but they need to know this is not a one-time problem. These people have to be fed, and my cousin and his wife are doing what they can to help them. The government of Poland is not helping all the refugees yet. The problem is overwhelming for the country. I would like for some churches here to help if they can ... helping Ukrainians will depend on the generosity of many."

She accepts monetary donations, cash or checks made out to her - which she deposits and then sends through Western Union - at Sophisticuts, either in person or by mail to the hair salon. At the salon, she is also displaying collages of photographs of the refugees "so that donors can see the people they are helping care for."

Already, a few letters of gratitude have been interpreted and sent to her via email.

"I am just the 'middle man.' But my heart breaks for what is going on. And these letters ..."

One she shared reads: "Hello. My name is Olga. I'm



Gosia Babcock's cousin's wife Gosia Scherfenberg sent Babcock a photo of refugees sitting down to a meal. The Scherfenbergs are assisting at least 300 refugees housed in a nearby apartment building.

from Ukraine. I want to tell you thank you very much for your help for us. For everything to eat; for the detergents." Another conveyed, "The things and food brought by your cousin and his wife are a great support and help for us."

Babcock acknowledged that people globally have been moved by the classic good versus evil plotline of the unprovoked attack. She pointed out that while it might be difficult to imagine such a scenario happening in modern America, how our own mettle might be tested if bombs exploded around us, if we had to flee homes with our children and pets, or if we had to wonder how we might find food and shelter, the reality of such stresses was what she remembered growing up with.

"My father and his friends would get together, have a drink, and talk about

World War II. I definitely feel that that history has had an effect on the Polish people ... on their compassion and willingness to help, because of the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany [1939]," she shared.

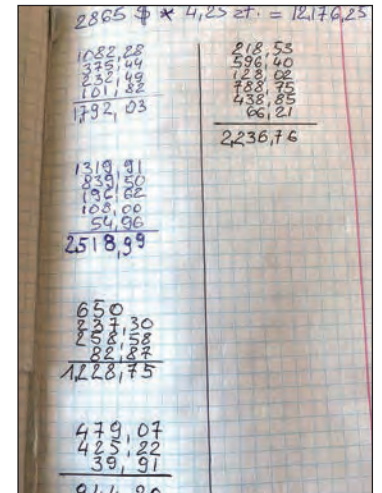
"If Putin wins, Poland could be next. Poland is right next door. I love Poland. I appreciate the country and it was a wonderful experience to visit there a few years ago. But it's pretty scary what's happening. I'm very afraid of a war. But the biggest thing we can do right now is to help. The Polish people have always been friends with Ukrainians; some have married one another. There are friends and relatives living in several of the Eastern European countries."

Although Babcock and many other people are hoping and praying the war ends soon, the reality is that many Ukrainian refugees may be in Poland and surrounding countries for a long time. "Some of them have nothing to go back to right now. Their homes and business and lives have been destroyed. The children are already being enrolled in Polish schools, and we will have to figure out how to help them until they can go back."

She concluded, "I'm very proud of what the Polish people are doing to help. And I'm very thankful for how the Franklin community is helping with that effort."



Gosia Babcock's cousins in Poland keep strict ledgers and display receipts associated with the purchase of food and other necessities for the 300 or so Ukrainian refugees they are assisting.



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2022	Chevrolet	Corvette 2LT	201
2021	Kia	K5 LXS	4,963
2021	Tesla	Model 3 Standard Range Plus	15,196
2021	Chevrolet	Spark	1,167
2020	Chevrolet	Corvette 3LT	8,263
2019	Nissan	Sentra SV	15,009
2019	Volkswagen	Golf SportWagen	56,048
2019	Volkswagen	Beetle	42,676
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze	34,692
2018	Chevrolet	Cruze LS	54,872
2015	Nissan	Altima 2.5 S	59,261
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	113,152
2008	Corvette	Coupe	9,007

SUVS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2021	Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	14,918
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	Grand Cherokee	Trailhawk	26,226
2020	Tahoe	Premier 4x4	24,476
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	Equinox Premier AWD	34,109
2019	Chevrolet	Tahoe LT	46,162
2019	GMC	Yukon XL Denali	63,696
2019	Land Rover	Range Rover Sport HSE Dynamic	37,751
2019	GMC	Terrain	63,316
2018	Chevrolet	Tahoe	84,386
2018	Volkswagen	Atlas 3.6L V6 SE	71,947
2018	Kia	Soul	58,573
2017	Toyota	RAV4 LE	83,441
2017	Volkswagen	Tiguan Wolfsburg Edition	59,132
2017	Subaru	Outback	36,658
2016	Buick	Enclave CXL AWD	81,859
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ AWD	107,485
2015	Chevrolet	Equinox IT AWD	87,398
2015	Jeep	Wrangler Unlimited Altitude	39,030
2014	Ford	Explorer 4x4	68,342
2013	Ford	Escape SE AWD	89,455
2013	Mazda	CX-5	94,754
2011	Jeep	Wrangler	73,137

TRUCKS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILES
2022	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss	651
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	Jeep	Gladiator	2,054
2021	Ram	2500 Tradesman	3,647
2021	Toyota	Tacoma TRD Off-Road	8,507
2021	Toyota	Tacoma 4WD	4,746
2020	Chevrolet	Colorado	31,506
2020	Ram	3500 Dump Truck	19,267
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 High Country	22,601
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 RST	90,498
2020	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500 HD High Country Diesel	23,536
2020	GMC	Sierra 1500 AT4	15,588
2020	Ram	2500 Longhorn Diamond	23,286
2019	Toyota	Tacoma TRD 4x4	43,577
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500HD	30,903
2019	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 HC Dually	45,535
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	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	GMC	Sierra 2500 Diesel	192,749



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CANDIDATES

Continued from page 1

and its employees. I have the experience and the leadership to work with my fellow commissioners to bring us all into the future.”

Willis has been married to his wife, Robin, for the last 42 years and has two adult children, Amber Wright and Justin Willis, and four grandchildren.

With three decades of public service to Macon County, Willis has served as the former Macon County Fire Marshal and is retired as a Lieutenant with the Macon County Sheriff’s Office. Willis’ career in public service first began in 1988 as a volunteer firefighter with the Franklin Fire Department. By 1991 he received his certification as a firefighter Level I and Level II and by 1993 was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. In 1995 Willis was certified as fire/arson Investigator, which opened the door to serve as Macon County’s Fire Marshal prior to beginning his career in law enforcement. In 2005 Willis became a Certified Accelerant Detection Canine Handler by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Agency and began working with his partner K9 Christine. Willis received the North Carolina Certificate of Leadership Development for Law Enforcement Managers in 2013. In 2020 prior to retirement, Willis completed the North Carolina State Department of Justice Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and received the North Carolina State Department of Justice Advanced Service Award in the same year.

John Shearl

John Shearl and his wife Lila have three sons, Allen, Michael, and Jared as well as two daughters-in-law, Sarah Kimsey and Jenna Jasinski, and grandchildren, Cameron, Weston, Ruby, and Peyton. Shearl is a lifelong Conservative Republican, 35-year self-employed small business owner in Macon County, N.C. Licensed Contractor, founder of



Don Willis



John Shearl

Shearl Produce of Otto, and a retired firefighter from Highlands.

“As a 35-year small business owner in Macon County, I have signed payroll checks on the front not on the back. I have been responsible for my business’s budget and my family’s finances as well. I know how to do more with less. I believe my past and present business experience and deep conservative values would make me a great steward of your tax dollars, adopting a budget and living inside the budget. Operating the government is like any other business.”

Shearl, who has run for commissioner in the past, said he is running for office with specific issues in mind.

“To bring true conservative leadership to the District 1 County Commissioner seat. Vote for low taxes, freedom and private property rights.”

What do you see as the biggest issue facing Macon County? How would you address it if elected?

Willis: “Our infrastructure is in need of repair. A plan must be developed and adhered to,” said Willis.

Shearl: “Taxes,” said Shearl. “Vote for low taxes, spend tax dollars wisely, don’t overtax

the taxpayers. Our citizens on a fixed income can not afford to pay more in taxes.”

Commissioners are faced with increasing requests for public education funding. What is your stance on the county’s role in funding public education? Do you think the current levels are adequate or do you think they should be increased/decreased? Do you support the sales tax referendum that will be placed on the ballot in November?

Willis: “The children of our county need to feel safe and have the best education that we can provide,” said Willis. “Currently we are faced with overcrowding, inadequate Pre-K classrooms and dated facilities. The need for a new Franklin High School is on the horizon and must be addressed as well as renovations for the Highlands and Nantahala Schools. So, yes, I am in favor of public funding for our children. Our current levels will need to be increased to fund those needs. Currently the commissioners have placed a sales tax referendum on the ballot in November that will help in funding these needs and I am strongly in favor of.”

Shearl: “Maintain what we have and explore what we need,” said Shearl. “How are we going to pay more? Can we pay more without raising taxes? No!”

Macon County has completed a large space needs analysis project to address infrastructure needs. What are your thoughts on the current direction the county is taking to address these issues?

Willis: “I was a part of the Space Needs Assessment that was completed in November of 2019 by Moseley Architects. Little to no action has been taken since the study has been completed,” said Willis. “We must get back on track and adhere to a plan for the future.”

Shearl: “As a conservative leader, I would need to be 100 percent convinced of the need,” said Shearl. “I would want to explore any and all options of the need. I would want to know complete, factual cost and design. I would want to know how we are going to pay for it. Can we do it without raising taxes? Once all of the studies are complete, then I would recommend that we present the whole factual report to the taxpayers/citizens for their approval.”

Any other issues or info you would like to address for your voters?

Willis: “I believe if we are to be good stewards of taxpayer money, commissioners must have the time to put forth,” said Willis. “As your next county commissioner, I will be your full-time commissioner. As a 30-year public servant allow me the honor to continue my service to the citizens of Macon County, vote Don Willis.”

Shearl: “I am a lifelong Conservative Republican, a 35-year small business owner. I will strive to be among the best commissioners that has ever served the people of Macon County. I will be a commissioner ‘Of the People, By the People and For the People.’ I will vote for low taxes, freedom and private property rights. The voters of Macon County have a great opportunity to elect a true conservative businessman in District 1 that will work hard for the citizens of Macon County. Follow me on Facebook at John Shearl for Commissioner District 1. You do not have to live in District 1 to vote for John Shearl, it is a county-wide election. All Republicans and Unaffiliated voters can vote for John Shearl in District 1. Early voting starts April 28 through May 14 and election day is May 17. I humbly ask for your support and vote in the May primary.”

Compiled by Brittney Lofthouse



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Criminal Justice Center launches data portal

The Criminal Justice Analysis Center, housed within the Governor’s Crime Commission, announces the launch of the new Justice Data Portal, a centralized, interactive online clearinghouse of criminal justice data collected by agencies across North Carolina.

CJAC has partnered with the Government Data Analytics Center and SAS Institute to house North Carolina’s justice-related data in a central location. Former CJAC Director Tim Parker envisioned the Justice Data Portal project to provide access to the state’s wealth of criminal justice data to a broader audience. NC State Bureau of Investigation is the first agency to provide data to the portal. National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS, data is the source for CJAC’s crime data used in this inaugural release.

“The Justice Data Portal meets the ever-growing need for stakeholders, decision-makers, and the public to have an easy-to-use, regularly updated, central place to get North Carolina data from across the criminal justice continuum,” said Michelle Beck, current CJAC Director.

CJAC analyzed the NIBRS data and developed the publicly available data dashboards. Crime rates, crimes reported by month, crime types with location, and the reporting status of law enforcement agencies are currently pre-

sented in the Justice Data Portal for the state and at the county level. All of which will be refreshed on a regular continuing basis.

“North Carolina law enforcement agencies regularly contribute data on reported crimes to the National Incident-Based Reporting System,” stated DPS Secretary, Eddie Buffalo, Jr. “That data can be used in conjunction with other data sources to support decision-makers when determining which victim services providers to fund.”

This initial release of the Justice Data Portal is a significant milestone for the compilation and analysis of justice data in North Carolina. Future NIBRS releases will include interactive dashboards on data reported to law enforcement about victims and offenders and their relationships along with data from additional sources, such as Traffic Stop Data.

“The new Justice Data Portal provides access to a rich source of information to identify underserved victims, review the effectiveness of existing victim services and programs or guide technical resource development for service providers,” said GCC Executive Director, Caroline Farmer. “NIBRS data such as the location of a particular reporting agency could be used to inform the distribution of funding resources based on the number of service providers in a geographic area.”

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Rotary Clubs recognized for Greenway work

At its regular monthly meeting held Tuesday night, the Macon County Board of Commissioners recognized the joint efforts to revitalize a portion of the Little Tennessee Greenway by the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Franklin. Local rotary clubs have maintained the portion of the Greenway known as Centennial Park for years. With the help of grant funding from the Nantahala Heath Foundation and Rotary District 7670, local Rotary Clubs have completely transformed the pavilion and walking track located at Centennial Park. The labor for the renovation project was provided by Rotarians from Franklin, Franklin-Daybreak, and Interact Club at Franklin High School plus skilled labor and equipment from Highlander Roofing and mulch from Shuler Mulch.



Macon Middle School gets new American flag

The American Legion recently presented and replaced an American flag at Macon Middle School. James Carpenter, Wayne Haire, Sherry Newton and the principal Dr. Kevin Bailey along with the student body hoisted the beautiful new flag on the school grounds.



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Support from America's Home Place helping to build WCU Construction Management program

Annual corporate support from one of the largest custom home builders in the eastern United States is helping lay the foundation for future successes for graduates of Western Carolina University's Construction Management program.

America's Home Place, headquartered in Gainesville, Ga., has contributed more than \$50,000 to WCU over the past five years, providing scholarship assistance to construction management students, additional programmatic support for faculty and administrators, and funding for Construction Management Club activities and educational opportunities.

The company, which has 46 custom home building centers across 12 states, also regularly holds faculty and staff events on campus to share real-world insight from its executives and employees about the residential construction industry.

America's Home Place, with two centers in Western North Carolina at Franklin and Asheville, provides as many as four paid internships annually to WCU construction management students and has hired about a dozen of the program's graduates over the past five years.

The relationship between the company and WCU began in 2016, when leaders of the Construction Management program invited Stacy Buchanan, regional president of America's Home Place, to serve on the program's advisory board. That relationship has developed into one that is symbiotic in nature, Buchanan said.

"Partnerships between universities and the business community offer a clear benefit to both parties. Universities can enhance the learning opportunities they provide to students with additional resources, real-life experiences, improved learning environments and a clear path to employment upon graduation," he said.

"The business community receives access to a talent pool of highly skilled, highly trained graduates who have a better understanding of, in our case, the residential construction industry and both its challenges and its opportunities. Our goal is for these individual partnerships to turn into long-term relationships," Buchanan said.

Bruce Gehrig, WCU's Joe W. and Cynthia Kimmel Distinguished Professor of Construction Management and interim associate dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said funding and additional support provided by America's Home Place and other corporate partners is invaluable in the program's ability to meet its mission of preparing the next generation of construction management professionals.

"Industry support is vital to the Construction Management program as it helps ensure that our program is aligned with current needs, practices and technologies of the profession," Gehrig said. "The required internship component is a significant high-impact practice that allows students to gain significant insight into actual construction practices, which greatly enhances their educational experience in their remaining classes."

Approximately 40 scholarships in the amount of \$500 each have been awarded over the past five years through funding provided by America's Home Place, financial support that can make a difference in whether some students are able to continue their studies, Gehrig said.

"Similar to a lot of students on campus, many of our stu-



Taking part in a ceremonial check presentation are, from left, Josh Day of America's Home Place; Western Carolina University Construction Management Program representatives Gauhar Sabih, Bruce Gehrig, John Hildreth and Chip Ferguson; and Christopher Matthews of America's Home Place.

dents are first-generation, working-class individuals who have to work to pay for college expenses. Scholarships remove some of that financial burden, and I know it allows some students the opportunity to stay in school and complete their education," he said. "The long-term impact of these first-generation students entering the profession is going to be significant for them, their families and the regional construction industry."

Megan McIntosh, a sophomore from Mount Holly majoring in construction management, is among the recipients of scholarships funded by gifts from America's Home Place.

"Receiving a scholarship from America's Home Place gave me an amazing opportunity to grow and explore within the construction industry. This scholarship is very meaningful to me and will make me forever thankful for the generosity that America's Home Place extended to me," said McIntosh, a 2020 graduate of Highland School of Technology in Gastonia.

"Without this scholarship, I know I would not have the same opportunities I have today. Being one of the few recipients of this great scholarship makes me feel very honored. America's Home Place scholarship is very meaningful and important to my journey throughout my collegiate years," she said.

In addition to providing funding for scholarships and other programmatic support, representatives of America's Home Place have served as class speakers on topics such as corporate estimating and project management; sponsored field trips to several local job sites; provided complete construction plans including drawings and cost estimates for class projects; sponsored a construction management career fair; donated tools, supplies and equipment for program laboratories; and participated in welcome-back picnics and football pre-game tailgates for construction management students.

"We are excited for the program's continued growth and thankful for the opportunity to be a small part of it," Buchanan said. "We look forward to many more years of continued support of the WCU Construction Management program. As our America's Home Place mission statement states: 'We build people to build houses, for families to build homes.'"

For more information about corporate support of WCU students and programs, contact the WCU Division of Advancement at 828-227-7124 or advancement@wcu.edu or visit the website give.wcu.edu.

WCU is designated Tree Campus USA; Earth Week events planned

On the heels of being recertified as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, Western Carolina University is holding a series of sustainability events during Earth Week, April 19 to April 25.

The recognition is apropos. There are more than 3,300 trees on campus, according to Lauren Bishop, WCU chief sustainability officer, who also said the university supports recycling programs, green initiatives and carbon footprint reduction and conducts eco-awareness campaigns.

“One of the best ways we can mitigate climate change is thru carbon sequestration. Currently our campus trees are removing approximately 1.037 million pounds of CO2 per year, along with filtering just over seven million gallons of stormwater runoff, which helps keeps our air and waterways healthy,” said Bishop. “The quality of our resources impacts all of us and an important thing to mindful of not just during Earth Week, but every day.”

Trees on campus can lower energy costs by providing shade cover, cleaner air and water, and green spaces for students and faculty. In addition, trees improve students’ mental and cognitive health, provide an appealing aesthetic for campuses, and areas for studying and gathering. WCU data is available at <https://otm.wcu.edu/wcu/map/>.

“Trees not only play a vital role in the environment but also in our daily lives,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Having trees on college and university campuses is a great way to show a commitment to students and faculty’s overall wellbeing.”

WCU sustainability and Earth Week events include:

- Monday, April 18, Pop-Up Clothing Swap, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Killian Courtyard
- Tuesday, April 19, Campus Heritage Tree Walk, 12:15-12:45 p.m. starts at Madison Hall parking lot
- Wednesday, April 20, Lessons in Sustainability from Costa Rica, 3-4 p.m. in Blue Ridge Conference Room



The Tuck River Cleanup set for Saturday, April 23, is one of the nation's largest single day river cleanups. Hundreds of volunteers unite to clean 20 miles of the Tuckasegee river from Cullowhee to Whittier

– Thursday, April 21, Arbor Day of Service, 1-4 p.m. meet behind Bardo Arts Center (tools provided)

– Friday, April 22, annual Trashion Show, 4-4:30 p.m. recycled fashion show on the University Center lawn

– Saturday, April 23, annual Tuck River Cleanup, 8-9 a.m. morning registration; noon to 1 afternoon registration at Alumni Tower.

For more information on events or to sign-up for the Arbor Day of Service, contact Bishop at lbishop@wcu.edu or to sign-up for the Arbor Day of Service. For information on the Tuck River Cleanup, call 828-227-8813.



Western Carolina University boasts more than 3,000 trees on its Cullowhee campus.

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What's new on the plateau

Patrick Taylor
Highlands Mayor

We are getting close to the end of school and the graduation season. Highlands School usually has a senior graduation class of about 25 to 30 students. Being one of only three K through 12 schools in the state, our whole town celebrates the accomplishments of our hometown seniors.

Every graduating senior at the Highlands School is eligible to receive a Town of Highlands Scholarship if they will be attending a college, university or vocational school. Students who submit scholarship applications receive some level of support. If a student remains in school he or she can reapply for a scholarship each year until their schooling is complete.

Highlands community leaders established the town scholarship program for students graduating from the Highlands School. These educational grants are intended to assist students in their educational pursuits beyond high school.

Special legislation was passed in Raleigh in 1977 in order to establish the town scholarship program. This special legislation authorized the town finance department to administer the program. There are no administration fees from the town, so every dollar goes directly to supporting scholarships.

The town has a scholarship committee consisting of citizens and educators that review all scholarship applications. The amount for individual scholarships is determined by this committee. I announce and present the scholarships to seniors on Highlands School Honors Day in May. Every graduating senior that is accepted into an advanced educational program receives a scholarship. Awards can range from around \$800 to more than \$2,000. Over a four-year period of study a student may receive as much as \$4,000 or \$6,000. Forty or more students actually receive support in a given year.

The endowment for the scholarship program is now more than \$880,000. Major gifts to the scholarship endowment will and have had a lasting impact on the educational endeavors of young Highlanders. As we approach the 50th year of the program, it would be wonderful to receive new major gifts that would propel the endowment to more than a million dollars. The growth of the endowment will further increase support for students.



Patrick Taylor

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

High-end restaurant brings in money into Franklin

I wish Bob Scott would go away now that he has retired from his mayoral position in Franklin. He is still trying to push his own personal agenda. Typical Liberal. His way or no way. The clientele who eat and drink at local restaurants in the downtown area are not those who come to town to get inebriated. Show some intelligence Bob! This particular restaurant brings in a lot of high end customers from around the county and state, if not out of state. The more money they leave in the town limits of Franklin, the better! If they want a drink with a good meal while seated outside, let them enjoy. For whatever personal reason you have for not wanting to give them this opportunity, keep it to yourself.

Ken Bowden – Franklin, N.C.

Single statewide plan implausible for rural WNC

I want to take a moment to make you aware of an issue directly affecting the children and families served by the Macon County Department of Social Services. Currently, children and families served by the child welfare system in N.C. are connected with their Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization (LME-MCO) to address the mental health, behavioral health, substance use, and developmental disability issues that may have contributed to their involvement in child welfare in the first place. For nearly 50 years, children and families have been served by our local LME-MCO, Vaya Health (previously known as Smoky Mountain Area Mental Health). Recently, however, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has issued two policy papers in which they propose asking the General Assembly to allow issuance of a single, statewide plan to serve these vulnerable children and families. This statewide plan is being touted as a “silver bullet” to address system issues such as lack of providers to deliver services, equitable access to all services regardless of location, and a way in which to lower costs associated with serving these families.

However, I want to offer a counter view to these claims: that is, these concerns and many others are currently being addressed in every county in N.C. through a partnership between local departments of social services and their respective LME-MCOs. Establishing an additional, separate statewide mental and physical health plan to deliver many of the same services already being provided through existing plans will lead to duplication of service (increasing costs overall), confusion for families and professionals alike as to whom to turn to for services, and overall system fragmentation. Such service duplication will only exacerbate the staffing shortages already seen throughout the system, especially in rural areas. Macon County, like the other far western six counties, already suffers a lack of access to resources because of both our rural nature as well as geo-

graphic location at the end of the state. It is implausible that a single, statewide plan will afford the counties in far, western N.C. equitable access to the same services that are received in Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, or Winston-Salem. In fact, even local government officials in Winston-Salem share concerns with a single, statewide plan. You may have seen Wes Young's article in the Winston-Salem Journal that addresses these concerns.

Rather than a single, statewide plan, Macon County Department of Social Services trusts Vaya Health to work collaboratively with us and with our local providers to deliver care and services that the vulnerable children and families involved with child welfare deserve. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about our concerns in more detail. If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for your time to this important issue. Respectfully,

R. Patrick Betancourt, Director Macon County DSS

Voter information for May 17 Primary Election

Absentee ballots request March 28-May 10

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

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

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

One-Stop Voting - Franklin April 28-May 14

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

One-Stop Voting - Highlands April 28-May 14

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

Primary Election Day Tuesday, May 17

Voters will cast ballots at their respective precincts.

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

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

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N.C. Department of Revenue to launch Phase Two of the Business Recovery Grant Program

\$200 million remains available as eligibility expands

The N.C. Department of Revenue (NCDOR) plans to launch the application for Phase 2 of the Business Recovery Grant (BRG) program on Monday, May 2, 2022, with changes to the program's eligibility criteria allowing many additional businesses to qualify for these grants. BRG will issue a payment to an eligible North Carolina business that suffered an economic loss of at least 20 percent during the pandemic. The grant amount is a percentage of the economic loss demonstrated by the eligible business or \$500,000, whichever is less. The application deadline is June 1, 2022.

"Barbers, cosmetologists, gyms and other service providers were hit hard by the pandemic and it's important to expand these grants to help them too," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Our small businesses are the backbone of our economy and strong support for them is critical."

Many businesses excluded in Phase 1 are eligible to apply in Phase 2. In addition to COVID-impacted businesses in the hospitality industry such as restaurants and hotels, the BRG is now open to other businesses affected by the pandemic such as:

- Farmers and Agribusinesses
- Gyms and Trainers
- Salons and Barbers
- Massage Therapists
- Dentists
- Lawyers
- Doctors
- Interior Designers
- Hardware Stores
- Pharmacies
- Landscapers
- Mechanics
- Tailors and Dry Cleaners

Additionally, a business's previous receipt of a grant award from certain federal programs will not make it ineligible for a reimbursement grant. This list is non-exhaustive, and businesses are encouraged to visit

<https://www.ncdor.gov/business-recovery-grant> to learn more about eligibility criteria beginning May 2.

Following the initial application period, which closed on January 31, approximately \$203.5 million remained of the \$500 million in funds initially authorized for the program. NCDOR worked with the N.C. General Assembly to expand eligibility to certain businesses impacted by the pandemic but that did not qualify for the first round of funds.

"Our hope is that the expanded Business Recovery Grant program requirements will encourage more eligible North Carolina businesses to apply," said NCDOR Secretary Ronald Penny. "These funds are available for eligible businesses that suffered a financial loss because of the pandemic and we want to make sure those businesses receive them."

Two types of grants will be available to eligible businesses for Phase 2:

A hospitality grant is available to an eligible arts, entertainment, or recreation business, as well as an eligible accommodation or food service business such as a hotel, restaurant, or bar (NAICS code 71 and 72).

A reimbursement grant is available to an eligible business not classified in NAICS Code 71 and 72. A business's previous receipt of a grant award from certain federal programs will not make it ineligible for a reimbursement grant.

Gross receipts reported on the expanded list of tax forms can be used to calculate an economic loss for Phase 2, making the BRG available to sole proprietors, corporations, and other businesses that do not report gross receipts on Form E-500 or Federal Form 1065. This may also provide a larger grant award to businesses that primarily provide services.

On May 2, eligible business owners will be able to apply for Phase 2 online at www.ncdor.gov. More detailed information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions will also be available on the agency website.

TAYLOR

From previous page


In recent years the town has sponsored a golf tournament to raise money of scholarships. Also, proceeds from the Three River Fly Fishing Festival go directly to the scholarship program. These fundraising initiatives, and sometimes interest from the endowment, help fund yearly scholarships and preserve the endowment's principle.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the golf tournament will not take place this year. I hope Highlanders will consider making a contribution to the scholarship program so the town can continue to provide scholarships at past levels.

This scholarship program is a great investment in our young people, as well as for the future of Highlands. As mayor, I am asking for your support for this wonderful and unique program. Please send a check to the Town of Highlands at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. Be sure to mark the check for the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. All donations are tax deductible.

On Honors Day, many additional scholarships are awarded to seniors by civic organizations and area businesses. That community support is an important way to encourage our seniors to strive for new levels of achievements.

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Whitewater Falls accidents leads to death of three-year-old child

On Sunday, April 10, at 5:50 p.m. the Jackson County Emergency Management 911 Center received a call reporting a 3-year old child visiting Whitewater Falls with her family had been swept away in the water at the top of the falls and the current had carried the child over the falls.

Emergency responders from Jackson, Transylvania, Haywood, Henderson, and Oconee counties were dispatched to the falls and rescue operations to locate the child were initiated. Just prior to nightfall on Sunday rescuers located the child deceased and entrapped in an area of the water fall. Recovery operations throughout the night and early morning led to the child being recovered from the waterfall around 1 a.m. on Monday, April 11.

The child has been identified as Nevaeh Jade Newswanger, age 3, of Denver, Penn-

sylvania. The Newswanger family has been residing in Oconee County, South Carolina while working in the area.

Jackson County Sheriff Chip Hall offers his condolences for the family and cautions others about the dangers associated with visits to scenic areas such as Whitewater Falls.

"First and foremost our prayers are with the Newswanger Family as they grieve the loss of this precious young child. With the onset of spring weather we need to be reminded of the dangers associated with many scenic areas of the region such as waterfalls. While beautiful to view from a safe distance, venturing out closer to the falls for any reason brings tremendous danger. Always remain at a distance, follow safety precautions and warnings which are in place, and view waterfalls from designated viewing areas."



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North Shore Cemetery Association sets Lower Noland Creek Decoration

In cooperation with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the North Shore Cemetery Association will begin the 2022 Cemetery Decorations at Lower Noland Creek, Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The group will visit the Upper Noland (Branton) Cemetery and Lower Noland Cemetery. It is a relatively easy 15-minute walk to the Upper Noland Cemetery and a somewhat difficult 30-minute walk uphill to Lower Noland. Bring your own lunch, snacks, drinks, and other necessities. Picnic tables are situated at the campground, however, you may bring your own folding chairs and table. Decorations consist of decorating the graves at the first cemetery, service in song, a short devotion, lunch, and then going to the second cemetery.

To attend this Decoration, drive from Bryson City west on Lakeshore Drive to the Noland Creek Parking Area, turning around and then driving to the first road on the right, travelling downhill and then crossing over the bridge and up Noland Creek four miles to Campsite 64 at the confluence of Mill Creek. Noland Creek road is a single-track road and is not recommended for low clearance vehicles. Drivers may have to back up to a suitable location for oncoming vehicles to pass. Dress is casual; wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for hiking. No pets in accordance with Park regulations. Do not park in the turnaround area. Parking can be up to 200 yards from the campground. See the Facebook page for the latest information: North Shore Cemetery Decorations | Facebook. This page may be viewed by non-Facebook members.



Pesticide disposal pick-up day Tuesday, April 19

Do you have pesticides at your home, business or farm that you no longer need or use? If your answer is "yes," then you'll be interested to know that the NC Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program, in cooperation with the Macon County Extension Center and Macon County government, will be offering this Pesticide Collection Day for local residents and the surrounding area.

Joe Deal, NCSU Extension Agriculture Agent in Livestock, Forages and Pastures will be the local contact for the event. The collection will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, at the Environmental Resource Center



Farmers and gardeners are invited to bring leftover pesticides to the Environmental Resource Center at 1624 Lakeside drive for safe disposal on Tuesday, April 19.

on 1624 Lakeside Drive, Franklin. Pesticides that will be accepted include the following: insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants, rodenticides and growth regulators. For pesticides with unreadable or missing labels, contact the Cooperative Extension Office for instructions. Save any portion of the label to help identify the material so you can be assisted with disposal. Unknown materials cannot be accepted. Other hazardous materials, such as paint, antifreeze, solvents, etc. will not be accepted at this collection day. Don't miss this great opportunity to get rid of your unwanted dusty old pesticides.

The Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP) is a

consumer services program in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The PDAP, part of the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, is a Non-regulatory program that provides cost-free assistance to farmers and homeowners. The goal of the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program is to assist the citizens of North Carolina by managing and supervising the safe collection and lawful disposal of banned, outdated, or unwanted pesticides.

For additional information about pesticide disposal, you can contact the Macon County office at 828-349-2046 or Derrick Bell with NCDA&CS at PDAP - <http://www.ncagr.gov/SPC/AP/pesticides/PDAP>

Bear Wise program at the library

Walking with Spring at the Library series continues with "Are You BearWise?" Wednesday, April 20, at 6 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room.

Ashley Hobbs with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will discuss the natural history of black bears in western North Carolina and how you can use that information to safely coexist with these North Carolina treasures.

For more tips on how to coexist with bears visit: bearwise.org.



Community plots still available for interested Macon County gardeners

The Macon County Community Garden located near the front entrance of Southwestern Community College and the Macon County Public Library still has a couple of garden plots available for those interested in gardening. Each plot is 500 square feet with 24 plots total. Gardeners must supply their own fertilizer, seeds and plants and agree to abide by garden regulations. There is a charge of \$2 per garden spot.

If interested or for more information, call the Macon Extension Center at 349-2049 or e-mail Christy at clbreden@ncsu.edu. The garden should be available for use by the first of May.

The Community Garden at the Cowee School of Arts & Heritage Center has several 4x12 ft beds (organic) available to rent. The fee is \$25/bed. If interested call (828) 369-4080 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or e-mail maconheritagecenter@gmail.com

To see more of what the location and individual beds look like go to

<https://www.coweeschool.org/community-garden>





Couple marks 75th wedding anniversary

Paul and Barbara Shepard are celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary on April 12. The couple's son, Deni, proclaimed "to the most wonderful loving caring people I've ever known! Dad at age 95 and Mom at 94 but currently in Hospice Care but at home with family. Happy 75th Wedding Anniversary to Mom and Dad. From all your friends, family and loving son."

Community Bible Church in Highlands is hosting community wide Easter Celebration

Pastor Gary Hewins of Community Bible Church, Highlands, has announced a community wide Easter Celebration on the church campus Saturday, April 16, from 11-2 p.m. Parking starts at 10:30 a.m. CBC is looking to fulfil the desire from the community to provide a safe and inspiring celebration. All ages can expect an Easter egg hunt at 11:30 a.m., bounce houses, rush obstacle course, basketball tower zone, foam axe throwing challenge, free food and beverages, face painting and more. This event is com-

pletely free to the surrounding community.

Director of Ministry Services, Anthony DeNardis describes the event as a major community connection opportunity.

"I'm excited to share our beautiful campus with the local community. This event will be encouraging, connecting and a true celebration."

In addition to the Easter Celebration, Community Bible Church will host their Easter Service on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome.



Gem society supports science teachers

The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society has awarded mini-grants to Mountain View Intermediate School 6th Grade Science teachers. The money will help them purchase equipment and fluorescent mineral kits for their classes. Pictured (L-R) are Denise Shields, Scholarship Committee Chairman Al Pribble and Debbie Gibbs.

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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 March 29 - April 10. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Macon County Sheriff's Department

April 4

James Warren Vincent Jr., was charged with burglary/breaking and entering and second degree trespass. Deputy Lydia Bellavance made the arrest.

Jonathan Lee Edmonds, was charged with failure to appear. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

April 5

Kelsey Anne Potter, was charged with possession of schedule II controlled substance. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

April 6

Al Lococo, was charged with fugitive for out of state, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sargent Jonathan A. Taylor made the arrest.

Fredrick Ervin Campbell III was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a schedule I controlled substance. Deputy Cody Tiger made the arrest.

April 7

Matthew James Kennedy, was charged with child support enforcement contempt. Costin Jigla made the arrest.

Jon Hunter, was charged with being a public nuisance. Corporal Clay A. Saunders made the arrest.

April 8

Nathan Daniel Green, was charged with felony speeding to elude arrest and resist/obstruct and delay law enforcement officer. Joseph A. Raby made the arrest.

Vanessa Lynnette Griffith, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

Antonio De Jesus Ortega Gallardo, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Matthew T. Breedlove made the arrest.

April 9

Blaine Alan Vincent, was charged with assault inflicting serious injury with a minor present, assault inflicting serious injuries and interfere emergency communications. Denver J. Elliott made the arrest.

Russell Andrew Foster, was charged with possession of stolen motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine and carrying a concealed weapon. Adrian L. Mace made the arrest.

April 10

Austin Lee Connally, was charged with felony probation violation. Troy L. Burt made the arrest.

Franklin Police Department

April 4

Ryan Christopher Lee, was charged with breaking and en-

tering a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny. G.D. Hovis made the arrest.

April 6

Bryan Keith Weldner, was issued a warrant for larceny by an employee and safecracking. M.A. Bingham made the arrest.

April 7

Sean C. Mason, was issued an order for arrest for domestic violence protective order violation. J.A. Riles made the arrest.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department

March 29

Troy Patrick Bloodworth, 44, of Brush Creek, Bryson City, was charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

William Stanley Ellwood, 35, of Emmaline Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for uttering a forged instrument. A secured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Colby Taylor Price, 30, of Big Witch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with failure to appear for aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Dustin Lyle Jones, 39, of Redwing Vista, Whittier, was charged with a true bill for habitual felon. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

March 30

Clinton John Tutolo, 36, of Tuts Terrace, was issued a fugitive warrant. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Rhonda Lynn Bradley, 56, of Cherokee, was charged with resisting a public officer, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine and injury to real property. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Alexander Wilson Dancy, 19, of Shingle Gap Rd., Purlear, was charged with sexual battery. An unsecured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Timothy Brandon Luker, 42, of Luker Branch, Tuckasegee, was charged with communicating threats. An unsecured bond of \$2,000 was set.

Amanda Wood, 46, of Jordan Rd., Bryson City, was charged with trespass of real property. A \$1,000 was set.

March 31

Jason David Averett, 47, of Allen Henson Circle, was charged with failure to report new address for sex offender. A secured bond of \$20,000 was set.

Toni Lynn Holcombe, 36, of Barker Creek, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Shannon Eugene Breedlove, 52, of Mill Creek Rd, Cullowhee, was charged with driving while impaired. An unsecured bond of \$500 was set.

Noah Zachary Saunier, 27, of Wind River Hills, was charged with communicating threats. No bond was set.

April 1

Hiteshkumar Ramanbhai Patel, 48, of Monteith Branch, was charged with failure to appear for speeding and driving while impaired. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Armando Bonise Barron, 51, of Cullowhee, was charged with littering not greater than 15 lbs and injury to real property. No bond was set.

Kyle Joseph Bieksha, 21, of Apogee Dr., Indian Trail, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

April 2

Mark Allen Thoman, 38, of Jonquil Dr., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Christopher Todd Jones, 35, of Cloudy Valley Rd., was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Anthony Kelvin Sequoyah, 33, of Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for assault on a female, possession of stolen goods/property and misdemeanor larceny. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Jessica Myraah McCoy, 28, of Longview Lane Long Branch, Cherokee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to an inmate, failure to appear for misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Alfred Jermaine Frazier, 20, of Speedwell Acres, Cullowhee, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats. A secured bond of \$1,500 was set.

Justin Ryan Huskey, 34, of Williamson Rd., Whittier, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and possession of methamphetamine. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Tristin Hart-Zeb Wilson, 24, of Boo Haller Rd., Whittier, was charged with misdemeanor larceny. An unsecured bond of \$1,000 was set.

April 3

Amber Carol-Leigh Bradley, 31, of Cherokee, was charged with aid and abet providing drugs to inmate. A secured bond of \$125,000 was set.

April 4

Rodney Alan Panther, 35, of Long Branch Rd., Cherokee, was charged with misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

Charles Ray Tolley, 48, of Riverbend Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female and elder abuse. A secured bond of \$60,000 was set.

April 5

Andy Odell Queen, 46, of Johns Creek Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with assault on a female. No bond was set.

Amber June Franks, 22, of Sylva, was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Rachel Jewel White Urrutia, 40, of Oak Hill Dr., Franklin, was charged with trespass of real property and resisting a public officer. A secured bond of \$10,000 was set.

Lane Robert Moody, 21, of Jewel St., was charged with possession of marijuana 1/2 to 1 1/2 oz, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. No bond was set.

April 6

Miranda Kathy Nations, 27, of Roundhill Rd., Bryson City, was issued a warrant for arrest for felony larceny after breaking and entering and second degree burglary. A secured bond of \$35,000 was set.

William Joseph Conner, 31, of Oak Hill Dr., was charged with an indictment for possession of methamphetamine and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. A secured bond of \$15,000 was set.

April 7

Dora Carrion Alvarado, 50, of Toohow Rd., Whittier, was charged with failure to appear for probation violation. A secured bond of \$5,000 was set.

Alexandrea Nichole Carpenter, 25, of Cullowhee Mountain Rd., Cullowhee, was charged with shoplifting/concealment of goods. A secured bond of \$1,000 was set.

Lauren Marie Smith, 26, of Cheerful Cove Rd., was charged with failure to appear for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a schedule II controlled substance. A secured bond of \$25,000 was set.

Frank Joseph McCoy, 28, of Cattle Dr., Whittier, was issued a warrant for arrest for first degree trespass. No bond was set.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Manna Food Bank is now at Bethel United Methodist Church. To reserve a food box, call (828)634-1116 and leave a message with the following information: your first name and last initial; phone number to confirm pick-up time; number of people in your family; if there are allergies in the family; and any specialty items you might need, like diapers, etc. Pick up is at Bethel UMC, 81 Bethel Church Road, off Highlands Road.

Nantahala Hiking Club will meet on Thursday, April 14, 6 p.m., in the Macon County library meeting room. Rob Judger, Wildlife Biologist (NC State), outdoorsman and avid naturalist will bring Wayah, one of his three wolves. All NHC meetings are free and open to the public.

Valley River Arts Guild will be offering a Pour Painting Class for Kids ages 10 to 17, on Saturday, April 16, 1:30 to 3 p.m.; Mosaic Art for Children, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; at Murphy Art Center. Classes are open to the public. For more information, call (828)360-3038.

Adult and Teen Challenge of the Smokies Graduation and Mortgage Burning will be held on Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m., at 336 Living Hope Way, Franklin. There will be worship, a message from the word, a short video, and the graduate giving his testimony. The mortgage burning and a reception will be at the end of the graduation ceremony. The public is invited to attend. For more information about the program go to www.livinghopeway.com or call (828)524-2157.

Maidens Chapel Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 16, at 3 p.m. The hunt is free to the public. Refreshments after the hunt. The church is located at 230 Maidens Chapel Rd.

East Franklin Baptist Church Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m. The church is located at Lakeside Dr.

Nantahala Hiking Club on Saturday, April 16, will hike to Winding Stair Gap to Panther Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Pass a waterfall and at mile one a camping area and two stream crossings. Hiking sticks are helpful. Have lunch at Panther Gap looking out to the east. Meet at Westgate Plaza, at 9 a.m., to carpool. Bring windbreaker jacket and hat, lunch, snacks and fluids as needed. Hiking sticks are helpful. Visitors and good dogs are welcome. No reservations are needed. For more information or bad weather, call leader David Stearns at (828)349-7361.

Jackson County NC NAACP Online Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. The topic will be "The May North Carolina Primaries: What's at stake in local elections." All are welcome. Email jcnaacp54ab@gmail.com to receive instructions to join online.

Nantahala Hiking Club on Sunday, April 17, will hike to Rock Gap on the AT hiking south to Glassmine Gap, in and out hike. Pass by Rock Gap shelter, climbing to a ridge that overlooks Allison Watts community. Wildflowers should be blooming. For reservations and informa-

tion, call leader Katharine Brown (828)421-4718.

Democratic Women of Macon County will meet on Tuesday, April 19, 5 p.m., at Noah's Play and Train,

Franklin High School Percussion Camp and Auditions will be held on April 19, 4:30 to 5:30, Thursday, April 21, 4:30 to 6:30, Tuesday, April 26, 4:30 to 6:30 and Thursday, April 28, 4:30 to 6:30. Open to all rising 9th to 12th graders at FHS and MEC. For more information, contact Daniel Ball at daniel.ball@macon.k12.nc.us or call (919)428-1104.

BearWise – Co-exist Safely with Bears will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 6 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. Ashley Hobbs with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will discuss the natural history of black bears in western North Carolina and how to use that information to safely coexist with these North Carolina treasures. For more tips on how to coexist with bears visit: bear-wise.org

Prentiss Church Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2 to 5:30 p.m. The church is located at 59 Church Hill Lane. For more information, call (828)369-3885.

Vaya Health Class - I'm All Covered Up: What You Need to Know About Hoarding will be held on Thursday, April 21, 1:30 p.m. in the Macon County Public Library Meeting Room. "I'm covered up" is not just about the physical retention of things. More importantly, it's about emotional components that won't allow release. This presentation examines causes, symptoms, and adaptive treatment and care methods for those dealing with hoarding behavior. A focus is placed on the aged population. Register for this in-person VAYA Health class at <https://www.vayahealth.com/calendar/> or call the library (828)524-3600.

The Coalition to stop Cruelty to all Domestic Animals will hold its second meeting Friday, April 22, at 6 p.m., at 189 Highlands Rd., Franklin. The coalition seeks committed individuals who witness neglect and/or abuse of an animal and want to help, take pictures, if possible, of the animal and email along with any questions to: ainc@dnet.net. Names can be kept anonymous, if preferred.

Share the Journey Support Group for Caregivers whose loved ones are experiencing memory loss will meet on Wednesday, April 27, 2 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St. Enter the church from the parking lot, come through the double red doors in the courtyard and follow the signs. For more information, call (828)524-3119.

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

First Alliance Church will hold Easter Sunday Service, April 10, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:30 a.m., Pastor Scott Eichelberger will speak on Lazarus' Resurrection based on John 11. The church is located at 31 Promise Lane (off Womack, next door to Trimont Christian Academy).

Spiritual Light Center on Sunday, April 17, 11 a.m., Rev. Lesley Reifert-Hughes will share on "Forgiveness + Love = Healing. On Tuesday a movie is shown at 3 p.m. and then out to eat afterward. The church is located at 80 Heritage Hollow Dr., behind the Gazebo Restaurant. For more information or to stream services go to SpiritualLightCenter.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email your church events to maconcountynews@gmail.com

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Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 AT 3PM



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SUDOKU ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR PG. 22

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**Teen Poetry Night in Franklin
Monday, April 18 at The Rat**

The annual Teen Poetry Night, an open mic event for high school-age poets and poetry lovers, will be held Monday, April 18, at 7 p.m., in Franklin's Rathskeller Coffee Haus. To celebrate National Poetry Month, young poets are invited to read or recite their original works, as well as their favorite works by other poets, earning RAT Bucks to be spent at the event on The Rathskeller's beverages, sandwiches, snacks and desserts. There's no pre-registration; participants are given stage time in a round-robin format. Family members and friends are invited to come and cheer their teens on.

The Rathskeller Coffee Haus is at 58 Stewart Street, a half block south of Main Street behind Books Unlimited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; there is no admission charge.

For more information contact the event sponsor, the Arts Council, 828-524-ARTS or arts4all@dnet.net.



'History on Two Wheels' opens in Old Fort, N.C.

Bicycling is one of the simplest and cheapest ways to travel. But early bicycles, with their wooden wheels and frames and poor steering, were much different from today's sleek, multi-gear vehicles made of lightweight composite materials and offering a variety of safety features.

Learn more about the history of bicycles and the sport of cycling in North Carolina at Mountain Gateway Museum & Heritage Center's newest exhibit, "History on Two Wheels." The traveling exhibit opened Saturday, April 9 at the museum, 24 Water Street in Old Fort. Admission is free.

Developed by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Transportation Museum, the exhibition will run through Oct. 2.

Invented about 200 years ago, the first bicycles were made of wood, from their frame to their wheels. In the late 1800s, bicycles evolved, moving toward iron parts. By 1900, elements of the modern bicycle had emerged.

During the "Safety Era" of the early 1900s, upgrades to bicycles made them more sturdy, safe, and reliable modes of transportation with improvements to the seats, brakes, tires, and wheel spokes.

Bicycles offered an option for exercise and faster transport than walking. They represented freedom for women, even as conservatives of the early twentieth century feared they would lead to female corruption. Women pushed past the controversy to enjoy bicycles in all types and



The rising popularity of bicycles had a profound influence on women's fashion, as seen in this ad: Modeling cycle fashion on Riverside Drive, 1896, by Frederick A. Stokes Company.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

sizes, even joining clubs and participating in contests. Ultimately, the bicycle has stood the test of time as a healthy and enjoyable mode of transportation.

History on Two Wheels will:

- Examine the development and evolution of the bicycle.

- Display examples of different bicycles and cycling attire.
- Explore the growth of cycling clubs and similar organizations.
- Discuss the role of the bicycle in the Women's Rights Movement.

For more information about the exhibit, visit the Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort, view its website at www.mgmnc.org or contact Jesse Bricker at 828-668-9259 or jesse.bricker@ncdcr.gov.

The museum is open year-round from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday; closed on Monday. Old Fort is about a 90-minute drive from Franklin.

About Mountain Gateway Museum

Nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains along the banks of historic Mill Creek in downtown Old Fort (McDowell County), the museum uses artifacts, exhibitions, educational programs, living history demonstrations, and special events to teach the rich history and cultural heritage of the state's mountain region, from its earliest inhabitants and into the 20th century.

As part of its education outreach mission, MGM also assists nonprofit museums and historic sites in 38 WNC counties with exhibit development & fabrication, genealogical research, photography archives, traveling exhibitions, and consultations. For more, visit www.mgmnc.org or call (828)668-9259.

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New Mainspring Trail opens on Onion Mountain

Deena C. Bouknight – Contributing Writer

One of Mainspring Conservation Trust’s main goals is to preserve properties for perpetuity and for public use. Several spots exist throughout Macon County where anyone can park, walk, hike, and bike. Many of the properties have historic and/or botanical significance.

On Friday, April 8, at 10 a.m., a ribbon cutting took place to recognize Mainspring’s newest public trail, at Onion Mountain, 3575 Ellijay Road. At least a dozen people attended the April 8 event that included a wildflower education hike involving both representatives of Mainspring and the Macon County community.

Mainspring’s Executive Director Jordan Smith spoke during the ribbon cutting.

“Every dollar, every volunteer hour that goes into these projects ... it’s truly a humbling experience. And this property is special because it is the largest gift of land since our inception in 1997. A private donor gifted us 325 acres to protect forever the trees, animals, native plants.”

Overseeing this project has been Kelder Monar, Mainspring’s Stewardship Manager/GIS Specialist.

“We worked on it for around one year. The former owners donated a conservation easement on the property. They also donated the fee simple interest in the property to Mainspring,” said Monar.

He shared some aspects of the site.

“The property contains the entire watershed on an unnamed tributary to Ellijay Creek. It has several forest types, including Rich Cove Forest, Montane Oak-Hickory Forest, Chestnut Oak Forest, and Acidic Cove Forest. There are also smaller natural features, such as seeps, rock outcroppings, and open glades. In general, the Onion Mountain area has occurrences of mafic soils, which can lead to unique plant communities. The upper slopes of the property are visible from Franklin.”

The main path, dubbed “Kelder’s Klimb,” is approximately a four miles out and back hike with a 1,000-foot elevation. However, other trails – indicated with small signs – are named for Mainspring



Kelder Monar, who oversaw the new Mainspring property donation, took attendees of the opening day ribbon cutting on a wildflower hike. At right, Rue anemone is just one native wildflower prevalent on Mainspring Conservation Trust’s new Onion Mountain property. Upper right, one of the trails is named for Kelder Monar.



Mainspring’s Executive Director Jordan Smith cuts the ribbon on the new Onion Mountain property that includes 325 acres of hiking trails.



employees, due to the donors’ long-time involvement with and support of Mainspring Conservation Trust. Although some work, especially the trailhead’s stairs and initial path, was achieved by volunteers, much of the trail system follows former logging roads and paths. Some have been completely cleared while others are still under maintenance.

“There are miles of trails to explore,” said Monar.

“I realized right away that this property was different in terms of the habitat,” Kelder told the April 8 crowd.

During the hike, he pointed out such native flowers as bloodroot, Robin’s plantain, rue anemone, and wild hydrangea, as well as American chestnut saplings and creeping cedar.

Currently, parking is limited at the trailhead, and a kiosk and the property’s main signage has not yet been installed. For more information, contact Mainspring at (828) 524-2711.



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Speed a Little, Lose a Lot Campaign April 11-17

Famed NASCAR driver Bobby Labonte has a message for all North Carolinians: speeding belongs on the racetrack - not the highway.

That's the point Labonte emphasized during the kickoff of the Speed a Little, Lose a Lot enforcement campaign today at the NASCAR Technical Institute (NTI) in Mooresville. Labonte joined staff with the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, NTI, Mooresville Police Chief Ron Campurciani and other law enforcement to kick off the weeklong speeding crackdown effort. The campaign runs through April 17.

"The skill level you need to control a car at high speeds takes a lot of practice, and you have to know your ability and limitations," said Labonte. "Racecars are built strong and for safety, and I have equipment like a helmet and fire-proof suit that you don't have when you're driving a street car. That's why we have speed limits and need to follow them. I'm always aware of that when I'm on the road."

North Carolina law enforcement officers will step up enforcement of speeding motorists from April 11-17. Speed-related fatalities have increased 17 percent in the past five years, with 424 people dying in speed-related crashes statewide in 2021 alone.

"Over the past few years, North Carolina has seen an alarming uptick in speed-related crashes," said Mark Ezzell, director of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Motorists are too often using the roads as their own personal NASCAR tracks, and vehicle crash deaths have skyrocketed in the past few years. As the weather warms and vacation season approaches, let's all do our parts to keep each other safe and avoid tragedy on our roadways."

The faster a vehicle travels, the more likely it is to be in-



NASCAR Driver Bobby Labonte joined NCGHSP to kick off the Speed a Little, Lose a Lot enforcement campaign, which runs April 11-17.

involved in a fatal crash. A crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or higher is five times as likely as a road where the speed limit is below 40 mph.

Motorists also don't save time by speeding up. For instance, it takes just 49 seconds longer to travel two miles at 45 mph than it does if you're going 65 mph.

The N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program encourages motorists to slow down, buckle up and never drive distracted or impaired.

Tips to cut gas mileage and fuel consumption

Gas prices have soared in recent months causing considerable anxiety for the car driving public.

The national average price for a gallon of regular gas stood at \$4.06 a gallon at the beginning of March, according to AAA. With prices still fluctuating, the record \$4.11 set in 2008 could likely be reached soon.

The recent jump in prices was the largest increase since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, and there are no signs of it slowing down. Concerned car owners are trying to avoid getting pinched at the pump and trying to save on gas whatever way they can.

Here are some suggestions about how car owners can conserve gas mileage for their vehicles:

- **Pump it Up** – Under-inflated tires reduce fuel economy and are dangerous as well. Tires low on air also degrade handling and breaking, wear more rapidly and can overheat and blow. Check manufacturers' recommendations and make sure tires are inflated to the maximum PSI.

- **Avoid Idling** – Idling uses a surprising amount of fuel — more than restarting the engine. If you need to wait in a parked vehicle for more than a minute or two, switch off the engine and only start up again when you're ready to continue driving.

- **Drive Safely and at Moderate Speeds** – Gas mileage often rapidly decreases at speeds over 50 mph due to aerodynamic drag. To save gas, stay at or under the speed limit, and drive at a consistent rate of speed. Use cruise control on long trips. Avoid jackrabbit starts, hard acceleration, sudden breaking and speeding around corners, as they actions increase fuel consumption.

- **Travel Light and Check Light** – Added weight in the car

creates a drag on the engine and consumes extra gas. Remove unnecessary items from the trunk and back of the vehicle. Take your car to a repair shop as soon as possible if the "Check Engine" light comes on. This indicates a problem that is causing excessive emissions and likely reducing fuel economy.

- **Travel Efficiently** - Warm engines run more efficiently than cold ones. Combining short errands into one trip is a good way to save gas, as well as time. Whenever possible, travel outside of high-traffic times of the day. In the short term, consider ride sharing or carpooling to split gas costs among multiple passengers.



Money-Saving Tips for Drivers

- **Shop around for gas prices.** Drivers can check area gas prices on the AAA Mobile App.

- **Consider paying in cash vs. credit card.** Some retailers charge extra per gallon for customers who pay with a credit card.

- **Enroll in fuel savings programs.** AAA Members who enroll in Shell's Fuel Rewards program can save 30 cents per gallon on their first

fill-up and 5 cents per gallon on each additional fill-up.

Fuel-Saving Tips for Drivers

- **Maintain your vehicle to ensure optimal fuel economy.** Find a trusted automotive facility at AAA.com/AutoRepair.

- **Combine errands to limit driving time.**

- **Slow down.** Fuel economy diminishes significantly at highway speeds above 50 mph.

- **Drive conservatively and avoid aggressive driving.** Aggressive acceleration and speeding reduces fuel economy.



Deaths & Funerals

Carlton Eugene 'Gene' McDonald

Carlton Eugene "Gene" McDonald, 86, of Winston-Salem, N.C., passed away Thursday, April 7, 2022, at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home.

He was born Nov. 15, 1935, to the late William and Charlotte Johnson McDonald. He grew up in Franklin, NC, and graduated from Franklin High School. After high school he attended Blanton Business College in Asheville. He was a veteran of the US Marine Corps, and was stationed in Lebanon in 1958. After the service he worked for Southern Railroad, which later became Norfolk Southern.

After being transferred from Asheville, he retired in 1993 and returned to Winston-Salem in 2001. He was a Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 930 at Crews United Methodist Church. He was a talented woodworker, an avid reader, and enjoyed spending time outdoors and fishing. He also enjoyed ballroom dancing with his wife, Donna. He was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for more than 20 years. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Cleo Smisek and Georgie Dunlap.

He is survived by his wife of 28 plus years, Donna P. McDonald; sons, Alan McDonald (Kim), and Richard McDonald; daughter, Catherine McGee (Greg); grandsons, Jeremy McDonald (Ashley), and Judson McDonald (Jessica); great-grandchildren, Aleeya, Brayden, Ryder, Alayna, Weldyn, Caleb and Axtyn; and extended family and friends.

A funeral service was conducted Monday, April 11, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Kernersville. Burial was in Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Franklin Tuesday, April 12.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Dementia Society of America, 188 N Main St, Doylestown, PA 18901 or St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1173, Kernersville, NC 27285.

Condolences may be made online at www.salemfh.com.

Courtesy of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory.

Della C. Norman

Della C. Norman died peacefully at her home on March 22, 2022, at Chestnut Hill Assisted Living in Highlands, N.C.

A celebration of her life was held Saturday, April 2, at North Brevard Funeral Home, Titusville, Fla.

Interment was at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens next to her beloved Norris.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care and North Brevard Funeral Home is serving the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.moffittfunerals.com or at www.northbrevardfuneralhome.com.



Carlton McDonald



Della C. Norman



View obituaries
online at

themaconcountynews.com

Louise Madeline von Kleist

Louise Madeline von Kleist, 86, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Born in Eden, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Louise Shumway Williams. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Don McLennan and Wendt von Kleist; a son, Stewart McLennan; and two brothers, Wesley Williams and Roger Williams.

She worked for 50 years in public education as an art teacher. She graduated the University of Buffalo with a master's degree. She enjoyed outdoor activities, gardening, and the Zumba Club.

She is survived by two sons, Carter McLennan (Kelly) and Douglas McLennan of Franklin; daughter, Wendy von Kleist of Englewood, Fla.; six grandchildren, Donald McLennan, Morgan McLennan, Colin McLennan, Robert Close (Dani), Melissa Varvaro (John), and Hunter von Kleist; and eight great grandchildren.

No services are currently planned.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

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

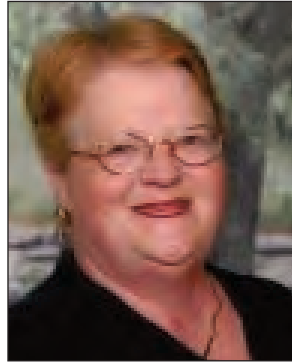
Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Louise von Kleist

Romonia Imogene Picklesimer

Romonia Picklesimer, 68, of Highlands, N.C., went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday April 5, 2022, at Mission Hospital due to a brief illness. She was born May 2, 1953, in Rabun County, Georgia, to the late Lyman "Red" Talley and Minnie "Leora" Carver Talley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew Jackson Picklesimer; sister, Revylon Carver; brothers, Ronald Talley, Russell Talley and Randolph Talley; and one grandchild, Gwen Rhoden.



Romonia Picklesimer

She worked for various businesses, but her last job was a CNA for Highlands Cashiers Hospital where she had to leave due to a disability. She loved hunting, traveling, doing flowers, working in the flower garden, doing genealogy, cutting a rug and just being silly. She was a member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Samantha K. Phillips (Anthony Benfield) of Highlands; a step-daughter, Christy Rhoden (Thomas) of Clearwater, S.C.; four sisters, Reba Webb of West Union, S.C., Rena Carver of Seneca, S.C., Rodean Wilson (David) of Liburn, Ga., Roberta Barnes of Highlands; two brothers, Relton Talley of Georgia, and Rabun Talley (Terri) of Gastonia, N.C.; seven grandchildren, McKenzie Vitola, Madison Baker, Catlin Rhoden, Memphis Phillip, Mitchell Phillips, Dominic Benfield and Billy Joe; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Joseph 'Mule' Tallent

Joseph "Mule" Tallent spent almost 83 years on Earth. Born on April 22, 1939, he passed on to Glory on April 9, 2022. He was the last of his family, having been preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Mary Gray Tallent, and his brothers, Bill Tallent and Ralph Tallent.



Joseph Tallent

He and his wife, Ellen Pearl Armstrong Tallent, who passed July 11, 2012, had three children, Joanne Tallent (Donnie), Karen Tallent, and Ricky "Ribs" Tallent who they adored. Their precious grandchildren, Jonathan Owens, Heather Gragg, Ashley Fort, (Traylon), Gabi Tallent, and Sam Tallent, along with their great-grandchildren, Kaydence Fort, Brooklyn Allen, Kennedy Grace Gragg, and Peyton Ellen Owens, were the icing on the cake.

He was a character. He loved to talk and never met a stranger. He was an entertainer, full of tall tales and, as we say in the country, "BS". He had a sharp mind, seeming as if he knew everybody and how they were related. He enjoyed being with people and his outgoing personality drew them to him. He truly was a people person.

Family was very important to Joe, and he always was involved in his kids' lives. When they were young, he and his wife coached youth basketball. As they grew older, he enjoyed helping Ricky with his race car and doing whatever he could for his girls. His grandchildren absolutely adored him, and it was mutual.

Despite his reputation for stretching the truth, he had one very true story about being struck by lightning. That, however, did not keep him from his love of the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing and camping and worked hard every year, planting a big garden. He always had horses and other farm animals, which gave him another reason to be outdoors.

He was a veteran who served in the United States Air Force as a firefighter. His CB handle, Fix It Man, described his love to tinker and repair whatever needed fixing. He was always available to family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Moffitt Family Funeral Care is honored to serve the family.

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

William Garland Litteral

William Garland Litteral, 67, of Franklin, N.C., passed away Monday, April 11, 2022.

He was born April 21, 1954, in Crawford, Ind., to the late Garland and Carol Calnan Litteral. He was a cook in a restaurant and a veteran of the Army Reserves, 98th Division.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Litteral.

He is survived by a grandson, Alexander Michael Tallmage.

No services are planned at this time.

Daryl 'D.J.' Johnson

Daryl "D.J." Johnson, 81, of Franklin, N.C., passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Born in Lucas County, Ohio, he was the son of the late Joseph J. and Ruth Schlamann Johnson. He served in the Army National Guard during the Vietnam era, was a member of the American Legion Post 108 in Franklin, and a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. He spent most of his adult life in Tuscon, Ariz.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Debbie Cumbee Johnson; two daughters, Jessica Lyn Dodd of Grand Junction, Colo., and Jodi Lee Najera of Colorado Springs, Colo.; five grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren; and his faithful dog, Shadow.

No formal service is currently planned; but there will be a time of remembrance later in the Spring being held with members from his community.

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

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

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



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William Byron is NASCAR Cup's first double winner with victory at Martinsville

Reid Spencer – NASCAR Wire Service

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – The first night race for the NASCAR Cup Series at Martinsville Speedway was a cakewalk for Hendrick Motorsports—until a late caution sent the race to overtime, that is.

But William Byron survived a final restart and a mistake on the white-flag lap to win Saturday night's Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400 at the .526-mile short track.

Byron led 212 of the 403 laps. Teammate and pole winner Chase Elliott led the first 185 circuits, as Hendrick Motorsports surpassed 10,000 laps led at Martinsville, becoming the first Cup organization to hit that prodigious number at a single track.

At the end of the two-lap overtime, Byron crossed the finish line .303 seconds ahead of runner-up Joey Logano, who couldn't get close enough to Byron's No. 24 Chevrolet in the final corner to make a move for the win.

Byron, who also won Thursday night's NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race, is the first driver to win two events this season. Saturday night's Cup victory was his first at Martinsville and the fourth of his career.

With his parents on his pit box for the entire race, Byron dedicated the win to his mother.

"When that last caution came out (for Todd Gilliland's brush with the Turn 4 wall on Lap 393), I thought everyone behind us would pit," Byron said. "Luckily, we stayed out—we were aggressive. We felt like we could refire on the tires and be OK.

"You've got one of the most aggressive guys behind you with Logano. I chattered the tires in (Turns) 3 and 4 (on the white-flag lap) and left the bottom open, but I was able to kind of block my exit to get a good drive off (the corner).

"This one's for my mom. This same weekend last year, she had kind of a mini-stroke and was diagnosed with brain cancer. It means a lot to have her here, and it's been a crazy year, but she's doing great, and thanks, everybody, for the support. I kind of felt like she was riding in there with me. It's cool to have her here, and I'm definitely going to enjoy this one."

Logano had mixed emotions after the race. The strong second-place run was gratifying, but it was second place, not first, and it extended his winless streak to 37 races.

"That final restart there, had a front row," Logano said. "That's what you can ask for. Got cleared to second, and Willy kind of messed up off of (Turn) 4 and let me get to him, and he did a really good job of brake-checking... He did what he was supposed to do, and kind of got me all stuffed up behind him, and I couldn't accelerate off the corner and be as close as I needed to be down into 3 to execute the ol' bump-and-run.

"Couldn't get quite to him, but his corner entry was really strong, too, which I think allowed him to get in there pretty strong. Overall, the Shell-Pennzoil Mustang had a solid run. Just hate being that close to winning and not making it happen. But big points today, and it just stings. Second just sucks sometimes, that's all."

Austin Dillon ran a strong third behind Logano, with Ryan Blaney and Ross Chastain claiming the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

Kurt Busch, Kyle Busch, Aric Almirola, Chase Briscoe and Elliott completed the top 10. Elliott leads the series standings by three points over second-place Blaney. Byron is third, 12 points back.



William Byron, driver of the #24 RaptorTough.com Chevrolet, and crew chief Rudy Fugle celebrate in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400 at Martinsville Speedway on April 09, 2022 in Martinsville, Virginia.

Photos by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images



Leading the first 185 laps, Elliott won the first two stages in the process. But Byron won the race off pit road under caution at the second stage break and remained out front for 118 laps until he came to pit road during a cycle of green-flag stops midway through the final stage.

Blaney held the top spot for five laps before making his final stop, and Byron regained the lead when Blaney came to pit road on Lap 308.

After completion of the green-flag cycle, NASCAR called the third caution of the race when Denny Hamlin's ill-handling car stopped on pit road. Byron retained control of the race after the subsequent Lap 325 restart, with Austin Dillon moving past Joey Logano into the second position.

That was the last yellow flag until the final caution on Lap 393. The four cautions total—with two for stage breaks—were the fewest in a Cup race at Martinsville since 1997. Then again, Saturday night's race was shortened from 500 to 400 laps.

Brandon Jones snatches victory from Ty Gibbs in Martinsville brawl

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – On older tires, Brandon Jones stole an Xfinity Series win from the scion of the owner of his race team on Saturday night at Martinsville Speedway.

Jones dived to the inside of Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Ty Gibbs as the Call 811 Before You Dig 250 went to a second

overtime. Jones cleared Gibbs on the second circuit (Lap 261) and got to the finish line .677 seconds ahead of Landon Cassill, as Sam Mayer bumped Gibbs's Toyota and squeezed it into the outside wall off the final corner.

While Mayer and Gibbs tangled, AJ Allmendinger took third and the \$100,000 Xfinity Dash 4 Cash bonus that goes to the highest finisher among four eligible drivers, a group that also included Mayer and Gibbs.

Gibbs led 198 of the 261 laps in a race that was scheduled for 250. Jones led 28. But Gibbs was too busy fighting Mayer on pit road after the race to worry about the lap count.

While Jones was performing a celebratory burnout on the frontstretch, Gibbs strode to Mayer's car, and heated words soon led to punches—Mayer with helmet off, Gibbs with helmet still on.

"I tried to talk to him, and he got in my face, and that's when I had to start fighting," Gibbs said.

"The only thing I'm mad about is that he (Mayer) wasn't going to get by the 16 (Allmendinger), and I got hit in the left rear. It's just frustrating, but I was on the other side of it last week (moving John Hunter Nemechek for a win at Richmond), so that's just part of it."

The dust-up on pit road did nothing to dampen the elation of Jones, who picked up his first Xfinity Series win since 2020 and the fifth of his career.

"It's fun to beat him (Gibbs)," Jones said. "He's hot right now."

If Gibbs was hot, in another figurative sense, Mayer was unapologetic after the incident, which left him with a swollen left eye.

"With a hundred grand on the line, I put the bumper to him—that's what short-track racing's all about," Mayer told FoxSports' Bob Pockrass. "He got upset... he threw a couple of

punches that were weak... But I just put the bumper to him for a hundred grand, and he got upset, but he's been doing that to everyone else every week so far."

Long before the chaotic ending, the race got off to a rocky start. Rain began falling right after the command was given to start engines and the green flag was delayed until a small storm cell left the area.

And before the field could complete a lap, the engine in Brennan Poole's No. 47 Chevrolet exploded, sending a plume of smoke into the cool night air and dropping a trail of oil on the track.

The smoke was an appropriate metaphor. For the rest of Stage 1, Gibbs smoked the rest of the field, leading 59 of the 60 laps.

By pitting early under caution on Lap 42, Noah Gragson inherited the lead when Gibbs brought his No. 54 Toyota to pit road at the Stage 1 conclusion, but it didn't take Gibbs long to prevail on new tires. (Gragson's winning chances would evaporate in a wild multicar wreck that stopped the first attempt at overtime almost before it started.)

On Lap 88, the 19-year-old Gibbs passed Gragson for the top spot and began to pull away until Stefan Parsons' spin in Turn 2 on Lap 101 caused the fifth caution.

Undeterred, Gibbs maintained his advantage, but the restart on Lap 108 gave Jones the opportunity to slip past Gragson for second. Gibbs elected to pit under caution on Lap 117 after contact from Anthony Alfredo's Chevrolet turned the Toyota of Derek Griffith in Turn 1, causing the sixth caution.

That handed the stage win to Jones, who surrendered the lead to Parsons—with Gibbs running fourth—by pitting during the stage break, along with other drivers who had stayed out to collect stage points.

It took Gibbs fewer than two circuits to regain the lead after a restart on Lap 129. But at that point, barely past halfway, there were still nine cautions, two overtimes and a fistfight to go.

William Byron takes decisive win in return to NASCAR Trucks at Martinsville

William Byron proved emphatically Thursday night that he hadn't forgotten how to drive a truck.

Making only his second start in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series since 2016—after a blown engine knocked him out of last year's Nashville race—Byron parlayed perfect pit strategy into a decisive victory in the Blue-Emu Maximum



Brandon Jones, driver of the #19 Menards/Lyons Toyota, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series Call 811 Before You Dig 250 powered by Call 811.com at Martinsville Speedway on April 8, 2022 in Martinsville, Va.

Pain Relief 200 at Martinsville Speedway.

In his last full season in the series in 2016, Byron won seven races before moving on to the Xfinity Series and finally to the Cup Series.

With Kevin "Bono" Manion on his pit box, and with input from Cup crew chief Rudy Fugle, Byron brought his No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet to pit road for the final time on Lap 83 of 200 and took over the lead when the trucks ahead of him pitted at the end of Stage 2 on Lap 104.

The 24-year-old from Charlotte, N.C., led all but two of the final 96 laps and beat runner-up Johnny Sauter to the finish line by 1.138 seconds. Kyle Busch ran third, followed by John Hunter Nemechek and defending series champion Ben Rhodes.

"It was a lot of fun," said Byron, who already has a Cup victory at Atlanta in hand this season. "Great crowd here at Martinsville. I've never won a race at Martinsville and struggled here when I was in late models.

"Yeah, just awesome to get the win tonight—a great truck tonight, the HendrickCars.com Chevrolet. Thanks to Spire, all the guys back at their shop. They don't have a lot of guys, and they do it right, obviously. It was fun to work with Bono, have a little help from Rudy. Obviously, he knows the trucks pretty well."

The race was a homecoming for Sauter, too. Making his second start of the season, the 2016 series champion was driving a ThorSport Racing Toyota for the first time since last year, his last full-time season with the organization.

Junior Joiner, long-time crew chief for Matt Crafton, returned to call the race for Sauter after retiring from full-time competition at the end of the 2021 season.

"I told Joiner today, I said don't listen to me when I give you feedback on the first run," Sauter said. "I called for an adjustment, and I shouldn't have. I thought we fired off tremendous and just got a little too tight there at the two-thirds mark of the corner..."

"It was the first in-house chassis, in-house body for ThorSport. To come home second was pretty solid."

Sauter chased Byron after the final restart with 36 laps left but couldn't match the speed of Byron's Silverado.

The race featured 11 cautions for 71 laps. Zane Smith won the first stage wire-to-wire, and Rhodes claimed the second-stage win.

Chandler Smith, Crafton, Grant Enfinger, Zane Smith and Tyler Ankrum finished sixth through 10th, respectively. Rhodes leads the NCWTS standings by four points over second-place Chandler Smith.



William Byron, driver of the #7 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates in the Ruoff Mortgage victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Blu-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 200 at Martinsville Speedway on April 7, 2022.

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- 1. Synagogue read
- 6. One in King's sematary
- 9. Cabinet div.
- 13. Grind down
- 14. Aloha State's welcome
- 15. Soup server
- 16. Bikini _____, Marshall Islands
- 17. Final, abbr.
- 18. Donor's loss
- 19. *Vonn and Miller Olympic sport
- 21. *Ovechkin and Gretzky sport
- 23. Alternative to trade
- 24. Secret disclosure
- 25. Computer-generated imagery, acr.
- 28. Wise Men
- 30. Remnant of the past
- 35. Egg-layers
- 37. Urban dwelling
- 39. Printer contents
- 40. Volcano in Sicily
- 41. Poetic although
- 43. Paella pot
- 44. Dictation taker
- 46. Like April 1st target
- 47. Locker room supply
- 48. Dirty or sleazy
- 50. Fuddy-duddies, for short
- 52. Stir fry pan
- 53. Bread portion
- 55. Mad King George's number
- 57. *PelÉ and Ronaldo sport
- 60. *Sampras and Williams sport
- 63. Luau greeting
- 64. "_____ my party, and I'll cry if I want to..."
- 66. Sack fabric
- 68. Cheat or trick

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- 69. Davy Jones' Locker locale
- 70. Bert's buddy
- 71. Coral barrier
- 72. Poetic "ever"
- 73. "The defense _____"
- 11. Eugene O'Neill's piece
- 12. One less than jack
- 15. Hair holder
- 20. African antelope
- 22. Boat propeller
- 24. Depart from the ground (2 words)
- 25. *Fischer and Kasparov sport
- 26. Reach a goal (2 words)
- 27. Private
- 29. *Palmer and Nicklaus sport
- 31. Dirty money
- 32. Wife's dad, e.g.
- 33. Large violin family member
- 34. *Bolt and Owens sport
- 36. *A trap in #29 down
- 38. Biblical pronoun
- 42. Blast from the past
- 45. Tin Man's prop
- 49. Bambi's mom
- 51. Sewing machine brand
- 54. Do like phoenix
- 56. Accustom
- 57. Like gin in fiz
- 58. Do like goo
- 59. Kitchen head
- 60. Russian autocrat
- 61. Overnight lodgings
- 62. Hissy fit
- 63. What acronym and acrylic have in common
- 65. *#29 Down prop
- 67. Oui in English

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ATTENTION: CRAFTERS & YARD Sales, Multi-Vendors Sale on April 14-16, 8am-4pm, Daily, Otto Community Center located at 60 Firehouse Rd., in Otto, NC. Partial proceeds benefits Cystic Fibrosis. Items will include: Crafters Fabric & Artificial Flowers, Easter Decorations and Supplies, Prom Accessories, Home Decor, Collectibles, Ladies Clothing, Christmas Items (Great Gift Ideas). Numerous items \$1.00 or less! More Information Betsy (828)332-7192.

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.

Wanted

RAW COW MILK Would Like Milk From Jersey/Guernsey Cow for Purpose of Churning also Quart Canning Jars. (828)524-6039, (828)200-1882.

Animals

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

Help Wanted

WNC SPORTSZONE is hiring an Embroidery Specialist - Previous experience preferred. Must possess good time management, willing to learn, dependable, attention to detail. Apply online at: WNCsportsZone.com/contact-us

IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED NURSE licensed in the State of North Carolina and want less stress than the typical medical, hospital structure requires we need your nursing skills to supervise the daily operations of home care services provided through Home Care Partners. This position supervises the aides, scheduling, training and day to day activities to assure our clients can remain independent in their home environment. No medical services administered. Mon-Fri 40 hours per week. Benefits include vacation, sick, holidays and dental, life, health insurance. Please call Julie Van Hook at 828-507-6065 for more information. You can apply at Disability Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva, NC 28779.

POSITION AVAILABLE Are you someone with a disability who has overcome obstacles relating to a personal disability and will use that strength to help others with disabilities set and reach goals to live more independently. If so, DisAbility Partners has a full-time position available for you. Work experience and education will be considered. Benefits vacation, sick, holidays and dental, life and health insurance. Mon-Fri 40 hours per week. You can make a difference. Applications available at DisAbility Partners, 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva or on our website: disabilitypartners.org. Call Barbara Davis for more information (828)226-8263.

Garage & Yard Sales

ATTENTION: CRAFTERS & YARD Sales, Multi-Vendors Sale on April 14-16, 8am-4pm, Daily, Otto Community Center located at 60 Firehouse Rd., in Otto, NC. Partial proceeds benefits Cystic Fibrosis. Items will include: Crafters Fabric & Artificial Flowers, Easter Decorations and Supplies, Prom Accessories, Home Decor, Collectibles, Ladies Clothing, Christmas Items (Great Gift Ideas). Numerous items \$1.00 or less! More Information Betsy (828)332-7192.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE Brand name women's & men's clothing/shoes, Tie-Dye, home goods, some Free Stuff, everything in great condition! 525 East Main St., May 7-8, 8am-2pm.

WE CAN WORK AROUND your schedule starting at \$12.00 per hour to provide in home aide services based on the consumer needs through the Home and Community Block Grant. You can make a difference in someone's life age 60 and older in Jackson County. Benefits for full time PTO, dental, life and health insurance. Part time positions available. Please apply at 525 Mineral Springs Drive, Sylva NC or call Home Care Partners at 828-586-1570 for more information.

CASHIERS COLOR CENTER IS looking to hire a full-time individual to assist in the paint department. Duties will include mixing paint, assisting customers with color selections and sundry items, stocking shelves and daily cleaning. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. This individual must be dependable, self-motivated, have great customer service skills and be willing to learn. We will offer on-the-job training, so experience is not necessary. For more information, call Derek Taylor @ (828)200-9226, or stop by Cashiers Color Center to fill out an application.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR in Sylva looking for helper electricians. Must have tools, transportation, references, and willingness to work with others. Pay based on experience- Call (828)631-0341 for interview.

Misc. For Sale

B & M MILITARY SURPLUS Boots, Black/Tan ICW, ICB Gortex, Combat Boots ECW W/C ACU Gortex Parkas, Pants, ACU W/C Improved Wet Weather, W/C, ACU, W/D, ABU, BDU, USN AOR2, Pants, Shirts, W/C 4 Part Sleep Sys, ICW-ECW Sleep Bags, FLC Vests, Packs, Assorted Backpacks, Bags, Boonie Hats, Caps, Boot Socks. MRE'S. We buy, sell all Types Clothing, Field Gear. Open Monday-Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-4. 329 Bennett Ridge Rd. Franklin, (828)349-3140, bandmsurplus@gmail.com

FARMERS MARKET 8-12, Every Saturday. Please Come Out and Support Your Local Farmers Market. Spring Vegetables, Honey, Fresh Chicken, Pastries, Cookies, Preserves, Eggs. 200 Block East Palmer.

Real Estate

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years ago. Joe is a volunteer with Bella View Animal Sanctuary. Gosia has relatives 4 miles from the Ukrainian border, who have been taking money to refugees. She has an ongoing fundraiser, and has raised almost \$7000 for the refugees. Gosia's cousin and her cousin's husband deliver food and supplies to the refugees and to the families providing shelter for the refugees. You can help Gosia with her fundraiser by stopping by Sophisticut or mailing a check to: **Gosia Babcock c/o Sophisticut, 308 Depot Street, Franklin, NC 28734**



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